

**METROPOLITAN COAL  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 02/05/2012

**Time:** Commenced – 5:16pm

**Location:** Metropolitan Coal Community Consultative Centre, Walker St, Helensburgh

**Attendees:**

- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Amanda Reilly (AR) - CCC Member
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- David Whitfield (DW) - Wollongong City Council
- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) - Independent Chairperson
- Ryan Pascoe (RP) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Damien Hodge (DH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) - Peabody Energy Australia
- Angela Fagerstrom (AF) - Community Website Developer
- Melody Innes (MI) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member

**Apologies:**

- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) - CCC Member
- Michelle Durant Chambers (MDC) - CCC Member
- John Collins (JC) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Peter Turner (PT) – Nominated CCC Member
- Anthony Barnes (AB) - Wollongong City Council
- Sophie Perry (SP) - Wollondilly Shire Council

**Declarations of Interest:**

MMH declared her position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Director General of DP&I, member of the Mine Subsidence Board and Ministers' Arbitration Panel.

**Confirmation of Previous Minutes:**

Previous minutes confirmed by KB and seconded by RS.

**Business Arising:**

- Bob Young replacement – PT offers his apologies for not attending meeting as he had a prescheduled trip. His nomination has been forwarded to DP&I.

- Progress on investigation report for helicopter incident – RP has received the draft report AND further updates will be provided when the final report is to hand.
- Underground tour for CCC members – JC was a late apology for the CCC meeting due to family commitments that arose just prior to the meeting. JC has identified possible underground visit dates. These will be communicated via email after the meeting.

### **Correspondence Tabled:**

**In:** 28 February 2012 - Kevin Evans (Executive Officer National Parks Association of New South Wales) email nominating PT for membership of CCC.

**Out:** 21 March 2012 – MMH email to Kevin Evans and PT acknowledging receipt of nomination.  
21 March 2012 – MMH letter to Department of Planning and Infrastructure forwarding nomination of PT to CCC.

### **RP presentation: Community Website Development**

**AF:** Provided an update and tour of community website, ourhelensburgh.com:

- Website is now 'live'.
- Includes local news, sports, classifieds, local businesses and calendar of events.
- Assistance is required by CCC members to populate the clubs and community section of the site. This has the potential to be an easily accessible resource for the local community and groups to promote themselves. There are currently limited local groups listed on the site.
- There is currently a Facebook page linked to the site which has approximately 500 followers. Updates of news stories are posted on Facebook.
- Business cards have been developed and printed for the site. (Distributed to CCC members to assist with promotion of the site.)
- Ourhelensburgh.com will continue to evolve in line with the input from the CCC.
- AF is primarily the administrator of the site as opposed to a content provider and needs assistance from CCC members and the community with content. Different editing rights are available for those wishing to contribute. AF is the content administrator and RP is an author. CCC members are welcome to be added as authors also.
- AF is seeking to employ a junior to assist with content management.

**\*Action – MMH to email CCC members requesting that they email through the names and contact details of local groups that should be represented on the website.**

### **Discussion regarding content**

**KB:** Is there any duplication between the site and *Northern Exposure*?

**AF:** Northern Exposure contains daily news stories whereas ourhelensburgh.com is less about news and more about community matters, promoted via community members.

**KB:** What type of news story would be important enough to be on the website?

**RP:** It is a community website and if you, as a member of the community, think it is important then it is.

**AF:** I have approached Wollongong City Council media unit for input to the content of the website.

**KB:** Is there an opportunity to put events such as chemical cleanups on the website?

**AF:** Yes. We already have a community notice-board section and there is information regarding Catholic Schools week currently on the website.

**RP:** The website was useful in distributing information regarding recent pile driving works at Metropolitan. The fluid nature of the planning for the works resulted in limited time for printing and the website worked well as a supplement to door knocking local residents to ensure residents were informed of the works.

**AF:** Would like the CCC to meet and think of groups who are relevant and would like to contribute to the website. We will need website content to be updated so relying on CCC and community in this regard for sources of material.

**RP:** Perhaps we could add a standing session to the CCC agenda to help identify relevant material for the site going forward.

