

WERRIS CREEK COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
52nd Meeting of the Committee held on site at the Werris Creek Coal Mine
Wednesday, 11 March 2020 at 9:30am

The normal four monthly meeting will begin at 9:30am - A site tour will be available today.

Meeting opened at 9:40am.

Record of attendance

Michael Silver OAM	Deputy Independent Chairperson
Jane Bradford OAM	Independent Minute Taker
Rod Hicks	Werris Creek Coal - Operations Manager
Lynden Cini	Whitehaven Coal - Group Superintendent - Environment
Matt Hollis	Werris Creek Coal - Environmental Superintendent
Andrew Garrett	Whitehaven Coal - General Manager Community Engagement
Donna Ausling	Director of Environment – Liverpool Shire Council
Virginia Black	Councillor – Liverpool Shire Council
Lindsay Bridge	Community Representative – Phone No 0431 319 302
Noel Taylor	Community Representative
James O'Brien	Community Representative
Mike Lomax	Community Representative

Apologies

Gae Swain – Independent Chairperson;

Moved Lindsay Bridge, **seconded** Noel Taylor, THAT the apologies be accepted. CARRIED

Absent

Col Stewart OAM – noted

2 Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests –

Donna Ausling – non-pecuniary interest - Family business may have performed powerline work for Whitehaven Coal

3 New Matters for Discussion under General Business today

- a) Tabled – Email received from Mr Peter Wills requesting response on water management at Werris Creek Coal plus Whitehaven Coal's response (24.01.2020)
- b) Letters between Peter Wills and Chairperson Gae Swain (05.12.2019)
- d) Tabled Peter Wills letters to Chairperson Gae Swain (20.02.2020)
- c) Letter from Lindsay Bridge (Emily Caldwell – daughter).

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved Donna Ausling, **seconded** Noel Taylor, THAT the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record. CARRIED

5 Matters Arising - Nil

6 Environment Monitoring Report from 1 October 2019 – to 31 January 2020

- 1.1 Meteorology – Weather Station – finally good rains for period recorded – now in “green” drought – vastly improved conditions
- 2.1.1 Air quality Exceedances through September to January – Related to regional Dust Storms prior to rainfalls

2..

2.2.1 DG2 "Cintra" had elevated deposited dust levels. Property is owned by Whitehaven and the mine is slowly moving north towards "Cintra". Expect deposited dust levels to rise over time

2.3.1 No issues

3.1 Noise levels – no issues for the period

4.1 Blasting – below prescribed limits

5.1 Ground Water – as normal. Expect some potential for groundwater level increases at some monitoring locations during next reporting period following recent rainfall.

5.2 Surface Water – January finally had surface water – eased dust issues within the wider region as well.

5.3.1 Worth noting 143mm of rain was recorded in January at the mine site with a single storm event delivering approximately 100mm in a 3 hour window.

6.0 There were 2 complaints recorded during October 2019. Both complaints related to blasting. **Moved** James O'Brien, **seconded** Lindsay Bridge, **THAT** the Environmental Monitoring Report be accepted. CARRIED

7 General Business

7.1 General discussion on safety performance, it was agreed updates of site Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) trends against industry indicators at the four monthly meetings would be beneficial for committee members.

Rod Hicks confirmed current TRIFR for WCC is 0 recorded injuries. This rate is considered favourably against open cut industry standards. WCC Currently have 138 full time equivalent employees onsite excluding contractors.

7.2 Alleged explosion at the mine on 12 October last after 1:00pm – *WCC personnel to check and report back for these Minutes*

Werris Creek Coal have reviewed blasting records and can confirm that no blast was undertaken on the 12 October 2019 at the Werris Creek Mine.

7.3 Water – who owns the licence *and how much water is used each time the irrigator operates and how many irrigation events have occurred since it started?*

Werris Creek Coal holds Water Access Licences for the Werris Creek Coal Mine. The quantity of water used by the centre pivot varies, however, measured application is approximately 7.4ML (average) per operational event from 2017 – November 2019.

7.4 Email from Mr Peter Wills plus response from Whitehaven Coal discussed briefly.

Mike Silver (Deputy Independent Chair) reminded the meeting that the request to sit in on these Committee Meetings was discussed at the 46th CCC meeting on the 7th March 2018 and it was a unanimous agreement **THAT** no-one outside the Committee would be permitted to sit in on any future CCC meetings. There was no reason to further discuss this situation again.

7.5 Letters between Peter Wills and Chairman Gae Swain were of a personal nature and not connected to this Community Consultative Committee.

WCC would respond to the matters of relevance (to WCC) within the most recent letter from Mr Wills on the 21st January 2020 to the CCC Chair in due course but note that many of the issues have been dealt with in previous correspondence. A copy of the correspondence from Mr Wills on the 21st January was provided to all CCC members present at the meeting.

7.6 Letter from Lindsay Bridge – queried three explosions on 25 January last. WCC Response: The dates claimed of alleged explosion was after a significant storm event that deposited more than 100mm to the local area. The mine site was completely shut down due to damage from stormwater and lightning.

3...

During the clean-up and recovery of the open cut pit, water being drained from behind a bench windrow was released onto the hot underground workings area creating a rising cloud of steam, water vapour and dry dusty material that was rapidly disturbed by the sudden movement of the released water over the area. There were no explosions at the Werris Creek Mine on this date.

Next meeting Wednesday, 8 July 2020 at 9:30am – same venue and to include a mine tour of Werris Creek Coal (weather permitting).

Meeting closed at 10:40AM

Multiple members undertook a mine site tour reviewing areas of interest.

Copy to all Committee Members

The Minutes will also be posted on the Whitehaven Coal Website

Michael Silver OAM
Deputy Independent Chairperson

17 March 2020



WERRIS CREEK COAL PTY LTD

QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

October, November, December 2019 and January 2020

This Environmental Monitoring Report covers the period 1st October 2019 to 31st January 2020 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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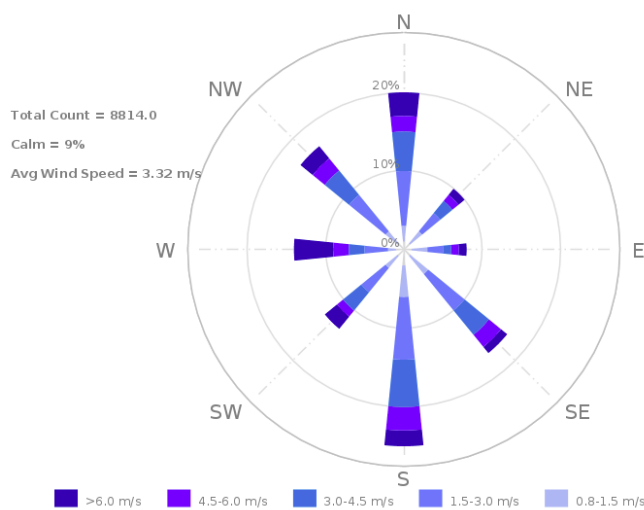
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1.0 METEOROLOGY

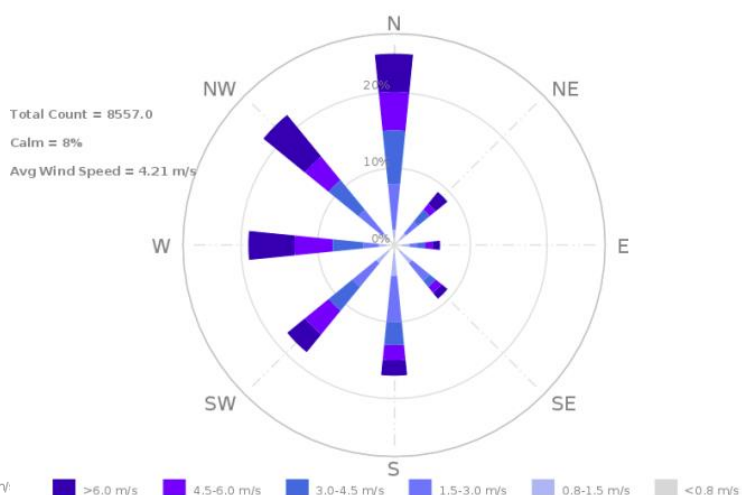
1.1 WEATHER STATION

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 four months. Monthly rainfall totals in June, July, August and September 2019 were all lower than the historical average. Directional wind data, presented in the wind-rose figures below, indicate the prevailing wind direction was predominantly from the S in October and December, N/ NW in November and N and S in January 2020.

