

Minutes of the Boggabri – Tarrawonga – Maules Creek Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 18 May 2017 from 2:00pm

Venue: Boggabri Golf Club

1.0 Welcome

DR welcomed Cr Cathy Redding, the Mayor of Narrabri Shire Council to the Joint CCC meeting.

2.0 Present and Apologies

Present: David Ross (DR) – Independent Chair
Debbie Corlet (DC) – Independent Secretary
Cr Cameron Staines (CS) – Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Cathy Redding (CR) – Mayor Narrabri Shire Council
Cr Colleen Fuller (CF) – Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Robert Kneale (RK) – Narrabri Shire Council
Andrew Johns (AJ) – Gunnedah Shire Council
Anna Christie (AC) – Environmental Representative (Alternate) Maules Creek and Boggabri Coal CCCs
Carolyn Nancarrow (CN) – Maules Creek CCC
Catherine Collyer (CC) – Boggabri Coal, Tarrawonga & Maules Creek CCCs
Clr Cathy Redding (CR) – Narrabri Shire Council - Observer
Darren Swain (DS) – External Relations Superintendent, Maules Creek Coal Mine
Dan Martin (DM) – Environmental Superintendent, Boggabri Coal
Dan Yates (DY) – Group Manager Health, Safety and Environment, Boggabri Coal
Geoff Eather (GE) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Jack Warnock (JW) – Maules Creek CCC
Julie Heiler (JH) – Tarrawonga CCC
Kirsten Gollogly (KF) – Whitehaven Coal – Observer
Lachie Johnson (LJ) – Environmental Officer, Tarrawonga Coal
Lexie Frankham (LF) – Whitehaven Coal - Observer
Peter Wilkinson (PW) – General Manager, Maules Creek Coal Mine
Peter Forbes (PF) – Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Boggabri Coal
Rebecca Ryan (RR) – Tarrawonga CCC
Richard Gillham (RGi) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Robyn Grover (RGo) – Maules Creek CCC - Observer
Ron Campbell (RC) – Narrabri Shire Council
Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC and Maules Creek CCC (alternate)
Scott Mitchell (SMi) – Environmental Superintendent, Maules Creek Coal Mine
Simonne Moodie (SMo) – Aboriginal Representative, Maules Creek CCC
Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek CCC

Apologies: Libby Laird (LL), Pat Murphy (PM), Natasha Talbot (NT), Mitchum Neave (MN)

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3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

JH leases "Velyama" from Whitehaven and is in the 'Zone of Affectation' for acquisition for Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM).

RG – Property falls into the 'Zone of Affectation' for acquisition by Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM).

RC – runs a waste management firm that contracts to Whitehaven and Boggabri Coal.

* Simone Moodie noted during the break that her son works at Maules Creek mine.

4.0 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were deemed acceptable. Moved by RG and JH.

5.0 Business Arising

RG mentioned fire wood and that he had a conversation with LJ but that their hands were tied. DM commented that hands are tied due to Forestry Agreement. They are in consultation with RG now.

DR mentioned that JH had asked about the bore census. DM noted that data are on our website.

6.0 Correspondence

N/A

7.0 Company Reports

7.1 General status update from each Project

7.1.1 DM and PF presented the Boggabri Coal Overview.

PF – explained that Boggabri Coal had self-reported tree clearing that was undertaken above 35 degrees; it continued for about 10 minutes and immediately was stopped when they realised. No harm was done. They received an official caution. So, a secondary system was put in place by the next day.

AC – 2016 summer clearing. There are allegations that Whitehaven were clearing above 35 degrees. It was measured at the 10 metre point not the 2-metre point. Measurements closer to the ground are not valid. Why does one company have 10 and 2 and one company only have 10?

PW – ours is measured at 10 metres, part of our conditions and it is audited.

DM – explained about the complaints made to date, all regarding management of blasts. Have always spoken to the neighbours – so less impact to the community.

DM – explained some of the sponsorships like Gunnedah Girls Academy. Here in Gunnedah and Muswellbrook they donate \$40,000 to each of those state schools. Top up \$20,000 for a tour to Japan. Program is trying to improve outlook for Aboriginal girls.

