

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

Date: 23/10/2013

Time: Commenced – 5.10pm

Location: Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh

Attendees:

- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) - Independent Chairperson
- Ernest Johnson (EJ) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Ryan Pascoe (RP) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) - Peabody Energy Australia
- Mick Allen (MA) - SADA Metropolitan Coal
- Michelle Durant Chambers (MDC) - CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) - CCC Member

Apologies:

- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Amanda Reilly (AR) - CCC Member
- Brad Staggs (BS) - Wollondilly Shire Council
- Anthony Barnes (AB) - CCC Member / Wollongong City Council
- Melody Innes (MI) - CCC Member
- John Collins (JC) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal / CFMEU

Welcome and Introductions:

MMH: Welcomed everyone and Ernest Johnson, new Metropolitan Coal General Manager

Declarations of Interest:

MMH: Declared 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.

No other interests declared.

Amendments to August Meeting Minutes in Discussion with MMH:

- Minute amendments have become a point of contention in recent CCC meetings.
- Meetings have been significantly delayed by discussions of highly specific amendments from PT.
- MMH sought the meeting's view on the future format of the minutes.
- Whilst it was generally agreed that it would be disappointing to have the minutes simplified, it was acknowledged that the existing format was well beyond what is required. Simplified minutes would capture discussion themes, moving away from verbatim comments.
- A secondary issue arose from the discussion of minutes was criticism of PT's amendments to the minutes. Several members were disappointed with the timing of the changes three days before the next meeting, did not think many of the changes reflected what was actually said or were strictly necessary.
- Concerns were also raised with consistent emails from individual PT to the entire CCC email list, which was considered a breach of privacy.
- With general consensus BS moved that future CCC meeting minutes would be simplified and the proposed amendments to the August CCC meeting minutes would not be accepted. LR seconded the motion. PT cast a dissenting vote.
- It was agreed that the August CCC meeting minutes would be discussed between PT and MMH after the meeting had concluded.

Business Arising:

- **PT:** Questions emailed to RP regarding the LW 23-27 Management plans and 2012 AEMR.
RP: Questions will be reviewed and response will be issued via email with the minutes
- **BS:** Seeking update on possibility of CCC members manning Metropolitan Coal Drop In Centre.
RP: Agreed it is a good idea, but as Drop In Centre is currently closed due to industrial action, this is currently on hold. Will look at again when industrial action is resolved.
KB: The telephone information line is still available?
RP: Line is open 24 hours for any queries or complaints.
- **BS:** Would have liked CCC members to be notified of strike action.
RP: Understand viewpoint and will endeavor to do so where possible, but the industrial action is a fluid process and it can be difficult to anticipate developments.
- **AH:** Currently preparing a two part history of the Mine and Helensburgh, including factual and personal histories from primary source documents. Still a lot of work to be done.
RP: Appreciation from the mine and the township for the amount of effort that has gone into it so far – this will be an excellent resource to the community.
AH: Thanks to John Arnie as well who has worked extensively on this project.

Action items from previous meeting:

- No actions

Correspondence Tabled:

In: Email 08/10/2013 from RP on LW 23-27 Extraction Plan Lodgment and Link
Email 21/10/2013 questions from PT on LW 23-27 & LW 20-22 Water Management Plan

Out: Email 09/10/2013 to CCC regarding LW 23-27 Extraction Plan

General Mine Update from Ernest Johnson – Metropolitan Coal General Manager and Corporate Update from Suzanne Cryle – Peabody Energy Community Relations Manager

- **EJ:** Introduced himself to group, outlined his undertaking to help the community be more comfortable with the Mine operations in such close proximity to town. Gave a brief overview of union/company enterprise agreement negotiation. Advised if any issues with the behavior of picketing workers at front of mine, please contact Metropolitan as we have a good relationship with them.
- **SC:** Brief overview of larger Peabody corporate picture – coal prices continue to fall, share price has dropped, downsizing and redundancies across industry. Not unique situation to Peabody, but continuing to streamline and make mines a leaner operation. Cyclical industry and long-term outlook is positive, however.
- **BS:** What impact has Illawarra Coal Company closure had on Metropolitan?
- **EJ:** 100,000 tonnes sold per annum to ICC which will no longer be needed and will require another buyer. On the positive side it will mean fewer product trucks travelling through Helensburgh township.
- **SC:** On community front we would appreciate feedback from CCC for suggested funding projects that may become self-sustaining in the longer term.
- **KB:** Is there a point where costs of current industrial action become too much?
- **EJ:** Yes, every company and business has that point. We're continuing to work with the union to come to an agreement, while also focusing on improving our margins to maintain profitability of the mine.

Brief Presentation on newly installed dust suppression systems from Mick Allen – Assistant Manager Metropolitan Coal Preparation Plant

- **LR:** How does Helensburgh air quality compare to other places without coal mines?
- **RP:** Hard to make comparison with similar town, most air quality monitoring occurs in urban environments where air quality is affected by urban sources. Using the EPA guidelines, Helensburgh air quality is generally 'very good'.

Main Presentation on Metropolitan Coal activities from Ryan Pascoe – Manager Safety & Environment Services

- **LR:** Queried if the coal wash reject emplacement plant saved money compared to offsite emplacement?**RP:** Currently the costs are about comparable, but eventually as volumes increase, the process becomes cheaper than trucking offsite.
- **AH:** How long does it take for the liquid material pumped underground to solidify?
- **RP:** It is a relatively speedy process. In the long term we hope to use it to reduce subsidence by injecting into the goaf behind the Longwall as it progresses.
- **PT:** Asked what the chemicals used in the backfilled material are?

- **RP:** It is a proprietary product so the exact composition is not available. Relevant studies were undertaken to conclude that the products were not harmful and were approved by the relevant government authorities before use.
- **AH:** Do you aim to fill it floor to ceiling in the old workings?
- **EJ:** Typically we achieve 40 – 50% due to the topography of the workings which causes the material to flow in various directions.
- **PT:** Are longwall pillars designed to fail?
- **EJ:** Board and pillar mining operations sometimes are, but not longwall pillars.

General Business:

- **PT:** Had heard recent reports of geological issues at LW 22?
- **EJ:** No recent geological issues. Most recent issue was in first quarter of the year.
- **PT:** Will Metropolitan provide a longwall progress update?
- **RP:** Will be sent out with minutes as previously agreed.

Meeting closed:

6:58pm

Next meeting:

17:00, 5/02/2014 (Metropolitan Coal Meeting Room, Upper Admin Building, Helensburgh)