

**METROPOLITAN COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC) - MEETING MINUTES**

Date:

16/02/2011

Time:

Commencement - 5: 00pm

Location:

Metropolitan Colliery Administration Office (Boardroom)

Attendees:

- Kerrie Belter
- Michelle Durant Chambers
- Patricia Gauci
- Robert Scullion
- Robert Young
- Amanda Reilly
- Allan House
- Anthony Barnes (Wollongong City Council)
- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (Independent Chairperson)
- David Rankin (Peabody Energy Australia)
- Jon Degotardi (Metropolitan Coal)
- John Collins (Metropolitan Coal)
- Peter Baker (Metropolitan Coal)
- Ryan Pascoe (Metropolitan Coal)
- Russell Peluchette (Tuss) (Metropolitan Coal)

Apologies

- Lorraine Rodden

Welcome

Margaret MacDonald-Hill welcomed all to the CCC meeting.

Declarations of Interest:

Margaret declared her position as independent chair for the CCC, member of the Mine Subsidence Board and Minister's Arbitration Panel.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes were moved by Robert Scullion and seconded by Robert Young with the following amendments:

Insert in Business Arising at the end of point 3: Is the approval by Integral likely to be in December according to the schedule?

Insert at the end of point 4: It is likely to be in January.

Business Arising:

- Peter Baker / Ryan Pascoe: A letter protesting Peabody Metropolitan Coal's support of Helensburgh Public School was raised. The letter was presented to the Helensburgh Public School P & C during a recent meeting. A response letter is currently being prepared by Peabody Energy Australia and the operation hopes to be able to continue providing assistance to local schools.
- Margaret MacDonald-Hill: Should Gary Eastment be replaced on the CCC following his relocation? The CCC agreed that Melody Innes would be an appropriate replacement given her involvement with the Community Reference Group and her application to sit on the CCC. **Action: Margaret MacDonald-Hill to contact Melody Innes regarding her position on the CCC.**
- Peter Baker: A recent newspaper article in the Sunday Telegraph points to Peabody as the cause of significant water loss from the Woronora Reservoir. Peabody Energy Australia and the Department of Planning had responses published which indicated that other reasons for the lower stored volume relative to other reservoirs in the region including less rainfall relative to other catchments, the location of workings which are remote to the Reservoir and that the SCA has been releasing a significant quantity of water from Reservoir for environmental flows.
- Peter Baker: There appeared to be confusion in the media and public surrounding the involvement of Peabody energy in the Apex Energy Coal Seam Gas Exploration. Peabody has no role in coal seam gas operations. This matter has since been addressed in the February community newsletter.
- Ryan Pascoe: There is a need to inform the community of the role of the CCC and who its members are. The CCC originally suggested that it and its members be profiled in the Community Newsletter. The CCC and its role has been outlined in the February 2011 Community Newsletter. A profile of individual CCC members will be provided in future editions. **Action: It was agreed that Kerrie Belter would be profiled in the next edition of the Community Newsletter.**
- Patricia Gauci: Recent associations between coal mining and the presence of Cancer clusters have been made in the media. Is this a significant issue?
- Ryan Pascoe: I could not find any further information on this matter. **Action: Patricia Gauci will speak with local doctors to see whether any further information on this matter can be obtained.**
- Michelle Durant Chambers: Numerous trees along the roadside of Parkes road on the mining lease were marked with spray paint, causing concern of a mass tree removal.
- Jon Degotardi: These were marked during a survey process to ensure that trees were not counted twice. These trees are not earmarked for removal.
- Ryan Pascoe: This concern has already been noted and the paint has since been removed. The paint was used by surveyors for cataloguing the site.

- Allan House: Request for 'Land ownership' map and map of old underground workings with an overlay of the township. A land ownership map was provided. **Action: Jon Degotardi to provide a map of underground workings**

Action Items from Previous CCC Meeting:

TEOM dust assessment provided in the site presentation.

Correspondence Tabled**In**

Nil.

Out

Nil.

FordComm Presentation (presentation by Nicholas Shields and Debbie Sims)

- **Outline of potential website for Helensburgh Community**
 - *Potential scope*
 - *Requirements for development*

Ryan Pascoe: It would be desirable to have input from CCC members on the finer details of the project.

Action: Allan House, Michelle Durant Chambers, Patricia Gauci, Robert Scullion and Ryan Pascoe agreed to participate in a working party to assist with the development of the Peabody Metropolitan sponsored website.