BCOS Update by PF re Statutory Accountability for the whole operation – contracted to Boggabri Coal – ends at the end of November. The mines have re-tendered for the earth moving. Downer Group are not the preferred tenderer. BGC Contracting based in WA are a building and mining construction company.

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Idemitsu Boggabri Coal will be taking the coal fleet and bulk over burden removal. Still the same mine with coal and overburden. BGC haven't been signed up yet but have been advised.

JW – how long is the contract?

PF – 5 years.

CN – will you look at your travelling distance for your staff? Are you looking at local?

PF – a lot of people are local. Similar policy will continue to operate.

JH – does that include the blasting?

PF – a series of other contracts to be sorted out still.

DR – is there anything the Committee needs to be aware of in the next 6 to 9 months.

PF – if anything comes in, please send to me and I'll direct them to the right person (Peter.Forbes@boggabriccoal.com.au).

7.1.2 DS presented the Maules Creek Coal Overview.

Darren went through his presentation on the screen.

- MCC continues to ramp up to the 13Mtpa approved output.
- Continued focus on local employment >75%
- Over 70 Indigenous employees at MCC.
- Over 70 female employees at MCC.
- Additional mining fleet commissioned during the last 12 months.
- Safety has continued to improve.
- Community Support –
 - WHC donated \$272,634 for funding programs including new Air Chairs purchased for the elderly at Boggabri Hospital.
 - Other donations went to Camp Quality, Service Clubs, Aboriginal Land Council programs, Community education programs including schools and tertiary scholarships and Westpac Rescue Helicopter. In kind donation to the Boggabri Arts and Crafts Fair and MCC employees manned and supplied food for the Narrabri Show Society food stall taking more than \$20k.
 - Committed funding programs over several years to Maules Creek Campdraft, Boggabri Drivers Campfire, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Quirindi Shows, Aboriginal Girls Academy and matching staff donations to Westpac Rescue Helicopter.
 - Employee Health Programs include – Fluvax Program, Skin Checks, Movement for Improvement and periodic and pre-placement medicals.
- Environmental Management
 - Air quality monitoring results indicate good performance for the last 12 months.
 - Noise monitoring continued at 6 locations.
 - Pre-clearance activities managed with extensive ecological and archaeological due diligence.
 - Weeds and Feral Animal Control is ongoing.
- Industry Awards
- Looking Forward – continued production ramp up to 13Mtpa within 3 years.
- Continued focus on local recruitment.
- Utilisation of the shared access road Kamilaroi Highway.
- Continue support of local community programs during 2017 / 2018.

AJ – first slide re the 13Mtpa per annum. Can you please explain that further?

PW – 10Mtpa ROM tonnes. Run of Mine Tonnes. This is what comes out of the ground. That's our production now and for the next 12 months. Ramp up again in 12 months' time.

SMo – Aboriginal program – is that active in the Narrabri area?

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DY – not that I know of.

7.1.3 LJ presented the Tarrawonga Coal Overview.

Lachy went through his presentation on the screen.

- Current Mining Operations
 - Ahead of budgeted coal production by 5% and on track for a record coal production year of 2.7Mt.
 - Increased workforce by 12 FTE.
 - Increased operating hours to including Saturday and Sunday dayshifts.
 - 12% below budgeted costs YTD.
 - Safety TRIFR – Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate) – achieved 0 over the last 12 months which is very positive for our operation.
- Achievements
 - Ongoing rehabilitation activities including overburden reshaping and tree planting.
 - Ongoing review, revision and resubmission of EMP's and Strategies to DP&E.
 - Significant reductions in complaints.
 - Approval of Modification of Consent – Coal Rejects Disposal 3 November 2016
 - Approval of Modification of Consent – Temporary Road Haulage Increase ROM Coal Haulage 10 February 2017
 - Approval of Modification of Consent – Sound Power Level 12 May 2017
- Looking Ahead
 - Planned to return to Monday to Friday operations.
 - Continuation of mining in the northern extension and central pit.
 - Continuation of rehabilitation activities.
 - Maintain and continue to improve operational efficiency.
- BTM Complex – Strategy Status
 - Air Quality Management Strategy – submitted to DP&E for approval.
 - Blast Management Strategy – approved and implemented.
 - Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy – submitted to DP&E for approval.
 - Noise Management Strategy – submitted to DP&E for approval.
 - Regional Biodiversity Management Strategy – draft with DP&E.
 - Water Management Strategy – Draft with BTM for finalisation.