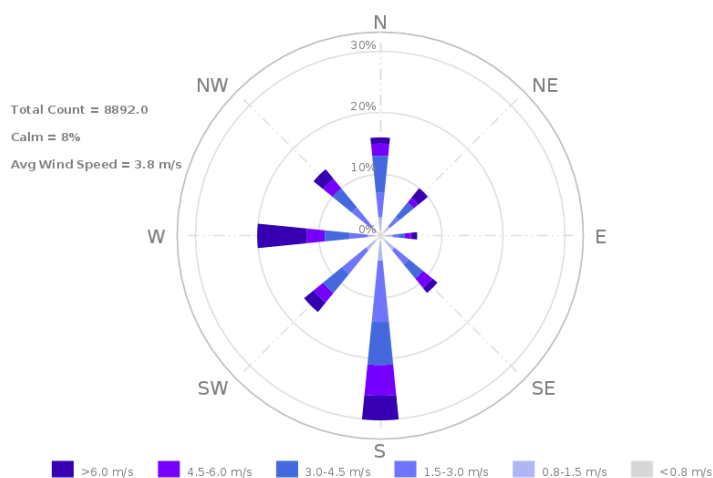
Month	Rainfall (mm)			
	Onsite	Historical Average	2019 Total	2020 Total
October 2019	8.2	49.2	210.2	
November 2019	46.0	83.3	256.2	
December 2019	4.0	86.3	260.2	
January 2020	143.4	67.1		143.4



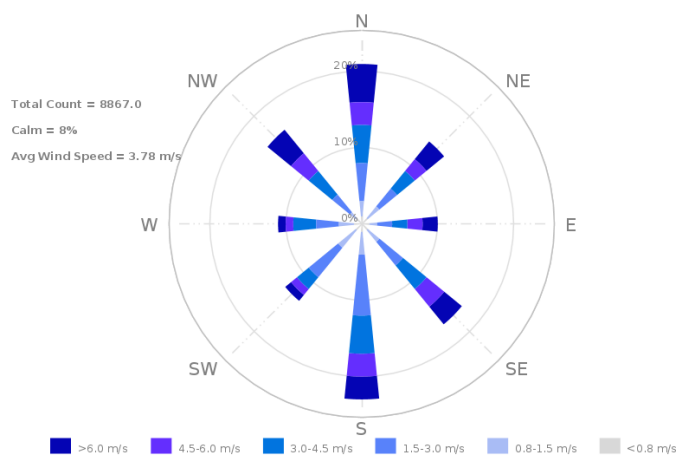
October 2019



November 2019



December 2019



January 2020

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 (PM₁₀) 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 (µg/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**.

Monitor Location	Daily Maximum (µg/m ³)	Oct 2019 (µg/m ³)	Nov 2019 (µg/m ³)	Dec 2019 (µg/m ³)	2019 Average (g/m ² /month)	Jan 2020 (µg/m ³)	2020 Average (g/m ² /month)	Criteria (µg/m ³)	
								Annual	Daily
PM _{2.5} – TEOM92 “Werris Creek”	153.7	13.2	30.8	48.5	11.8	21.2	21.2	8	25
PM ₁₀ – TEOM92 “Werris Creek”	329.7	34.4	63.2	71.6	27.0	44.7	44.7	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP20 “Tonsley Park”	130	39.4	58.3	77.1	33.0	57.7	57.7	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP1 “Escott”	83	37.1	34.8	45.2	22.0	33.4	33.4	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP11 “Glenara”	166	46.4	44.1	67.7	32.3	44.3	44.3	30	50
PM ₁₀ – HVP98 “Kyooma”	128	36.6	52.1	72.4	25.0	44.2	44.2	30	50
TSP – HVT98 “Kyooma”	223	73.4	106.0	119.8	51.0	97.2	97.2	90	-

2.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

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

Yellow Bold – Elevated dust level.

2.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All TSP, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} dust results were within criteria during the period with the exception of the following;

Date	Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17, 23 October 2019, 22 and 28 November 2019 and 10, 16 (PM₁₀ – HVP98 “Kyooma” only) and 22 December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM₁₀ – HVP20 “Tonsley Park” PM₁₀ – HVP98 “Kyooma” PM₁₀ – HVP1 “Escott” PM₁₀ – HVP11 “Glenara”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7, 8, 17, 24, 26, 29 and 31 October 2019 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 November 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 December 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM₁₀ – TEOM92 “Werris Creek”

All elevated results tabled above were reported to the Department, and on all occasions the results were attributed to high regional elevated dust levels and not associated with operations at WCC.

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 four months are provided in the table below.

Monitor Location	Oct 2019 (g/m ² /month)	Nov 2019 (g/m ² /month)	Dec 2019 (g/m ² /month)	2019 Average (g/m ² /month)	Jan 2020 (g/m ² /month)	2020 Average (g/m ² /month)	Annual Criteria (g/m ² /month)
DG1 “Escott”	1.6	1.6	5.2	1.3	0.9	0.9	4.0
DG2 “Cintra”	3.2	2.9	8.9	5.0	6.5	6.5	4.0
DG3 “Eurunderee”	3.6	1.7	4.3	2.5	3.3	3.3	4.0

Monitor Location	Oct 2019 (g/m ² /month)	Nov 2019 (g/m ² /month)	Dec 2019 (g/m ² /month)	2019 Average (g/m ² /month)	Jan 2020 (g/m ² /month)	2020 Average (g/m ² /month)	Annual Criteria (g/m ² /month)
DG5 "Railway View"	2.8	2.7	5.6	2.7	2.3	2.3	4.0
DG9 "Marengo"	2.9	2.2	4.2	1.6	82.8	82.8	4.0
DG11 "Glenara"	2.3	2.4	3.7	1.7	3.0	3.0	4.0
DG14 "Greenslopes"	1.5	1.1	4.0	1.6	2.1	2.1	4.0
DG15 "Plain View"	1.6	1.3	3.0	1.3	2.3	2.3	4.0
DG17 "Woodlands"	2.3	1.8	6.9	1.7	2.8	2.8	4.0
DG20 "Tonsley Park"	2.0	1.2	3.5	2.0	2.1	2.1	4.0
DG22 "Mountain View"	2.9*	1.5	3.0	1.6	3.7	3.7	4.0
DG24 "Hazeldene"	2.9	1.9	3.8	2.4	18.4*	NA	4.0
DG34 8 Kurrara St	32.4	26.0	3.7	11.5	1.6	1.6	4.0
DG62 Werris Creek South	1.6	1.1	4.5	1.3	1.9	1.9	4.0
DG92 Werris Creek Centre	1.8	1.5	3.7	1.4	1.5	1.5	4.0
DG96 "Talavera"	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NA	NA
DG98 "Kyooma"	0.3	1.5	3.3	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
DG101 "Westfall"	2.5	6.4*	5.7	2.3	3.1	3.1	4.0
DG103 West Street	1.8	1.1	4.0	1.5	1.9	1.9	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; Broken- Dust bottle broken in transit

2.2.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All monthly dust deposition gauge results were below the annual criteria of 4.0 g/m²/month throughout the period with the exception of DG2 (Cintra) which had high results in December 2019 and January 2020 and a rolling 2019 average above criteria.

DG9 (Marengo) in January 2020 had one anomalous high dust deposition measurement. Deposited dust levels remained low at nearby gauges, indicating a localised source of dust, unrelated to activities at Werris Creek Coal Mine. DG34 (8 Kurrara St) had high dust levels in October and November 2019 and a rolling 2019 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.

