Werris Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee

MINUTES

45th Meeting of the Committee, 29th November 2017.

Werris Creek Coal (WCC) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met on site at Werris Creek Coal Mine from 9:30am for the quarterly meeting followed by a pit tour of the mine site, inspecting operations.

Meeting Opened at 9.32am.

1. Record of Attendance:

Present

Lindsay Bridge	Community Representative
James O'Brian	Community Representative
Rod Hicks	WCC Operations Manager
Shannon Reid	WCC Site Clerk and Minute Taker
Lynden Cini	WCC Environmental Officer
Cr Virginia Black	LPSC Councillor
Noel Taylor	Community Representative
Gae Swain	Independent Chairperson

Apologies

Mike Lomax

2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests.

Gae Swain has a Son in law working for Whitehaven Coal at Narrabri Underground Mine and Maules Creek Mine

3. New Matters for Discussion under General Business

LC – Document to table - Subsidence Advisory NSW DA - Update on the Spring Ridge Playground

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved: Virginia Black Seconded Noel Taylor. Motion carried.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Environmental Monitoring Report

Lynden provided commentary on the report.

Motion to accept the report. Moved: Virginia Black. Seconded: Lindsay Bridge. Motion Carried.

7. General Business.

 $\rm LC$ – Subsidency Advisory document, this is a blanket document that has gone to all mines just for information. The document has been tabled

DA –Spring Ridge Playground is now complete, we are organising an opening for the Playground on the 16th December 2017. Everyone in the community is very excited to be able to use this playground.

GS – The rehab looks fantastic, the ground cover is great the trees are great and the dead trees standing look good and part of the landscape. Its came together well. Fantastic job.

LC – Another 850 plants have been planted. We have had about 50-60% success in previous planting. We lost more of the plants on the flat.

LC – We are in the process of irrigation development project. We are hoping to start irrigating on Plain View property prior to the next meeting.

Meeting Closed. 10.01am

Next MeetingScheduled for Wednesday 7th March 2018

Site tour by Lynden.

Copy to:

All Committee members

The minutes will also be posted on the Whitehaven Coal Website http://www.whitehavencoal.com.au/environment/werris_creek_mine_environmental_management.cfm



WERRIS CREEK COAL PTY LTD

QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

August, September and October 2017

This Environmental Monitoring Report covers the period 1st August to 31st October 2017 for the Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee.

The report includes environmental monitoring results from the on-site Weather Station, Air Quality, Noise, Blasting, Surface Water, Groundwater and Discharge Water Quality together with any community complaints received and general details on site environmental matters.

Note: Elevated monitoring results above the relevant monitoring criteria are highlighted in **yellow**.

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1.0 METEOROLOGY

1.1 WEATHER STATION

Werris Creek Coal (WCC) collects meteorological data from the onsite weather station located on the top level of the overburden emplacement. The following table summarises rainfall data for the last three months. Monthly totals during the quarter were lower than the historical average in August and September and slightly above in October. Directional wind data, presented in the wind-rose figures below, indicate the prevailing wind direction was predominantly from the north west, south and southeast.



2.0 AIR QUALITY

2.1 HVAS (PM₁₀) and TEOM (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5})

WCC operates five High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) measuring particulate matter less than 10 micron (PM_{10}) and total suspended particulate (TSP) matter at four sites. HVAS sampling is scheduled every 6 days for a 24-hour run period in accordance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines. Results are reported in micro grams per cubic metre (μ g/m³) of air sampled. In addition, WCC operates a Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) monitor in Werris Creek measuring real time PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter less than 2.5 micron) dust levels. Dust monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 1**.

2.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

The average results for the last three months are provided in the table below.

						Criteria (µg/m ³)	
Monitor Location	Daily Maximum (μg/m ³)	August 2017 (μg/m³)	September 2017 (μg/m ³)	October 2017 (μg/m ³)	2017 Average (g/m ² /month)	Annual	Daily
PM _{2.5} – TEOM92 "Werris Creek"	16.4	7.0	6.3	6.0	6.5	8	25
PM ₁₀ – TEOM92 "Werris Creek"	33.7	12.0	15.0	11.8	11.3	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP20 "Tonsley Park"	40.6	18.8	21.1	14.0	14.9	30	50
PM ₁₀ - HVP1 "Escott"	28.0	10.1	10.9	10.8	8.9	30	50

PM ₁₀ – HVP11 "Glenara"	<mark>67.6</mark>	22.1	23.8	22.4	19.2	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP98 "Kyooma"	23.3	10.0	9.9	10.9	8.4	30	50
TSP – HVT98 "Kyooma"	45.3	20.5	22.1	18.5	16.7	90	-

Yellow Bold – Elevated dust level.