DR – Stephen O'Donoghue (SOD) from NSW Department of Planning & Environment indicated that Regional Biodiversity Management Strategy may have been signed off today and the Heritage Conservation Strategy is also supposed to be 2 days away from being signed off.

CC – concerning the changes to the strategies - as they are large dense documents - is it possible to put forward or note the changes to the previous strategies? What are the critical changes and where to find them in the documents?

DM – They still need to be approved. Once approved – more than happy to highlight the changes and key areas.

CC – Individual Management Plans – changes to the Biodiversity Plan or any changes by each mine – if they note the changes – it would make it easier for the community.

Discussion then held where participants agreed that management plans will get focus at each respective CCC.

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DM – yes that can happen and we can provide a copy with changes in a different colour so it is obvious where changes have been made.

KG – some documents could have minor changes – some may be major changes and may require a briefing note. (All mines agreed with this).

AC – has anyone seen any of these drafts?

DM – there are no conditions to consult with the community at this stage. These are our rules.

AC - Can anyone inform this group why these (i.e. strategies) are 2.5 years late? What is the problem?

PW – it does involve 3 different mines and different departments.

AC – longer than the department envisaged.

PF – it's not a simple process. Have to work through each business, regulators and it takes time.

CC – we should have representations from all the Departments - EPA, OEH and DP&E - at our combined meetings. Maybe they attend once a year.

DR – Stephen O'Donoghue would be open to attending. OEH and EPA will be spoken to by DR.

JH – just an observation – understand why the Biodiversity Strategy finalised on the 26 April – shouldn't those documents be addressed and passed. They won't marry up. Policies say something but your procedures say something else.

PW – regional strategies are very broad strategies. Our individual plans are designed to fit in with what has been written.

SE – strategic burning – Biodiversity management is that included in these strategies?

DM – there is a section there but I don't know the exact wording.

JH – Maules Creek just had theirs passed on the 26 April – previously there would be no controlled burning slashing and grazing. The new Biodiversity now includes burning – so originally no but now it is included. What about Boggabri Coal?

DY – can we take it on notice. November last year we agreed to some changes and the document hasn't come back to us yet. ACTION.

General Business

JH – every meeting I bring this up that we have a feral pig problem. My question is – what is the strategy as the strategy you have is not working? A lot of this area is Maules Creek – we need a coordinated approach.

DS – I'll be happy to talk to JH and discuss a combined effort.

SMi – we have regular quarterly programs and that sort of feedback is valuable. We do get updates from our lease holders. We also coordinate with the neighbouring mine as we use the same contractor.

DS to be the lead on this with arranging a meeting with Scott, Dan, Lachie, Julie, Caz and community members.

JW – can we discuss these issues at the Maules Creek meeting.

DR – we certainly can and that will be specific to Maules Creek.

CC – this is the whole area. This is not just mines but land owners as well to maintain our feral animal issues.

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DS – input from JH and CC to get the right landowners together.

JH – Can be advertised within Green Flyer within a month.

CN – if someone wants to put it together I can print it etc.

DR – is that ad going in the paper the first step.

PF – we as a mining company come together we can put something together through the Green Flyer. We could make a reasonable impression.

DR – requested that DS initiate a meeting(s) between yourselves before it goes into the Green Flyer (to initiate consultation with landholders) and keep DR in the loop and DR can share progress with JW, JH etc.

JW – suggestion – LLS as they are responsible for that.

CS – took a lot of LLS onboard and make them the coordinator to make this program work.