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 Location	Oct 2019		Nov 2019		Dec 2019		2019 Average (g/m ² /month)	Jan 2020		2020 Average (g/m ² /month)
	g/m ² /month	% Coal	g/m ² /month	% Coal	g/m ² /month	% Coal		g/m ² /month	% Coal	
DDW30	7.2	5%	2.7	NR	5.2	<10%	2.5	3.0	10%	3.0
DDW20	6.2	<5%	2.3	NR	3.7	<10%	2.3	2.6	10%	2.6
DDW13	3.2	<5%	2.4	NR	4.3	<10%	2.3	2.7	10%	2.7
Train Line										
DDE13	6.1	<5%	2.7	NR	4.4	30%	2.3	2.9	<10%	2.9
DDE20	8.5	5%	3.3	NR	4.3	20%	2.4	2.6	10%	2.6
DDE30	3.4	<5%	2.3	NR	1.3	<10%	2.2	1.6	<10%	1.6

* - sample contaminated with excessive organic matter (>50%) from non-mining source (i.e. bird droppings and insects); NS – Not Sampled, bottle and funnel smashed. NR- change in service provider microscopic analysis not conducted as result <4

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 was no 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**.

23rd Wednesday and 24th Thursday October 2019

Location		Day dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Evening/Night dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min
A	"Rosehill" R5	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	35
B	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*, R9* & R22*)	Inaudible#	40	26#	40
C	Central Quipolly(R10*, R11*)	22#	40	22#	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	Inaudible#	37	Inaudible	37
E	"Railway Cottage" R12	Inaudible	38	Inaudible	38
F	"Talavera" R96	Inaudible	38	25	37
H	"Kyooma" R98	Inaudible	38	30	38
I	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible	35	Inaudible	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible	35	Inaudible#	35
K	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible	40	Inaudible	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible	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) L_{eq} 15min while R9 is 37 dB(A) L_{eq} 15min

NM- 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

28th Thursday and 29th Friday November 2019

Location		Day dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Evening/Night dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min
A	"Rosehill" R5	24#	35	Inaudible#	35
B	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*, R9* & R22*)	Inaudible#	40	Inaudible#	40
C	Central Quipolly(R10*, R11*)	Inaudible#	40	22#	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	Inaudible	37	Inaudible	37
E	"Railway Cottage" R12	Inaudible	38	Inaudible	38
F	"Talavera" R96	Inaudible#	38	25	37
H	"Kyooma" R98	21#	40	Inaudible#	40
I	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible	35
K	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible#	40	Inaudible#	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	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) L_{eq} 15min while R9 is 37 dB(A) L_{eq} 15min

NM- 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

20th Friday and 30th Monday December 2019

Location		Day dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Evening/Night dB(A) L_{eq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) L_{eq} 15min
A	"Rosehill" R5	20	35	Inaudible#	35
B	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*, R9* & R22*)	Inaudible	40	Inaudible#	40
C	Central Quipolly(R10*, R11*)	Inaudible	40	Inaudible#	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	Inaudible	37	21#	37
E	"Railway Cottage" R12	Inaudible	38	Inaudible#	38

F	"Talavera" R96	Inaudible	38	28#	37
H	"Kyooma" R98	20#	40	27	40
I	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible	35	Inaudible#	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	35
K	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible#	40	Inaudible#	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible	35	Inaudible#	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}

NM- 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

Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd January 2020

Location		Day dB(A) _{Leq} 15min	Criteria dB(A) _{Leq} 15min	Evening/Night dB(A) _{Leq 15min}	Criteria dB(A) _{Leq} 15min
A	"Rosehill" R5	Inaudible	35	20	35
B	West Quipolly (R7*, R8*, R9* & R22*)	Inaudible	40	Inaudible#	40
C	Central Quipolly (R10*, R11*)	Inaudible#	40	Inaudible#	40
D	"Hazeldene" R24	Inaudible#	37	Inaudible#	37
E	"Railway Cottage" R12	Inaudible#	38	Inaudible#	38
F	"Talavera" R96	Inaudible#	38	26#	37
H	"Kyooma" R98	20#	40	22	40
I	Kurrara St, WC R57	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	35
J	Coronation Ave, WC	Inaudible#	35	Inaudible#	35
K	Alco Park (R21*)	Inaudible#	40	Inaudible	40
L	West St, WC (R103)	Inaudible	35	Inaudible#	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}

NM- 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

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.

3.2 Noise complaints

There were no noise complaints recorded during the period.

4.0 BLASTING

During the reporting period there was a total of forty-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 115dB(L) (and up to 120dB(L) 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 four months are provided below.

Oct 2019		"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		0.10	101.3	0.65	102.2	0.40	101.8	0.25	103.6
Monthly Maximum		0.25	110.0	1.09	110.3	0.62	110.4	0.55	110.3
Annual Average		0.10	100.00	0.55	101.12	0.33	101.88	0.20	100.43
Criteria		5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L) or 5mm/s	Rolling Ave	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.83%	0.00%	0.00%
	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.95%	0.00%	0.00%

Nov 2019		"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		0.08	98.6	0.49	100.8	0.28	99.8	0.19	98.3
Monthly Maximum		0.22	103.7	1.02	106.7	0.62	108.5	0.60	106.7
Annual Average		0.10	99.88	0.54	101.09	0.33	101.69	0.20	100.23
Criteria		5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L) or 5mm/s	Rolling Ave	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.80%	0.00%	0.00%
	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.85%	0.00%	0.00%

Dec 2019		"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		0.07	97.7	0.53	102.3	0.25	100.1	0.14	100.6
Monthly Maximum		0.25	102.9	2.46	107.0	0.73	104.1	0.45	104.5
Annual Average		0.09	99.69	0.54	101.19	0.32	101.56	0.19	100.26
Criteria		5	115	5	115	5	115	5	115
% >115dB(L) or 5mm/s	Rolling Ave	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.39%	0.00%	0.00%
	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%	0.00%

Jan 2020		"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		0.10	97.5	0.59	101.5	0.42	98.6	0.23	97.9
Monthly Maximum		0.20	100.9	1.19	110.5	1.13	105.7	0.53	105.0
Annual Average		0.10	97.50	0.59	101.50	0.42	98.61	0.23	97.93
Criteria		5	5	115	5	115	5	115	5
% >115dB(L) or 5mm/s	Rolling Ave	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%	0.00%	0.00%
	Reporting Year	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

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 two 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 6, 7 and 8 November 2019 and 9, 10, and 13 January 2020. Groundwater monitoring locations are identified in **Figure 4**.

5.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

A summary of groundwater monitoring results has been provided below.