2.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All TSP and PM10 and PM2.5 dust results were within criteria during the period with the exception of one PM10 results

measured at "HVP11 "Glenara"", on the 27th September 2017. Upon investigation and reporting to the Department of Environment and Planning, it was identified that the dust source was from non-mining events due to the wind direction during monitoring. No further investigations were required from the Department.

2.2 WERRIS CREEK MINE DEPOSITED DUST

Deposited dust monitoring measures particulate matter greater than 30 microns in size that readily settles out of the air related to visual impact. Dust deposition is monitored at 20 locations around WCC. Sampling is scheduled monthly in accordance with EPA guidelines and results are reported as grams per square metre per month (g/m²/month). Dust monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 1**.

2.2.1 Monitoring Data Results

The results for the last three months are provided in the table below.

Monitor	August 2017	September 2017	October 2017	2017 Average	Annual Criteria
Location	(g/m²/month)	(g/m²/month)	(g/m²/month)	(g/m²/month)	(g/m²/month)
DG1 "Escott"	0.2	0.6	1.2	0.6	4.0
DG2 "Cintra"	1.5	3.1	3.6	3.3	4.0
DG3 "Eurunderee"	1.2	0.7	2.4	1.7	4.0
DG5 "Railway View"	2.1	1.8	3.3	2.3	4.0
DG9 "Marengo"	0.5	0.9	2.5	0.9	4.0
DG11 "Glenara"	0.6	1.5	1.5	1.1	4.0
DG14 "Greenslopes"	0.3	0.6	1.4	0.9	4.0
DG15 "Plain View"	3.7*	1.4	<mark>6.0</mark>	1.6	4.0
DG17 "Woodlands"	0.5	1.2	2.1	1.1	4.0
DG20 "Tonsley Park"	0.5	1.3	1.0	1.1	4.0
DG22 "Mountain View"	1.9	1.8	<mark>8.8</mark>	2.0	4.0
DG24 "Hazeldene"	1.8*	1.1	1.2	1.4	4.0
DG34 8 Kurrara St	0.3	0.7	1.5	<mark>7.0</mark>	4.0
DG62 Werris Creek South	0.3	0.7	1.9	1.0	4.0
DG92 Werris Creek Centre	0.2	1.0	1.5	0.6	4.0
DG96 "Talavera"	NS	NS	NS	NA	4.0
DG98 "Kyooma"	0.2	0.8	1.8	0.7	4.0
DG101 "Westfall"	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.0	4.0
DG103 West Street	0.3	1.0	1.5	0.8	4.0

 * - sample contaminated with excessive organic matter (>50%) from non-mining source (i.e. bird droppings and insects); # - indicates sample is contaminated from a Non-Werris Creek Coal dust source; Yellow Bold – Elevated dust level; NS – Not Sampled.

2.2.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All monthly dust deposition gauge results were below the annual criteria of 4.0g/m²/month throughout the period with the exception of DG34 (8 Kurrara St) which had a rolling 2017 average above criteria. Consistently high dust levels at this gauge and low deposited dust levels at nearby gauges indicate a localised source of dust generation, unrelated to activities at Werris Creek Coal Mine. DG15 and DG22 had one anomalous high dust deposition measurement during October 2017 deposited dust levels remained low at nearby gauges, also indicating a localised source of dust, unrelated to activities at Werris Creek Coal Mine. Annual averages at these locations remain in compliance.

2.3 QUIRINDI TRAIN DUST DEPOSITION

2.3.1 Monitoring Data Results

The results for the last three months are provided in the table below.

Monitor	August 2	017	September	2017	October 2	2017 Average	
Location	g/m²/month	% Coal	g/m²/month	% Coal	g/m²/month	% Coal	(g/m²/month)
DDW30	2.5	5%	1.5	5%	1.8	5%	1.2
DDW20	0.6	<5%	1.4	5%	1.8	10%	0.8
DDW13	0.6	<5%	1.0	5%	1.2	<5%	1.0
			Train	Line			
DDE13	0.3	5%	NS	NS	1.2	15%	1.3
DDE20	0.9	5%	0.9	15%	0.9	5%	0.8
DDE30	1.4	<5%	5.6*	5%	1.0	<5%	1.1

* - sample contaminated with excessive organic matter (>50%) from non-mining source (i.e. bird droppings and insects); NS – Not Sampled, bottle and funnel smashed.

