

Werris Creek Coal Community Enhancement Fund

v5 March 2015

Background

Werris Creek Coal (WCC) Life of Mine (LOM) Project was approved by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (now known as Department of Planning and Environment – DP&E) conditioning the establishment of a Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) based on the proposal agreed between Liverpool Plains Shire Council (Council) and Whitehaven Coal. The aim of the CEF is for Whitehaven Coal to support community projects in Liverpool Plains Shire for the benefit of the local community in particular the Werris Creek township.

History

During the environmental assessment and planning process for the LOM Project in 2010, Council and Whitehaven Coal held discussions on establishing a CEF if the LOM Project was to be approved. Following earlier correspondence in May, Whitehaven Coal committed in a letter dated 16th June 2010 to funding \$300,000 for a CEF that reflects a fair contribution due the size of the company and LOM Project value. In addition, Whitehaven Coal agreed to immediately contribute \$20,000 from the CEF for the purchase of a grand piano for the Royal Theatre in Quirindi and if the LOM Project was not approved, the payment of the grand piano would be a gesture of goodwill.

In a letter dated 5th July 2010, the Council agreed to the CEF proposal. WCC LOM Project was approved by DoP on 25th October 2011, which conditioned the establishment of the CEF. Whitehaven Coal wrote to Council on 3rd February 2012 requesting Council to recommend community projects that could be supported by the CEF. The Council's General Manager responded by email on 29th February 2012 with a schedule of community projects to form the basis of the CEF.

The CEF document was updated in May 2013 to incorporate the CPI increase (Dec Qtr 2011 to Dec Qtr 2012 = 2.2%) and based on correspondence from Council dated 28th May 2013 and approved by the WCC Community Consultative Committee (CCC) at the meeting 27th June 2013.

The CEF document was again updated in April 2014 to incorporate the CPI increase (Dec Qtr 2012 to Dec Qtr 2013 = 2.7%) and based on correspondence from Council dated 28th March 2014 and approved by the WCC Community Consultative Committee (CCC) at the meeting 27th February 2014.

This CEF document was updated in February 2015 to incorporate the CPI increase (Dec Qtr 2013 to Dec Qtr 2014 = 1.7%) and endorsed by WCC Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting on the 26th February 2015.

Requirements

The WCC LOM Project Approval 10_0059 Schedule 1 Condition 15 outlines the CEF requirements:

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

The Proponent shall establish and operate a Community Enhancement Fund for the project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This fund must:

- (a) be established and operated in consultation with Council and the CCC;
- (b) be directed towards providing benefits to the local communities affected by the project;
- (c) provide for the expenditure of at least \$300,000 (indexed to CPI) over 6 calendar years (2012 to 2017), and include at least \$200,000 of expenditure within the town of Werris Creek; and
- (d) be operating from the end of April 2012, unless the Director-General agrees otherwise.

Following consultation with Council and the CCC in 2012, Whitehaven Coal will establish a CEF with DP&E's approval for:

- a CEF funded to \$300,000 over a 6 calendar year period commencing May 2012;
- The CEF will be indexed to CPI calculated on the monies not spent against the balance of the \$300,000 at the end of each calendar year to provide an ongoing balance for the beginning of the next calendar year. This balance will be confirmed in writing by Werris Creek Coal at the beginning, or shortly thereafter, of each calendar year;
- Two- thirds of the CEF will be spent in the Werris Creek township; and
- The schedule of projects funded from the CEF will be reviewed annually by WCC, Council and CCC and amended as required due to changing circumstances and priorities and updated in the Annual Environmental Management Report/Annual Review.

Community Project Schedule

The following project schedule outlines the community projects to be funded (ex GST) from the CEF (including the 2012, 2013 and 2014 CPI increases), the anticipated date the project will occur and estimated cost. From the table below, it is proposed that \$200,000 will be spent in Werris Creek.