Allan House: There is potential for issues to arise from providing an open forum as some individuals seek to cause trouble. May require permanent administrators or avoid a forum all together.

Ryan Pascoe: the forum functionality is one of many that the site could have. The merit of the forum aspect of the website will be assessed when the site is reviewed in greater detail by the working party.

Magnetite Presentation (Presentation by Michael Westra)

- ***Proposed potential sound insulation scheme for residents abutting the surface facilities.***
- ***Double glazed window product***

Ryan Pascoe: We would like to work with the affected residents to install double glazing to all windows facing the site. All work would only be commenced pending the approval of the home owners. Affected residents would be able to choose from two potential contractors.

Metropolitan Coal Presentation (Presentation by Jon Degotardi and Tuss)

- ***Overview of current status of the Metropolitan Coal Expansion Project – Drift and Power Upgrade***
- ***Noise attenuation operations onsite***

Tuss/ Ryan Pascoe: There has been an insulated room constructed around the exhaust fan for the new drift, and insulated diesel generators utilized, all of which are allowing us to remain within

the noise guidelines. In addition to this, the coal wash plant is currently moving through stage 2 of 8 in insulating.

- ***Road Header Delivery***

Tuss/Peter Baker: The road header will be delivered at 530 am on Saturday the 26th of March in order to utilize a time of minimal traffic flow. Noise from engine braking may be the greatest issue and residents will be forewarned of the delivery.

- ***Electricity project for the isolation of Metropolitan Coal from the town electricity supply and onto an industrial level network***

Jon Degotardi: New cement power poles will replace old wooden poles close to the existing Helensburgh substation. Wires along Parkes Street to the mine will be placed underground in the existing power easement.

Robert Scullion: Will the sale of Integral Energy have an impact on this project?

Peter Baker: Currently we believe that this issue will have no impact.

- ***Top Administration Area Upgrade***

Kerrie Belter: The aesthetics of the refurbished car park and road is poor and vegetation removal has caused additional visual impacts. If possible, it would be desirable to improve visual amenity and potentially plant vegetation.

Ryan Pascoe: Landscaping measures are currently being assessed for this location. This includes re-vegetation, retaining walls and secure gates. We will discuss improvement measures further as they are identified. In the short term, planting will be used to improve visual amenity.

- ***Mine backfill***

Tuss/ Jon/ Peter Baker: Preparations are progressing to schedule, with pumping underground due to commence on the 4th of March.

TEOM Data Assessment Presentation (Presentation by Ryan Pascoe)

Ryan Pascoe: Recently commissioned TEOM monitor at Robertson St will work in conjunction with other dust monitoring devices set up within the Helensburgh community to monitor levels. Monitoring results to date indicate that PM₁₀ levels are low.

General Business:

- Michelle Durant Chambers: Metropolitan Coal has lawns in the vicinity of the public school that undergo maintenance during times of high pedestrian/vehicular traffic in the immediate area. Would it be possible to commence maintenance during times when children are not exposed to this equipment? **Action: Ryan Pascoe to arrange for mowing times to be moved.**

- Robert Young: In regards to the article concerning water loss in the Sunday Telegraph, how long until the grout curtain being constructed on Waratah Rivulet is completed?
- Peter Baker: The curtain is nearing completion however the process of completing the last part of the remediation takes the most time. **Action: Greg Tarrant is the manager of this operation, so we will arrange for him to provide some information on this issue in the next CCC.**
- Robert Young: during our inspection of the Waratah Rivulet it was observed that there was no water flowing down stream of WRS3.
- Ryan Pascoe: rock bar remediation is an on-going process and after WRS3 we are to re-commence remediation at WRS4. Remediation is an on-going process as impacts are identified.
- Robert Scullion: Due to the number of issues being raised at these meetings, would it be more suitable to arrange meetings more frequently than bimonthly? **Action: Agreement to arrange next meeting on the 16th of March.**
- Kerrie Belter: Will there be a pedestrian crossing added to colliery road to aid children crossing?
- Ryan Pascoe: The RTA has informed us that zebra crossings are not the most desirable crossing design and advised that a pedestrian island would be desirable. This design has been provided and will be considered by the Council Transport Committee.

Meeting closed:

7:10pm

Next meeting:

16/03/2011 at 5pm