JW – Biodiversity Management Plan – is it possible to get rid of the watering points? Maybe filling in dams.

CC – other areas removed the watering points and now suffering – they have the feed but not the watering points.

CN – can we have two (2) joint CCC meetings a year not 1?

DR – (to agreement from participants) a joint CCC in 6 months' time.

LJ – Just more of general business – doesn't have to be presentations.

DR – just a small update.

DR – Joint CCC can go for 1.5 hours.

AC – regarding DS's presentation on air quality results. Why did you declare to the meeting about the Katestone Enquiry into dust management, there are ongoing investigations with the DP&E and EPA re the dust problems and it is significant.

PW – the report was quite positive. There were some recommendations and we are looking into these.

AC – put it in the report. State your analysis. Don't pretend it isn't happening. Boggabri Coal had a formal caution and they mentioned it straight out in their presentation. On the other hand, DS did not mention the penalty notice from EPA in February. One company is transparent.

PW – the report was positive. We have many issues we are working through.

AC – what about the penalty notice?

PW – we sent them what we thought and it was a mistake.

RD – it was general and no figures and facts re the Maules Creek Coal presentation.

DS – it was a general report as we have a CCC meeting next week. We take that on board.

DR – I take that on board as well. I asked that each of the 3 coal mines try and keep their talks short and sweet.

RD – it's not the length but the content.

DR – action – one month before next joint CCC go out to the CCC seeking input.

DS – (regarding proposed burning of offsets) looking at the end of this month.

AC – can't you graze. You haven't been managing the offset areas properly. They should have more grazing.

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DS – certainly an option, however grazing takes out the little trees. So, wet down the trees and slash around them so they aren't burnt.

AC – these are not farms. These are biodiversity offsets. The techniques they are going to use are the safest. We don't know what habitat is being burnt. Why do you need to burn the biodiversity offsets?

DS – will talk about it next week at the Maules Creek meeting.

DR – discussed the Environmental Trust, which revolves around each of the 3 mines providing some money. The money is put in place for community / environmental programs. The Trust is made up of people from each of the mines and from the community (from each CCC). As of today, we have 3 applications from the wider community. The area is limited to 25km of Leards Forest and must benefit the wider community not individuals.

The Trust meets every 6 months. The mines take a step backwards whilst the community members make the approvals etc.

DR – at each of the 3 x CCCs in November 2016 Stephen O'Donoghue and Steve Cox discussed the State's Biodiversity Reforms Strategy. Progress has been made in the reforms – strongly recommend participants look at www.landmanagement.gov.au as draft regulations and tools are on exhibition until 21 June.

DR – native vegetation maps won't be available for another 6 months - until 2018. Targeted stakeholders to be consulted with by OEHL to develop and test those map drafts. OEHL consulting through this website. There is an email alert so feel free to check this website regularly.

RG – could we involve the Vickery CCC at next Joint CCC.

KG advised the meeting that Vickery properties are managed by WHC at group level already and so Vickery's are already represented.

Next meeting 16 November but DR will talk to the mines to see if we can make it earlier.

Meeting closed at 4:30pm.

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Action List

Page No	Action No	Action to be completed	Action Owner
4	1	All mines to highlight changes to any Management Plans / Biodiversity Plans with a different colour or a briefing paper so members of the CCC aren't having to read through massive documents.	All Mines
4	2	DR to invite Stephen O'Donoghue from OEH and EPA to attend the next meeting. They should attend at least once a year.	David Ross
4	3	DY to take on notice and report back on the Biodiversity Management Plan – initially there was no controlled burning but now it is included.	Dan Yates
5	4	DR – requested that DS initiate a meeting(s) between yourselves before it goes into the Green Flyer (to initiate consultation with landholders) and keep DR in the loop and DR can share progress with JW, JH etc.	Darren Swain
6	5	DR to discuss with the Joint CCC one month prior to the next meeting any actions that need to be added to the Agenda for discussion.	David Ross
6	6	Community request to move the November meetings a week or two weeks earlier. DR to talk to the 3 mines about this. At the moment, they are set for around 16 November.	David Ross