YEAR	CEF Project Schedule	COST
2010	CEF established by Werris Creek Coal	\$300,000
2010	Grand Piano for Royal Theatre, Quirindi	-\$20,000
2012	2012 CPI 2.2% Increase	\$6,160
2013	2013 CPI 2.7% Increase	\$7,726.32
2013	Skate Park, Werris Creek	-\$65,294.90
2014	Disabled Lift at Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek	-\$64,705.10
2014	Werris Creek Preschool Garden Items for Upgraded Sandpit, Werris Creek	-\$755
Sub Total (Funds Remaining)		\$163,131.32
2014	2014 CPI 1.7% Increase	\$2773.23
2014	Early Warning Evacuation Alarm, Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek	-\$30,000*
2014	Miscellaneous carpentry at Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek	-\$6,000*
2014	Additional Public Seating in Single Street outside CBD, Werris Creek	-\$7,000*
2015	Upgrade or New Playground, Werris Creek	-\$70,000
2016	Various playground improvements in Villages, Liverpool Plains Shire	-\$50,000
2017	Nil	-\$0
Unallocated Funds		\$2904.55

* Projects Committed but Yet To Be Invoiced.

Grand Piano – Royal Theatre, Quirindi

A Grand Piano was purchased back in 2010 as per the agreement between Whitehaven Coal and Council during the refurbishment and re-launch of the Royal Theatre. The Royal Theatre now is able to attract both local and touring concert pianists to the district.

Disabled Lift – Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek

The Australian Railway Museum at Werris Creek is a community run organization preserving Werris Creek's history of being Australia's first railway town. A disabled lift will be installed at the same time as other works upgrading the museums' facilities. The lift will improve disabled access to the museum and allow the expansion into the second storey of the museum site.

Skate Park – Single Street, Werris Creek

The Council has received numerous petitions from the youth of Werris Creek requesting a Skate Park to be constructed. The CEF will provide the funding to establish a modern skate facility that will enable an increased ranged of social and physical activities for the youth of Werris Creek.

Early Warning Evacuation Alarm – Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek

The installation of the early warning Evacuation Alarm will enable the refurbished second storey of the Australian Railway Museum to be opened to the public.



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Public Seating – Single Street, Werris Creek

Install two park benches to extend available public seating in Single Street to the existing bus shelters without seats outside Wing Cheun Chinese Restaurant and Patterson’s Car Repairs Service Station.

Garden Items – Werris Creek & District Preschool, Werris Creek

Reimburse the Werris Creek Preschool for \$755 used towards upkeep of the garden.

Miscellaneous Carpentry – Australian Railway Museum, Werris Creek

Finalise various items upstairs at Australian Railway Museum required to obtain an Occupation Certificate to allow upstairs of the museum to be accessible to the public.

Werris Creek Playground – Single Street, Werris Creek

LPSC has applied for a various grants to add to the CEF funding to upgrade a higher quality playground for the Werris Creek Community.

Various Playground Improvements in Villages

To share the benefits of the CEF more broadly across the Liverpool Plains Shire, it is proposed that the playgrounds in the smaller towns and villages outside of Quirindi and Werris Creek receive upgrades to the current facilities. The playgrounds in the smaller towns and villages will have existing facilities assessed and the play equipment upgraded as required.

Reporting and Review

Progress on the implementation of the CEF will be discussed and documented at each quarterly CCC meeting held at WCC.

At the end of each calendar year, the balance of the CEF will be calculated and both Council and the CCC will be provided with an update. If Council wish to amend the projects and/or schedule, then the amended projects/schedule will be discussed at the next scheduled CCC meeting for consultation with the CCC members.

The implementation of the CEF will be reported each year in the Annual Environmental Management Report/Annual Review.

Contact Details

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Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Attention: Ron Van Katwyk (Environmental Director) PO Box 152, QUIRINDI NSW 2343
Werris Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee	Attention: Gae Swain (Chairperson) "Glengarry", 205 Swains Road, CARROLL NSW 2340