**Group:** Yes

**\*Action – MMH to ensure that a website content brainstorming session is added to the CCC agenda going forward.**

**SC:** Peabody is interested in this initiative and looking at opportunities to replicate (similar website) at other mine sites.

**RP:** This initiative was recently presented to the Peabody Environmental Forum and there was interest replicating this in the US specifically in relation to lands occupied by indigenous groups.

#### **Other feedback**

**MMH:** Some councils have packs provided for new residents. It would be good if the website comprised all relevant information people new to the area would require.

**AF:** The website is a separate entity to the *Helensburgh and District Times* which has recently become a member of the Wollongong Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will be conducting a promotional drive next month that ourhelensburgh.com can get involved in.

**MI:** AF's approach keeping the main news stories fairly selective is the right one and it is important that the site is not just full of advertisements.

#### **RP presentation (cont): Community Drop-In Centre**

##### **Call for CCC members to attend the drop-in centre**

**RP:** If you are interested in being present at the Centre to provide information regarding the CCC process, please let me know.

##### **Drop-in centre schedule**

**KB:** Are the hours on the door yet?

**RP:** The hours are advertised on-line and a sign is placed in the window when the centre is open.

**\*Action – The opening days/ hours of the centre are to be placed on the door.**

#### **RP presentation (cont): Electrical Project**

##### **Community interactions**

**RP:** The first call to our community information line regarding the project was from a resident concerned about a vacuum truck and works being conducted on a power pole at the front of her residence. After following up on the residents concern it was established that the works were not part of the electrical upgrade project and were being conducted by an independent Endeavour Energy contractor.

**KB:** The works do not currently appear to have a large impact compared to previous private developments along Parkes Street.

### **Project logistics**

**RS:** Are the cable works going to schedule?

**RP:** Yes within normal references and certainly to the extent that the whole project is on track to be delivered on time.

### **Traffic control and road reinstatement**

Discussion regarding support for traffic controllers and their participation in community. Also general concern regarding some reports of traffic controllers not paying attention and smoking while working.

**\*Action – Metropolitan Coal to reinforce with contractors importance of traffic controllers staying alert on the job.**

**MI:** Is the asphalt currently in the trench line along the road intended to be final?

**DH:** The works have to be finished to a standard acceptable to Council. I have encouraged the contractors to contact Council now to have an inspection conducted to identify if the current road surface is to an acceptable standard.

**DW:** They should contact the northern depot for an inspection.

**RP:** Peabody Metropolitan Coal currently provides funding for road maintenance to three councils.

**AR:** Do we get a say where the money is spent?

**RP:** Council allocates the funding according to their identified priorities.

### **RP presentation (cont): Piling Project Update**

**KB:** The works were noisy at my house. We had to close the windows to keep the noise down.

**RP:** Understand there was some noise. The piling works were necessary due to the variable nature of the ground at Metropolitan Coal. The engineers said that this was the only way to install appropriate footings. We hope it was beneficial that the community was well informed of the works via the new website and that the works were of a relatively brief duration and only undertaken during daylight hours.

### **RP presentation (cont): Community Funding**

**RP:** Metropolitan Coal has reviewed its philanthropic program and determined there would be a benefit associated with having the CCC play a more active role in identifying projects for support. To this end, Metropolitan Coal is establishing a dedicated funding stream for the CCC to contribute to worthy projects each year. We would like to start this year.

**RS:** The public toilet in Charles Harper Park would be a good start.

**Group:** We need toilets. It would be a winner. This has been a constant issue over the years.

**RP:** It is necessary to identify if this is the best way to allocate the funding stream being earmarked for the CCC to allocate. Council has currently committed to building a toilet. The funding of public amenities is within the ambit of what would typically be funded by Council utilising their existing revenue streams.

**RS:** What is the construction time frame?

**RP:** I had informal discussions that indicated that it was to be done before the end of the financial year.

**RS:** The local neighbourhood forum has been asking for this for five years.

**MMH:** This is an excellent idea from Peabody Metropolitan and a direction I would like to see all CCCs should go. This is a long held aspiration of mine from years on CCCs and I think it's great.

**SC:** It doesn't have to be one project. It could comprise a number of initiatives.

**RP:** A guideline will be developed for this funding. This will be presented to the next CCC. In the meantime, I encourage members to start considering how this funding could be put to best use.