Site		November-19		Site		January-20	
		mbgl	%			mbgl	%
Werrie Basalt near WCC	MW1	Dry		Werrie Basalt near WCC	MW1	Dry	
	MW2	57.95	1%		MW2	57.64	1%
	MW3	20.92	-1%		MW3	21.05	-1%
	MW4B	19.53	-1%		MW4B	19.75	-1%
	MW5	13.89	-1%		MW5	14.04	-1%
	MW6	16.29	0%		MW6	16.28	0%
	MW27*	Dry			MW27*	55.76	
	MW36A	23.99	-3%		MW36A	24.61	-3%
	MW36B	23.98	-3%		MW36B	24.60	-3%
Werrie Basalt	MW8*	21.28	-1%	Werrie Basalt	MW8*	21.36	0%
	MW10	14.52	-1%		MW10	14.54	0%
	MW14	20.52	-6%		MW14	21.42	-4%
	MW17B*	16.69	-4%		MW17B*	17.05	-2%
	MW19A*	No access			MW19A*	No access	
	MW20*	23.15	-1%		MW20*	23.26	0%
	MW38A	14.32	-4%		MW38A	15.78	-9%
	MW38B*	10.53	-1%		MW38B*	10.64	-1%
	MW38C*	24.92	-3%		MW38C*	24.69	1%
	MW38E*	12.09	-1%		MW38E*	12.28	-2%
	MW41	10.72	-1%		MW41	10.91	-2%
	MW43	9.50	-1%		MW43	9.66	-2%
	MW24A*	18.24	-12%		MW24A*	18.43	-1%
	MW29*	14.93	-1%		MW29*	15.05	-1%
#1	MW12*	Dry		#1	MW12*	Dry	
	MW13*	Dry			MW13*	Dry	
	MW13B*	7.10	-4%		MW13B*	7.30	-3%
	MW13D*	6.6	0%		MW13D*	Dry	
	MW15*	No access			MW15*	No access	
	MW16*	Dry			MW16*	Dry	
	MW17A*	8.66	-1%		MW17A*	8.82	-2%
	MW18A*	Dry			MW18A*	Dry	
	MW21A*	Dry			MW21A*	Dry	
	MW22A*	Dry			MW22A*	Dry	
	MW22B*	Dry			MW22B*	Dry	
	MW23A*	5.01	-2%		MW23A*	5.23	-4%
	MW23B*	4.84	17%		MW23B*	5.06	-4%
	MW26B*	11.04	-1%		MW26B*	11.31	-2%
	MW28A*	Dry			MW28A*	Dry	
	MW32*	Pump over bore			MW32*	Pump over bore	
	MW40	10.77	-1%		MW40	10.94	-2%
	MW42	9.39	-1%		MW42	9.56	-2%
	MW34*	12.56	-2%		MW34*	12.85	-2%
Quipolly Alluvium	MW12*	Dry		Quipolly Alluvium	MW12*	Dry	
	MW13*	Dry			MW13*	Dry	
	MW13B*	7.10	-4%		MW13B*	7.30	-3%
	MW13D*	6.6	0%		MW13D*	Dry	
	MW15*	No access			MW15*	No access	
	MW16*	Dry			MW16*	Dry	
	MW17A*	8.66	-1%		MW17A*	8.82	-2%
	MW18A*	Dry			MW18A*	Dry	
	MW21A*	Dry			MW21A*	Dry	
	MW22A*	Dry			MW22A*	Dry	
	MW22B*	Dry			MW22B*	Dry	
	MW23A*	5.01	-2%		MW23A*	5.23	-4%
	MW23B*	4.84	17%		MW23B*	5.06	-4%
	MW26B*	11.04	-1%		MW26B*	11.31	-2%
	MW28A*	Dry			MW28A*	Dry	
	MW32*	Pump over bore			MW32*	Pump over bore	
	MW40	10.77	-1%		MW40	10.94	-2%
	MW42	9.39	-1%		MW42	9.56	-2%
	MW34*	12.56	-2%		MW34*	12.85	-2%

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 October 2019 and January 2020.

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 26th November 2019. 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.

26th November 2019

Site	pH	EC	TSS	O&G	Change from Previous Quarter or General Comments
ONSITE					
SB2	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry- grassy basin
SB9	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry- clay basin

SB10	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
OFFSITE					
QCU	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry. Gravel bed.
QCD	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry. Creek bed.
WCU	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
WCD	8.32	1620	38	<5	pH and EC increased, TSS and O&G unchanged. Pooled- not 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 26 November 2019 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

5.3.1 Monitoring Data Results

There was one discharge event during late January 2020 following above average rainfall during the month. Sampling conducted within the Quipolly and Werris Creek systems was also during the discharge in accordance with licence conditions.

Sample Date	Dam	pH	EC	TSS	O&G	Compliance	Type	5 Day Rain
25/1/2020	SB2	7.69	215	18300	<5	Yes- TSS Ok because rainfall >39.2mm	Wet Weather - Uncontrolled	110.2
25/1/2020	SB9	6.89	266	83	<5	Yes- TSS Ok because rainfall >39.2mm	Wet Weather - Uncontrolled	110.2
25/1/2020	SB10	7.72	120	900	<5	Yes- TSS Ok because rainfall >39.2mm	Wet Weather - Uncontrolled	110.2
25/1/2020	SB18	7.42	178	3580	<5	Yes- TSS Ok because rainfall >39.2mm	Wet Weather - Uncontrolled	110.2
Criteria		8.5	N/A	50	10			

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; **Bold** – indicates results outside criteria due to 5 day rain trigger >39.2mm.

5.3.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

Total Suspended Solids (sediment) levels were slightly increased however sampling results were in compliance with WCC's Environmental Protection Licence due to the rainfall trigger of 39.2mm. There were no impacts observed or monitored in Quipolly and Werris Creek systems as a result of the water discharge events.

5.4 WATER COMPLAINTS

There were no water release complaints during the period.

6.0 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

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

#	Date	Issue	Complaint	Investigation	Action Taken
616	9/10/2019	Blast	Complainant left a voice mail message on the EO phone wanting to register a complaint regarding the blast and wind direction causing dust from the blast heading towards town. Complainant also requested blast results to be sent through.	EO confirmed blast was within compliance Limits. Wind during time of blast was within allowed parameters.	EO emailed a copy of the results to the complainant.
617	21/10/2019	Blast	Complainant left a voice mail message on the EO phone advised they felt the blast at their residence. Requested results via email.	EO confirmed blast was within compliance Limits.	No further follow - up actions

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.