2.3.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

Overall, the dust fallout levels adjacent to the train line are low, well below the impact assessment criteria nominated by the EPA of 4.0 g/m²/month and comparable to the levels monitored around Werris Creek Coal Mine. Coal contributions to the dust fraction remain generally low.

2.4 AIR QUALITY COMPLAINTS

There were two dust complaints recorded during the period.

3.0 NOISE

3.1 OPERATIONAL NOISE

Monthly attended noise monitoring is undertaken representative of the following 16 properties from 13 monitoring points below. Attended noise monitoring was undertaken twice for either 60 minutes at privately owned properties or 15 minutes at properties with private agreements; representative of the day period and the evening/night period.

3.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

The WCC operations only noise level (not ambient noise) results for the last three months are outlined in the table below. Noise monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 2**.

	Location	Day dB(A) L _{eq}	Criteria dB(A) L _{eq}	Evening/Night	Criteria dB(A) L _{eq}
	Location	15min	15min	dB(A) L _{eq 15min}	15min
Α	"Rosehill" R5	NM	35	<30	35
В	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*,R9* & R22*)	26#	40	27	40
С	Central Quipolly(R10*,R11*)	26#	40	<30#	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	NM#	37	27#	37
Е	"Railway Cottage" R12	<30	38	27#	38
F	"Talavera" R96	30	38	32#	37
Н	"Kyooma" R98	Inaudible	38	32#	38
Ι	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible	35	Inaudible#	35
К	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible	40	<30	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible	35	<30	35

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th August 2017

WC – Werris Creek; * - Private agreement in place with resident; Yellow Bold – Elevated noise; # Adverse weather with wind >3m/s, temperature inversions >+12°C/100m or >2m/s and >0°C/100m; 1 – R22 criteria is 36 dB(A) Leg 15min while R9 is 37 dB(A) Leg 15min

Tuesday 26th and 27th September 2017

Location	Day dB(A) L _{eq}	Criteria dB(A) L _{eq}	^Evening/Night	Criteria dB(A) L _{eq}	
Location	15min	15min	dB(A) L _{eq 15min}	15min	

А	"Rosehill" R5	30	35	<25	35
В	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*,R9* & R22*)	<30	40	<30	40
С	Central Quipolly(R10*,R11*)	<25	40	<30	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	<20	37	Inaudible	37
Е	"Railway Cottage" R12	Inaudible	38	Inaudible	38
F	"Talavera" R96	<30	38	30	37
Н	"Kyooma" R98	<30#	40	<20#	40
Ι	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible	35	<30	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible	35	30	35
K	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible	40	34	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible	35	<30	35

WC – Werris Creek; * - Private agreement in place with resident; Yellow Bold – Elevated noise; # Adverse weather with wind >3m/s, temperature inversions >+12°C/100m or >2m/s and >0°C/100m; 1 – R22 criteria is 36 dB(A) Leq 15min while R9 is 37 dB(A) Leq 15min

NMot monitored - Denotes Not Measurable. If site only noise is noted as NM, this means some noise from the source of interest was audible at low-levels, but could not be quantified

^Multiple evening and night measurement was taken, for reporting purposes the highest reading of the period was used.

3.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

Noise from Werris Creek Coal Mine was inaudible at a high percentage of the monitoring sites during the quarter.

Throughout the period, Werris Creek Coal Mine adjusted mining operations and shut down equipment at various times to reduce noise generation potential in response to noise levels measured at the real time noise monitors.

At the time of writing this report, noise monitoring results for October remained outstanding. Whilst the monitoring was undertaken the finalised report had not been issued to WCC by the consultant.

3.2 Noise complaints

There were two noise complaints recorded during the period.

4.0 BLASTING

During the reporting period there was a total of thirty-two blasts fired by WCC with monitoring of each blast undertaken at "Glenara", "Kyooma", "Werris Creek South" and "Werris Creek Mid". Compliance limits for blasting overpressure is 115dBL (and up to 120dBL for only 5% of blasts) and vibration is 5mm/s (and up to 10mm/s for only 5% of blasts). Blast monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 3**.

4.1 BLAST MONITORING

4.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

The summary tables of blasting results over the last three months are provided below.