**\*Action – Peabody Metropolitan to continue to develop philanthropic guideline.**

**RP presentation (cont): Environmental Monitoring Data**

**Discussion around noise issues**

**DW:** Do you communicate with Dendrobium (re Pacific National horn noise)?

**RP:** Yes. PN is aware of the technology and there is going to be a risk assessment that is cross-disciplinary and will identify how best to minimize noise associated train movements.

**KB:** How many times do they need to honk the horn in the middle of the night? Sometimes it is five times in a row.

**MI:** Yes it is a problem.

**KB:** Does the train horn show up in the noise data?

**RP:** We could hear the horns in the audio files but they are not obvious in the noise charts.

**KB:** Do noise levels differ according to wind direction?

**RP:** Yes as well as other environmental factors such as temperature inversions.

**Discussion around dust issues**

**MI:** Something happened in January?

**RP:** Yes there was back-burning conducted throughout Helensburgh and surrounds in January.

**KB:** There were also road works along Colliery Road.

**RS:** Councillor Petty recently requested some dust results data.

**RP:** Yes we were contacted by Councillor Petty for the results. There are other contributing factors associated with dust levels such as the waste facility and local construction works. Dust minimisation at site is part of continuous improvement process. There is currently a NSW EPA initiative called a 'Pollution Reduction Program' associated with reviewing and minimising dust generation at all NSW mine sites.

**DH:** Prevention of dust is a part of daily operations as well as long term planning. Today a new pump was installed that will increase pressure on the stockpile conveyor water sprays. In addition electrical installations nearby the stockpile area have been developed and installed cognisant of future demand for additional capacity for sprinkler systems.

**RP presentation (cont): Independent Audit**

**RP:** The audit has shown a very high level of compliance which Metropolitan is proud of given the extent of NSW mining regulations it must comply with.

**RP presentation (cont): Tour Dates (underground and catchment)**

**RP:** We would like to conduct another underground tour and tour of the catchment this year, especially for those of you in the committee who missed out last time.

**\*Action – An email to be distributed with proposed tour dates.**

**General Business:**

**Questions regarding the drift construction**

**RS:** Have you changed contractors for the drift construction?

**RP:** We have ceased works with the current contractor and are in the process of reviewing how to progress the drift project and increase the tunneling rates.

**Questions regarding the longwall**

**PG:** Regarding longwall 21, is there much water infiltration that may be draining the water table above?

**RS:** The underground workings are relatively dry.

**RP:** Correct, the workings are dry. The mine water balance is monitored closely. There is no evidence of significant inflow to the mine.

**Comments regarding residential insulation project**

**KB:** The double glazed windows increased heat in the summer months meaning that they had to be opened.

**RP:** Other residents have provided positive feedback. I wonder if there was a difference between manufacturer's products?

**MI:** I was with magnetite and I found it useful.

**Question regarding works at site**

**KB:** Are upgrades to Colliery Road underway?

**RP:** Yes, ARMCO railing is being installed to improve safety at the road edge.

**Comment regarding traffic movements and curfews**

**KB:** I have noticed a truck coming in at 6:30 in the morning and at 8:00 at night. Is there a curfew on general trucks?

**RP:** There is no legal curfew which applies to reject and product coal trucking. However, Metropolitan has made a commitment to Helensburgh to impose a 'voluntary curfew to limit truck movements. Couriers have previously been contacted and informed that they should also conform with the curfew hours. The only exception is fuel trucks, which for safety reasons are allowed to refuel diesel tanks within the yard area after hours, as the site is less congested.

**KB:** There is one particular white truck which I have seen on a number of occasions sometimes at 8:30 at night.

**RP:** The site storeman has been very supportive of helping to ensure that delivery vehicles stick to the curfew hours. If you can provide more details of the truck we will investigate why they are coming after the stated curfew hours.

**PG:** sought and received leave of absence from the CCC as she will be travelling with her family until the end of the year.

**Meeting closed:**

7:25pm, 02/05/2012

**Next meeting:**

5:00pm, 04/07/2012 (Metropolitan Coal Community Consultative Centre, Walker Street, Helensburgh)