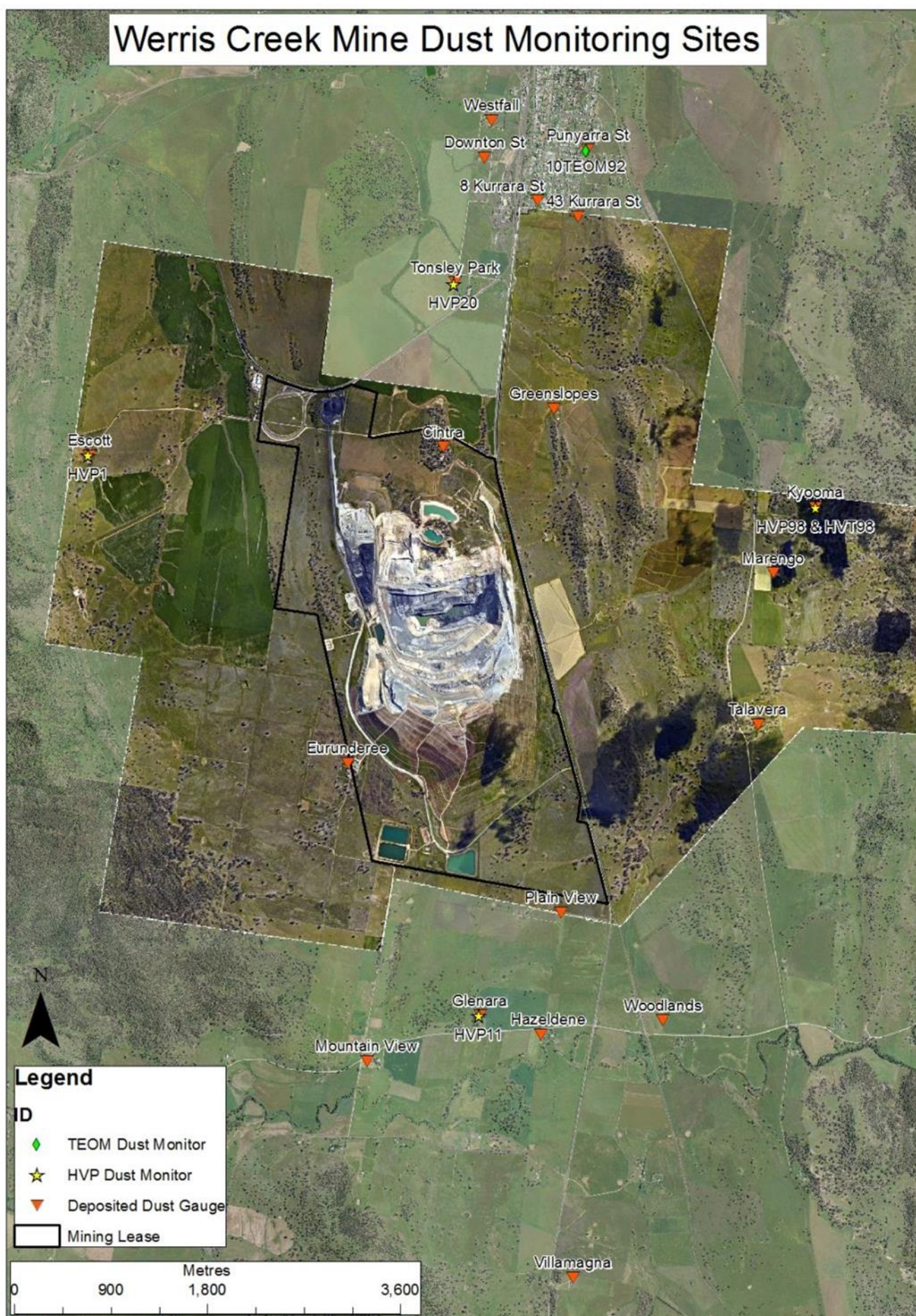


Figure 1 – WCC Dust Monitoring Locations



Figure 2– WCC Noise Monitoring Locations

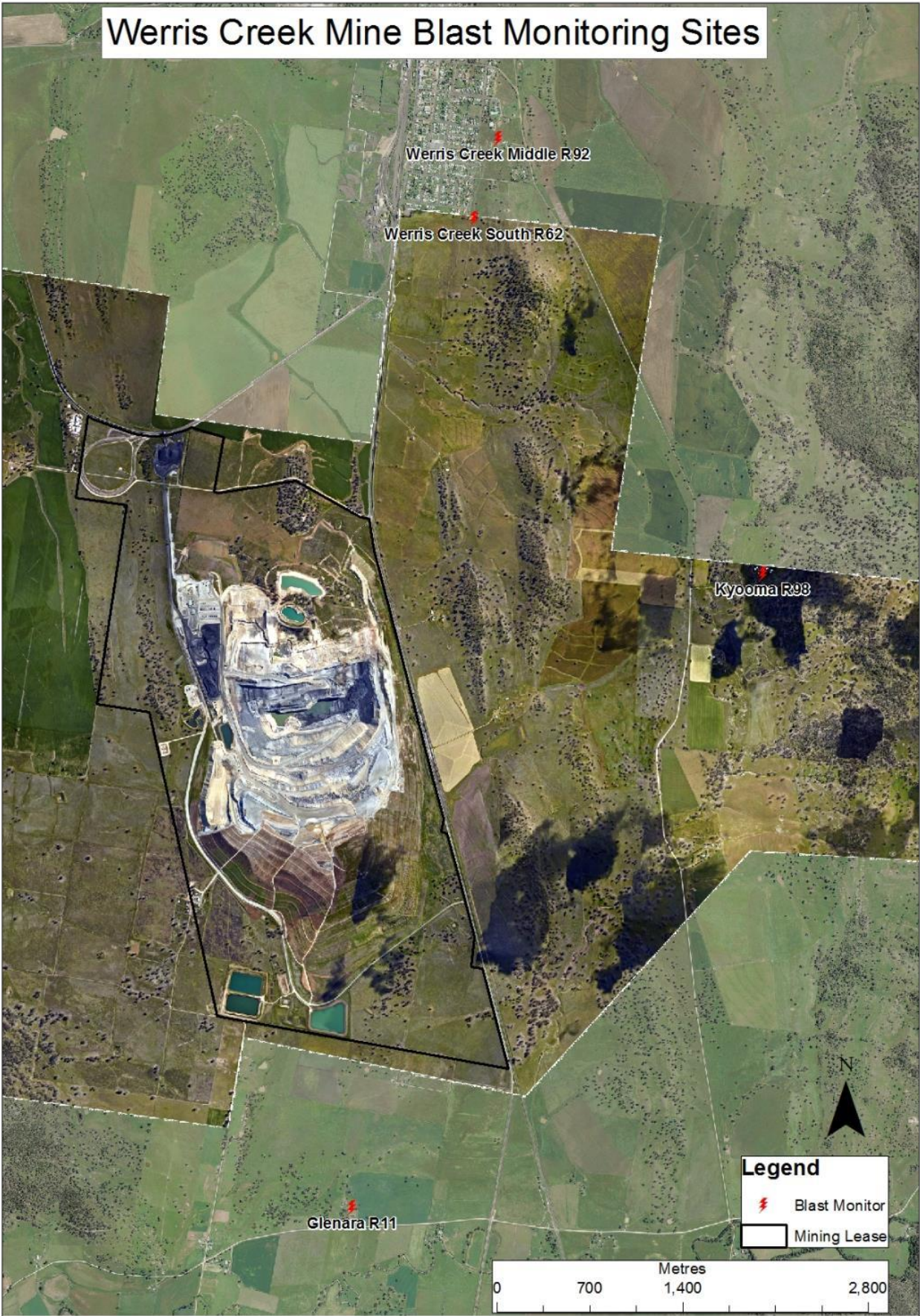


Figure 3 – WCC Blast Monitoring Locations



Figure 4 – WCC Groundwater Monitoring Locations



Figure 5 – WCC Surface Water Monitoring Locations

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From: Peter Wills [<mailto:peterjameswills@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 11:26 AM
To: Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com>
Subject: Questions raised at the Whitehaven AGM, regarding Werris Creek operations

Attention Mrs Gae Swain, Chair Werris Creek CCC

Please see below query's that I would like answered in the November Werris Creek CCC meeting.

I recently attended the Whitehaven AGM in Sydney and I publicly asked the full Board of Whitehaven Coal a few questions regarding water management at the Werris Creek mine site, to which both the Chair Mark Vaile and CEO Paul Flynn partially responded to the queries I raised, out of my own interest, and on the community's behalf.

As a neighbour to the Werris Creek mine site, I and many of the mines mutual neighbours, and the broader community have gained very little faith in the honesty and transparency of the Company and Community Consultative Committee regarding Water management at the Werris Creek site. I spoke directly to the board of the discrepancy that many in the community see in usage of the pivot irrigator and it's calculable water usage, and the information we have received historically via the CCC.

In an early 2018 Werris Creek CCC meeting it is noted that Lynden Cini advised that the newly installed Pivot irrigator uses "4 ML per watering" and that "WHC own the infrastructure and pay for the costs as required"

Throughout this intensifying drought neighbours have sighted the irrigator "constantly" going round and round watering crops. Discussions between neighbours and local experts in matters relating to irrigation have mentioned that the irrigator would actually use in the vicinity of 3 times the stated water usage, disputing the original amount advised from Mr Cini.

I have a series of questions I would like the Company to answer in an open and transparent manner to the community, for peace of mind in a currently highly pressurised drought environment.

1) At the AGM I challenged the water usage numbers provided of the Whitehaven owned pivot irrigator, to which the meeting Chair Mark Vaile said they will take that question on notice.

I would like to see an answer from Whitehaven now that the Chairman has been asked and deferred the answer.

Please advise the actual water usage from Dec 2017 install. Please indicate the number of irrigator rotations with water usage for each rotation.

2) Mr Flynn mentioned the "primary use of water is dust suppression" in relation to the mines onsite use.

If this water is being dispersed in its final use into a concentrated area of distribution, that being via the irrigator onto the property 'Plain View' is there any concern for increased levels of coal dust on each crop planted with the lack of rainfall, or building up in the soil over a small concentrated area, over a longer period of time?

What does the testing regime of this water quality that moves from the pit to irrigator entail.