Augu	st 2017	"Glena	ara" R11	"Kyooma" R98		Werris Creek South R62		Werris Creek Mid R92	
	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	
Month	y Average	0.12	101.8	0.88	102.3	0.38	97.3	0.23	101.7
Monthly	/ Maximum	0.26	108.2	2.02	107.8	0.85	107.9	0.41	<mark>117.3</mark>
Annua	l Average	0.13	100.11	0.69	100.70	0.36	98.11	0.21	99.23
Cr	iteria	5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L)	Rolling Ave	0.00%	0.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.10%
or 5mm/s	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.13%

Septem	September 2017	"Glenara" R11		"Kyooma" R98		Werris Creek South R62		Werris Creek Mid R92	
-		mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)
Monthl	y Average	0.10	100.8	0.72	102.6	0.34	101.6	0.24	99.7
Monthly	Maximum	0.15	<mark>117.2</mark>	1.48	108.4	0.64	113.5	0.58	110.8
Annua	Average	0.13	100.19	0.70	100.91	0.36	98.49	0.21	99.28
Criteria		5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L)	Rolling Ave	0.00%	1.04%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.04%

September 2017		"Glena	ıra" R11	"Kyooma" R98		Werris Creek South R62		Werris Creek Mid R92	
		mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)
or 5mm/s	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.95%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.90%

October 2017		"Glenara" R11		"Kyooma" R98		Werris Creek South R62		Werris Creek Mid R92	
		mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)	mm/s	dB(L)
Monthly Average		0.12	104.0	0.71	102.1	0.37	99.8	0.25	100.1
Monthly Maximum		0.24	<mark>118.0</mark>	1.53	109.4	0.72	110.9	0.51	109.1
Annual Average		0.12	100.56	0.70	101.04	0.36	98.62	0.22	99.36
Criteria		5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L)	Rolling Ave	0.00%	1.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.99%
or 5mm/s	Reporting Year	0.00%	1.74%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.74%

Yellow – overpressure >115dB(L) or Werris Creek vibration >5.0mm/s.

4.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All blasts over the period complied with maximum licence limits (120dB(L) and 10mm/s) as well as the 95th percentile limits (115dB(L) and 5mm/s).

4.2 BLAST COMPLAINTS

There were three blast complaints during the period.

5.0 WATER

The groundwater monitoring program monitors groundwater levels bi-monthly and groundwater quality six monthly. Surface water monitoring is undertaken quarterly.

5.1 GROUND WATER

Groundwater monitoring is undertaken to identify if there are any impacts on groundwater quality and water levels as a result of the mining operations. WCC monitors approximately 38 groundwater wells/bores and piezometers in the key aquifers surrounding WCC including Werrie Basalt (next to WCC and further afield) and Quipolly Creek Alluvium. Groundwater level surveys were completed on the 6th, 8th and 12th September 2017. Groundwater monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 4**.

5.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

A summary of groundwater monitoring results has been provided below.

		September-17			
Site		mbgl	%		
0	MW1	Dry			
ACC VC	MW2	40.84	-7%		
ar V	MW3	19.29	0%		
nea	MW4B	16.27	-1%		
salt	MW5	12.09	-1%		
Ba	MW6	15.46	-1%		
rrie	MW27*	49.43	1%		
Me	MW36A	23.18	-3%		
-	MW36B	23.15	-3%		
	MW8*	17.28	-5%		
	MW10	13.12	-1%		
	MW14	19.09	-3%		
salt	MW17B*	12.45	-1%		
Ba	MW19A*	12.45	-15%		
rrie	MW20*	21.61	0%		
We	MW38A	13.94	-3%		
	MW38B*	9.80	-1%		
	MW38C*	22.40	1%		
	MW38E*	9.97	-1%		
<i>щ</i> 1	MW24A*	10.77	36%		
#	MW29*	12.77	-2%		
	MW12*	11.96	-3%		
	MW13*	6.53	-4%		
	MW13B*	4.87	-4%		
	MW13D*	4.89	-1%		
	MW15*	6.06	-3%		
ш	MW16*	7.11	-4%		
ivi	MW17A*	6.21	-4%		
/ All	MW18A*	6.05	-3%		
olly	MW21A*	9.91	-3%		
Quip	MW22A*	7.20	-3%		
0	MW22B*	7.52	-3%		
	MW23A*	3.92	-3%		
	MW23B*	4.09	23%		
	MW26B*	8.68	-4%		
	MW28A*	13.23	-5%		
	MW32*	4.01	-4%		
#²	MW34*	10.8	-1%		

mbgl – meters below ground level is the distance in meters from top of bore to groundwater surface; Orange – Change decrease; Green – change increase or no change; * - Indicates bore is used for water extraction unrelated to WCC (i.e. stock and domestic or irrigation). #1 – Werrie Basalt in the Black Soil Gully valley to east of Werris Creek Mine. #2 - Werris Creek Alluvium.