3) Paul Flynn mentioned at the AGM that when the abundance of water and its dispersement was debated and finally accepted by Government authority that it could be used offsite "by other neighbouring people" Mr Flynn said "There were very few people who came forward and take that water, and principally it involved the investment in the infrastructure". Mr Flynn went on to say "If others would like to take that step to invest in infrastructure, lets have a chat". Mr Flynn's final comments to the AGM in my line of questioning was "the onus is on us to convey that water to those who need it"

With an unprecedented number of Quipolly basin water users investing to secure deeper water resources in the form of drilling new bores, some unsuccessfully, can any of the Quipolly basin water users source this void/seepage water via tanker transport to fill existing investment infrastructure such as dams or tanks for stock usage, or in the least as an on farm source of water for risk management moving into the high risk fire season this summer?

4) Mr Flynn told the AGM in regards to the use of the irrigator "What that farmer uses that water for is up to that farmer" "We've given that water to that farmer for use on that property" "If they're not using that in an efficient fashion, the onus is not on us to ensure that"

Can Whitehaven please explain what "given" means in terms of this relationship. Are you on-charging for this water?

Can Whitehaven please explain why they don't think they need to ensure the water they intercept in the pit shouldn't be used in the most efficient manner, in the current climate of severe lack of water availability in the Quipolly basin.

If Mr Flynn thinks its up to the farmer to decide how he or she uses that water, Whitehaven won't mind neighbouring farmers filling water storage options will they?

When I recently attended a Water NSW irrigators forum in Werris Creek, local water irrigation zones were reviewed for recent usage, and reviewed for the sustainable security of water availability in the each zone. When the Quipolly aquifer zone was mentioned it was dismissed for discussion by the room "as there's no water left in that zone because of the mine". This is the perceived view of the farming community of your company and your mine.

This letter is an opportunity for the Werris Creek mine and the CCC to regain some semblance of reputation by clearly and concisely answering these important questions that our community have.

Regards

Peter Wills

0417 333 669



24 January 2020

Peter Wills
Via Email: peterjameswills@hotmail.com

Dear Mr Wills

I refer to your e-mail to the Chair of the Werris Creek Community Consultative Committee (CCC), Mrs Gae Swain, dated 6 November 2019 regarding water management at the Werris Creek Mine. While the subject of your e-mail was unable to be considered in detail at the 51st CCC meeting held on 13 November 2019, please see responses addressing your questions below.

Water usage from the Whitehaven-owned pivot irrigator

A metered total of 248.04ML has been irrigated from December 2017 to October 2019. The number of rotations in a watering event is variable and is dependent on the set application rate of the pivot irrigator.

Water quality at Plainview

Water used on the irrigation area is pumped from water retained in storage dams, not directly from the pit. This process is in place to ensure satisfactory water quality with low levels of suspended solids in the water applied to the approved irrigation area. Soil quality characteristics of the irrigation area are sampled, analysed and reported by an independent, specialist consultant. This information is provided to the EPA as required under conditions of EPL 12290. EPL 12290 also includes details of the water testing regime and is available at www.whitehavencoal.com.au

Water supply charges

There is no on-charge for the supply of surplus water to the offsite agricultural irrigation system.

Potential water sharing with other water users and efficient water use in the context of the drought

The initial concept for the current irrigation scheme was put to the Werris Creek CCC by local Quipolly residents as an opportunity to undertake beneficial reuse of surplus water. Following extensive departmental consultation from 2015 to 2017, Whitehaven pursued approval for the supply of surplus water to the "Plainview" irrigation system, as outlined in the Water Management Plan available at www.whitehavencoal.com.au. This decision was based on advice from DPIE that any offsite supply and use of surplus water would need to consider a number of control measures and risk management factors. We consider the current water irrigation system to be the best option for meeting all required control measures and risk management obligations in an efficient and cost effective manner.

We are always open to considering ideas put to us by community members. We also recognise the drought continues to place significant pressure on a range of stakeholders in our broader community, including other industries and water users. As you are aware, the Werris Creek Mine and our other operations directly support hundreds of jobs and make a major contribution to local economic prosperity, going some way to offset the economic impacts of drought. Nonetheless Whitehaven Coal and the Werris Creek Mine are not immune to the impacts of this severe drought and we currently do not have water surplus to operational requirements.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Matt Hollis, Werris Creek Coal Environmental Superintendent, at mhollis@whitehavencoal.com.au.

Whitehaven Coal Limited ABN 68 124 425 396

Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 | PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225
02 8222 1100 | info@whitehavencoal.com.au | www.whitehavencoal.com.au

Jane Bradford

From: Peter Wills <peterjameswills@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2020 5:11 PM
To: Gae Swain
Cc: Matt Hollis; Jane Bradford
Subject: Re: Talent List for Community Consultative Committees

Flag Status: Flagged

Mrs Swain

My concern is over the political influence of National party membership and it's stated public policy positions, influencing you as chair of a independent CCC, and your being able to put those political sides of your life to one side, when sitting as an unqualified Chair of the CCC that deals with many political sensitive issues.

My concern does not relate to religion or rotary clubs, so my interest in those aspects are limited.

Peter Wills

Sent from my iPhone

On 19 Feb 2020, at 9:47 pm, Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com> wrote:

Attention Mr Peter Wills.

In reply to your question raised regarding my perceived "pecuniary" interest regarding my membership of a political party, (and therefore my unsuitability for the role of Chair of the CCC) I personally rang the Department and requested a clarification from their perspective.

I have received their clarification responding that there is nowhere in the CCC Guidelines which prohibits my holding the position as Chair. The Department also assured me that they would be responding to your direct question to them on this matter as well as possible further queries you may have raised with them.

I would like to point out that I also do not need to declare that my husband is a member of the Rotary Club of Gunnedah or the fact that I hold positions in my local church. Obviously the interests I do declare – that being my son and son-in-law being employees of Whitehaven are the appropriate interests that I need to declare.

Trusting this clarifies your question regarding my suitability for the CCC Chair.

Gae Swain
Chair,
Werris Creek Coal CCC

From: Peter Wills [mailto:peterjameswills@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 11:12 AM
To: Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com>; Matt Hollis <MHollis@whitehavencoal.com.au>
Subject: Fwd: Talent List for Community Consultative Committees

Please table my correspondence to the Planning Minister for discussion at the next CCC meeting, to complement the point I have raised in prior emails to the chair.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Wills <peterjameswills@hotmail.com>
Date: 21 January 2020 at 9:53:03 pm AEDT
To: "rob.stokes@parliament.nsw.gov.au"
<rob.stokes@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au" <pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Talent List for Community Consultative Committees

Attention Minister Stokes

Dear Mr Stokes

I wish to raise to your direct and personal attention the Chairperson of the Werris Creek Community Consultative Committee, Mrs Gae Swain, and her non disclosed and I deem pecuniary interest of her political party membership, that in my mind render her position as an "Independent Chairperson", of an impartial coal mining community committee, completely untenable.

Please see attached disclosure from 2016 "Part F - Candidate Information Sheet" submitted by Mrs Roslyn Gae Swain when candidate for the Gunnedah Shire Council, confirmation is noted of her political party membership of The National Party.

Upon consultation of the Code of Conduct in the CCC Guidelines, I feel Mrs Swain in the very least should be disclosing her party membership. Mrs Swain already often notes that she has a son and son-in-law working for Whitehaven Coal, supporting her broader family, for the interest of disclosure at each meeting.

I believe political party membership of the "Independent Chair", especially when it remains undisclosed to committee members, is not within the spirit of the Guideline standards.

Mrs Swain has now been Chairperson of this committee for over 8 years, and does not appear on the 2017 talent pool list of Independent Chairs, and appears to be "Grandmothered" into this role, at the expense of community engagement and consultation, when more experienced and appropriate Chairs as sighted in the approved list.

Quoting the website direct:

"In 2017, the Department sought expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced people across NSW to act as independent chairpersons of CCCs."

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees/Chairpersons>

With many wide ranging and complex issues surrounding the Werris Creek Coal Mine, many of which are highly politicised, I, and many in the community have very little faith remaining with the openness and transparency of this CCC and its functionality and ability to deal with the important and detailed issues, especially with the current Chair in place.

With the current chair remaining, when more appropriate qualified talent exists on a specialist list, with our particular chair conspicuously absent from this talent accreditation, our community engagement will remain a unqualified process, that will remain compromised until resolved, leaving the community with zero faith in the entire process.

Your attention to this matter would be very broadly appreciated by the local community.

Regards

Peter Wills
Direct neighbour to Whitehaven Coal Mine Werris Creek

Home address:
1 Moffatt St
Breeza NSW 2381

0417 333 669

Jane Bradford

From: Emily Caldwell <emilybridge3895@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 22 February 2020 11:44 AM
To: jbmail@monelu.com
Subject: Re: Reply to Mr Peter Wills letter from Whitehaven Coal - (from Lindsay Bridge)

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear WCCC members,

If the mine or its operator can irrigate crops with this water, so can the 13 Quipolly water users who have lost their bores. That gully, which the mine has interrupted, has been the environment for at least 192 years of our history. Therefore to restore the environment is to put this natural flow into this gully.

Water varies in streams due to drought of which poisonous, undrinkable water which kills fish is natural. Mine water due to rain falling into the pit is very acceptable.

I believe many in the community, including Quipolly water users who have lost this water supply, would also find this answer unacceptable.

I must disagree with Mr Wills, I find that coal dust in the water is carbon farming with all its benefits and therefore cannot accept his reply. I side with our chairperson, Mrs Gae Swain, in that I also have been guilty of handing out Nationals how-to-vote cards at Werris Creek. Hardly a secret, as I am quite well known and have been doing this for some time. I hope I may be forgiven for if Mrs Swain goes, so must I.

Whitehaven management says they "currently do not have water supplies for operational requirements". The community during the drought could see the irrigation and therefore concluded that you did have surplus during the time. Due to present rainfall, I believe you still have this surplus.

For discussion: on the 25th of January, after the local cloud burst, between about 8:30 and 9:00am, there were 3 explosions from the northern end of the pit. I was directly opposite on the Werris Creek road at the time. This was also witnessed by a member of the community about 3km away. I believe these were unscheduled explosions, 3 separate black clouds occurred with an estimated height of about 100m.

Regards,
Lindsay Bridge

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Matt Hollis

From: Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2019 12:24 PM
To: 'Peter Wills'
Cc: Matt Hollis
Subject: RE: 379 Payne's Road, Quipolly

[Report This Email](#)

Attention Mr Peter Wills

Dear Mr Wills

In response to your queries I have contacted the company for responses and provide them below -

"Whitehaven Coal do not have any interest in this property (379 Paynes Road) and have no immediate plans to increase the current approved irrigation area. Please see the current Werris Creek Coal Project Approval and Water Management Plan located on the Company website for further information".

The following protocol applies to the release of the minutes –

"Within one week of a meeting, the independent chairperson must distribute the draft minutes to all community members.

Committee members have one week to provide their feedback to the independent chairperson.

Within 2 weeks of receiving this feedback the independent chairperson must finalise the minutes in consultation with the members and to ensure the proponent publishes them on its website."

Our last meeting was held on 13th November, and therefore have the timeframe of minutes to be finalised and presented on the website by 11th December.

Gae Swain, Chairperson of Werris Creek Coal CCC.

From: Peter Wills [mailto:peterjameswills@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 December 2019 9:00 PM
To: Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com>
Subject: 379 Payne's Road, Quipolly

Attention Mrs Swain

Chair of Werris Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee

Mrs Swain

Can Whitehaven Coal Werris Creek please urgently advise if any arrangements have been made or promises of irrigation water with the new private landholders of "379 Paynes Road, Quipolly", a 189 acre block of land, shown here below in red outline, that borders alongside mine land and the existing 230m pivot irrigator paddock, that is Whitehaven land owned land, the property named "Plainview".

The property "379 Payne's Road" has just changed hands to a private new owner, for approx \$2500 an acre, with a run down cottage, zero considerable property improvements, significant bore/ water issues like many other neighbours, unimproved land that has never been ploughed or planted with crop, and a shared fence line with the Werris Creek coal mine.. It's been run as cattle country exclusively to the best of the

neighbours knowledge, when water has been sufficient enough. I genuinely and sincerely congratulate the prior owners who have suffered many water woes in the recent 5+ years, in their miraculous sale price.

The story that has been alleged to me is that the mine will be setting up another irrigator on this privately owned land, and supplying it excess pit water. Can you advise what if any process the mine may be exploring, if this is the case, to enable this water to be transferred from mine owned land, in a differing irrigation zone, to private land, in the “Quipolly zone”.

Can Whitehaven Coal please advise how the last modification was processed to enable excess pit water to be used on Whitehavens own land "Plainview" as this usage wasn't obviously part of the original EIS process and approval. Was this advertised for locals knowledge and ability to write a submission of support or rejection.

What process is underway for this potential additional irrigation development.

Kind Regards
Peter Wills
0417 333 669



Sent from my iPhone

Matt Hollis

From: Peter Wills <peterjameswills@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 8:53 PM
To: Gae Swain
Cc: Matt Hollis; Steve O'Donoghue
Subject: Questions Werris Creek Coal Mine CCC
Attachments: cid2FFC85CE-53C1-4787-B8FA-D10D9251C755.pdf; ATT00001.htm

[Report This Email](#)

Attention Mrs Swain,
Chairperson of Werris Creek Coal Mine CCC.

I have a series of questions that I require the Werris Creek CCC to answer in a swift and transparent manner.

I will be furnishing community reps of my query for follow up in the next meeting.

1) Can Werris Creek Coal please advise when Coal Movement records will be disclosed on the website for the year ending 2018, and 2019.

Please advise why the 2018 movements hasn't been updated on the website for more than a year.

2) Please confirm, as is the general practice of other Community Consultative Committees, and the Dept Guidelines, that every Community Rep on Werris Creek CCC has an alternative representative pre-confirmed and authorised ready to represent should the need occur at short notice.

In addition please confirm that these people are kept up to date with documentation and agendas prior to meetings, to keep the community representation, as best and well informed across the issues as possible prior to possible meeting attendance.

With meetings now only every 4 months, we need the best informed and knowledgeable representatives as possible to fully represent the community interest.

3) Please advise a status update and timeline of meetings of Whitehaven Coal Werris Creek and the NRAR (National Resources Access Regulator) investigators into the pivot irrigator water use.

Some concerned community members who have raised issues direct with the regulator have already had informal briefing discussions face to face with staff from NRAR.

Please place this item on the agenda for all forthcoming meetings for a full update for transparency and confidence building in the community of the satisfactory engagement of Whitehaven with this serious regulatory investigation.

4) Please advise the current status of the relationship with the pivot irrigator operator.

We note the pivot irrigator does not appear to be currently in use as frequently as before. The crop appears to be in peril of being lost.

What is the current excess water situation on site in light of this status change.

5) Can Whitehaven Coal Werris Creek please confirm for the record, and note on the minutes of the next CCC meeting, the points I raised in an email to the company and CCC Chairperson on 3/12/19:

5a)

Can Whitehaven Coal Werris Creek please urgently advise if any arrangements have been made or promises of irrigation water with the new private landholders of "[379 Paynes Road](#), Quipolly", a 189 acre block of land, that borders alongside mine land and the existing 230m pivot irrigator paddock, that is Whitehaven land owned land, the property named "Plainview".

5b)

The property "[379 Payne's Road](#)" has just changed hands to a private new owner, for approx \$2500 an acre, with a run down cottage, zero considerable property improvements, significant bore/ water issues like many other neighbours, unimproved land that has never been ploughed or planted with crop, and a shared fence line with the Werris Creek coal mine.

The story that has been alleged to me is that the mine will be setting up another irrigator on this privately owned land, and supplying it excess pit water. Can you advise what if any process the mine may be exploring, if this is the case, to enable this water to be transferred from mine owned land, in a differing irrigation zone, to private land, in the "Quipolly zone".