5.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

Measured groundwater levels in the Werrie Basalt and Quipolly Alluvium aquifer indicate general sustained or decreased water levels during September with the exception of increases in depth at MW24A and MW23B.

5.2 SURFACE WATER

Surface water monitoring is undertaken in local creeks offsite as well as from discharge point dirty water dams to monitor for potential water quality issues. Quarterly surface water monitoring was undertaken on the 15th August 2017. Surface water monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 5**.

5.2.1 Monitoring Data Results

Summary of surface water quality monitoring results has been provided below.

Site	рН	EC	TSS	O&G	Change from Previous Quarter or General Comments		
ONSITE							
SB2	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry. Grass on bottom of dam.		
SB9	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry. Grass on bottom of dam.		
SB10	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry.		
OFFSITE							
QCU	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry. Just Gravel		
QCD	8.3	985	9	<5	pH slightly increased and EC slightly decreased, TSS was stable and O&G unchanged. Flowing.		
WCU	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Previous quarter this location was pools.		
WCD	8.7	1390	14	<5	pH slightly increased and EC slightly decreased, TSS decreased from 35 to 10 and O&G also decreased. Flowing.		

pH – measure of acidity/alkalinity; EC – Electrical Conductivity measures salinity; TSS – Total Suspended Solids is a measure of suspended sediment in water (i.e. similar to turbidity); O&G – Oil and Grease measures amount of hydrocarbons (oils and fuels) in water

5.2.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

Quarterly surface water monitoring was undertaken on 15th August 2017 with all onsite and offsite sampling undertaken in dry conditions represented by low or dry pools, which reflected on water quality. All water quality results were within long-term averages and the Site Water Management Plan trigger values.

5.3 SURFACE WATER DISCHARGES

There were no discharge events in August, September and October 2017.

5.3 WATER COMPLAINTS

There were no water release complaints during the period.

6.0 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

There were seven complaints received during the period, which are summarised below.

#	Date	Issue	Complaint	Investigation	Action Taken	
555	14/8/017	Blast	Complainant advised they could feel the ground shake. Complainant also noted the dust caused can be detrimental for asthmatics. Complainant requested results of blast.	EO disclosed the results of the blast, noting vibration and overpressure were within compliance limits.	None required.	
556	15/8/2017	Dust / Odour	EO returned call to EPA and discussed complaint.	WCC had water carts operational with targeted cycles, and EX551 shut down as precautionary measures adage	EPA was content with procedures in place.	
557	20/8/2017	Noise	EO received voice mail stating noise levels were bad.	EO returned called to complainant and left a voice message requesting further details. Complainant did not return EO's call.	None required.	
558	21/8/2017	Noise	EO received phone call from EPA to discuss previous noise complaint. Complainant had advised EPA noise of concern were operations from 7-8 am on 20.8.17.	EO explained to EPA the communication trail, with no forthcoming return call from complainant. EO advised EPA that since communications could not be established, no operational changes were made. EO identified a temperature inversion at the times EPA identified, which potentially amplified noise, concurrent with a Southerly wind.	EPA advised no further comment or action was necessary.	
559	28/8/2017	Blast	Complainant advised they felt the blast vibration at their residence.	EO explained the details of the blast and that all monitors indicated the blast was within compliance limits.	Complainant was content with EO response.	
560	13/9/2017	Blast / Dust	Complainant advised there was dust from the blast.	EO explained the details of the blast and compliance with blasting limits. EO discussed the dust levels of the blast and more generally the dust levels from blasts undertaken at natural surface level.	Complainant was content with the response.	
561	21/9/2017	Blast	Complainant advised they felt the blast vibration at their residence.	EO explained the details of the blast and that all monitors indicated the blast was within compliance limits.	Complainant was content with the response.	

7.0 GENERAL

Please feel free to ask any questions in relation to the information contained within this document during Item 7 of the meeting agenda.







Figure 2 – WCC Noise Monitoring Locations



Figure 3 – WCC Blast Monitoring Locations



Figure 4 – WCC Groundwater Monitoring Locations



Figure 5 – WCC Surface Water Monitoring Locations