5c)

Can Whitehaven Coal please advise how the modification was processed to enable excess pit water to be used on Whitehavens own land "Plainview" as this usage wasn't obviously part of the original EIS process and approval.

Was this advertised for locals knowledge and ability to write a submission of support or rejection.

6) Can Whitehaven Coal CCC please answer my queries emailed on 6/11/19, placed now over 2 months ago, in full, prior to the next CCC, and disclose these answers in the next CCC minutes.

From: Peter Wills [<mailto:peterjameswills@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 11:26 AM

To: Gae Swain <gaeswain4@gmail.com>

Subject: Questions raised at the Whitehaven AGM, regarding Werris Creek operations

Attention Mrs Gae Swain, Chair Werris Creek CCC

Please see below query's that I would like answered in the November Werris Creek CCC meeting.

I recently attended the Whitehaven AGM in Sydney and I publicly asked the full Board of Whitehaven Coal a few questions regarding water management at the Werris Creek mine site, to which both the Chair Mark Vaile and CEO Paul Flynn partially responded to the queries I raised, out of my own interest, and on the community's behalf.

As a neighbour to the Werris Creek mine site, I and many of the mines mutual neighbours, and the broader community have gained very little faith in the honesty and transparency of the Company and Community Consultative Committee regarding Water management at the Werris Creek site. I spoke directly to the board of the discrepancy that many in the community see in usage of the pivot irrigator and it's calculable water usage, and the information we have received historically via the CCC.

In an early 2018 Werris Creek CCC meeting it is noted that Lynden Cini advised that the newly installed Pivot irrigator uses "4 ML per watering" and that "WHC own the infrastructure and pay for the costs as required"

Throughout this intensifying drought neighbours have sighted the irrigator "constantly" going round and round watering crops. Discussions between neighbours and local experts in matters relating to irrigation have mentioned that the irrigator would actually use in the vicinity of 3 times the stated water usage, disputing the original amount advised from Mr Cini.

I have a series of questions I would like the Company to answer in an open and transparent manner to the community, for peace of mind in a currently highly pressurised drought environment.

1) At the AGM I challenged the water usage numbers provided of the Whitehaven owned pivot irrigator, to which the meeting Chair Mark Vaile said they will take that question on notice.

I would like to see an answer from Whitehaven now that the Chairman has been asked and deferred the answer.

Please advise the actual water usage from Dec 2017 install. Please indicate the number of irrigator rotations with water usage for each rotation.

2) Mr Flynn mentioned the "primary use of water is dust suppression" in relation to the mines onsite use.

If this water is being dispersed in its final use into a concentrated area of distribution, that being via the irrigator onto the property 'Plain View' is there any concern for increased levels of coal dust on each crop planted with the lack of rainfall, or building up in the soil over a small concentrated area, over a longer period of time?

What does the testing regime of this water quality that moves from the pit to irrigator entail.

3) Paul Flynn mentioned at the AGM that when the abundance of water and its dispersement was debated and finally accepted by Government authority that it could be used offsite "by other neighbouring people" Mr Flynn said "There were very few people who came forward and take that water, and principally it involved the

investment in the infrastructure". Mr Flynn went on to say "If others would like to take that step to invest in infrastructure, lets have a chat". Mr Flynn's final comments to the AGM in my line of questioning was "the onus is on us to convey that water to those who need it"

With an unprecedented number of Quipolly basin water users investing to secure deeper water resources in the form of drilling new bores, some unsuccessfully, can any of the Quipolly basin water users source this void/seepage water via tanker transport to fill existing investment infrastructure such as dams or tanks for stock usage, or in the least as an on farm source of water for risk management moving into the high risk fire season this summer?

4) Mr Flynn told the AGM in regards to the use of the irrigator "What that farmer uses that water for is up to that farmer" "We've given that water to that farmer for use on that property" "If they're not using that in an efficient fashion, the onus is not on us to ensure that"

Can Whitehaven please explain what "given" means in terms of this relationship. Are you on- charging for this water?

Can Whitehaven please explain why they don't think they need to ensure the water they intercept in the pit shouldn't be used in the most efficient manner, in the current climate of severe lack of water availability in the Quipolly basin.

If Mr Flynn thinks its up to the farmer to decide how he or she uses that water, Whitehaven won't mind neighbouring farmers filling water storage options will they?

When I recently attended a Water NSW irrigators forum in Werris Creek, local water irrigation zones were reviewed for recent usage, and reviewed for the sustainable security of water availability in the each zone. When the Quipolly aquifer zone was mentioned it was dismissed for discussion by the room "as there's no water left in that zone because of the mine". This is the perceived view of the farming community of your company and your mine.

This letter is an opportunity for the Werris Creek mine and the CCC to regain some semblance of reputation by clearly and concisely answering these important questions that our community have.

7) I would like immediate clarification of Mrs Swains ability to continue to serve as "Independent Chair" of the Werris Creek Coal Mine CCC.

I notice on the 2016 "Part F - Candidate Information Sheet" (attached) submitted by Mrs Roslyn Gae Swain, when Mrs Swain ran for Gunnedah Shire Council, Mrs Swain notes in her registration, party membership of the National Party.

I would like Mrs Swain to reflect upon the Code of conduct in the CCC Guidelines, to ensure that her role as chairperson, and her then, and subsequent continued non-disclosure of political membership to this committee and community reps, is within the spirit of the Guideline standards.

Upon reading of the Declaration of Pecuniary and Non- Pecuniary interests in the CCC Guidelines, the document states examples of pecuniary interest.

Point 5 states, a Member representing a stakeholder group and the stakeholder group has received funding or grants from the proponent.

I would like Mrs Swain to explain this political interest with the Department of Planning, and the Werris Creek CCC representatives at the next CCC meeting, as disclosed in 2016 documents attached.

I feel this membership that Mrs Swain then allegedly held in 2016 should rule her ineligible to sit as an "Independent Chair" as reflected by the fact that her affiliated parties policy positions held by the National Party and it's members, wouldn't necessarily render Mrs Swain as an Independent candidate to Chair meetings completely impartially.

I would like full declaration of political donations that Whitehaven Coal has made to the Liberal/National Party Coalition parties over the last 4 years since Mrs Swain last publicly disclosed her party allegiances.

I've referred my query direct to the Planning Minister, Rob Stokes, for his personal consideration.

8) As a matter of some interest, and further consideration of the CCC broader discussion, I do recall being advised previously by this CCC and it's Chairperson that I personally couldn't attend as an observer of the Werris Creek CCC, whilst being direct mind neighbour, because it was in the public domain that I had been a member of the Greens.

For the record I more recently ran as an Upper House Independent candidate in the NSW 2019 March election. Coincidentally I did bump into and have a brief chat to Mrs Swain at Gunnedah who was handing out for the National Party in March 2019.

I request again, that I wish to attend the next CCC meeting simply as an observer status attendee. I understand from the Guidelines that this is a permissible activity, and the attendee is not able to interact with the meeting, and I request the Chairperson Mrs Swain recuse herself the conversation, step aside and appoint a temporary chair for this topic discussion, considering her political bias.

I request all community reps to abide by the spirit of community representation and transparency, and the spirit of the CCC Guidelines, and reflect upon direct interactions with the Department of Planning that have instigated changes to procedures of this committee operations over the last couple of years, to bring this CCC somewhat closer to the Guideline standard and minimum expectations of the community.

I have asked a very specific line of nuanced questioning that, with all due respect I would like to hear answered with all nuanced responses and interaction and engagement from the community representatives who also may wish to follow up with similar questions along the topic lines raised.

Not all response from a committee meeting is ever fully notated in the minutes, particularly in the limited (but slightly improving) fashion of the minutes that are delivered from this particular CCC. I will be in Quirindi the day of the next CCC meeting and ready to attend once this attendee request has been discussed at the beginning of the agenda.

Peter Wills
0417 333 669