

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

**Date:** 05/02/2014

**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
- 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
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Melody Innes (MI) - CCC Member
- Anthony Barnes (AB) - CCC Member / Wollongong City Council
- Steve Perrens - Evans & Peck

**Apologies:**

- Amanda Reilly (AR) - CCC Member
- Brad Staggs (BS) - Wollondilly Shire Council
- John Collins (JC) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal / CFMEU

**Welcome and Introductions:**

**MMH:** Welcomed everyone to the meeting, including guest speaker Steve Perrens.

**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.

**PT:** Declared position as Environmental Group Representative for National Parks Association

**Confirmation of Amended August 2013 Minutes:**

- Confirmed by AB and seconded by KB

**Confirmation of October 2013 Minutes:**

- Confirmed by LR and seconded by KB

**Business Arising:**

- PT wished to follow up on some answers from RP in October 2013 meeting. When it became apparent questions related to presentation from Steve Perrens later in the meeting, it was decided that questions should be reserved until after presentation if not addressed.
- AH wished to clarify a comment made by PT in the August 2013 CCC meeting regarding the placement of the Upland Swamps on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The Red List referred to is the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, of which one case study is the 'Coastal sandstone upland swamps, South Eastern Australia' which are distributed across the sandstone plateaus to the north and south of Sydney. It should be noted that the Red List is currently in discussion, has not been finalised and the Woronora Plateau Swamps have not been listed in their own right. PT commented that approximately 80% of the Upland Swamps are located on the Woronora Plateau.

**Action items from previous meeting:**

- No actions

**Correspondence Tabled:**

**In:** None

**Out:** None

**Water Quality Presentation from Steve Perrens – Principal Environmental Engineer at Evans & Peck**

- PT queried how baseline is calculated and if it is appropriate. SP explained that this approach is standard in this scientific context and while the merits can be debated, it is the accepted method. MMH suggested that if PT has an issue with the method that this should be raised with the Department of Planning rather than the CCC.
- AH asked if water flows have been modeled against iron concentration. In his experience a flush after heavy rain often correlates with spikes in water chemistry concentrations. PT stated that he has done so and spikes correlate with passage of longwalls. SP agreed that there may be merit in observing concentration against rainfall data and he may recommend this to Planning upon completion of his review.
- PT queried if baseline results upstream of water quality monitoring site WRWQ9 are appropriate due to impacts of earlier longwalls. SP agreed that the upstream data is not ideal, but is still a useful tool. RP clarified that the performance measure pertains to results at site WRWQ9. SL explained that if the upstream data was the only data being used in the review it would be of concern, but SP's presentation will outline the multiple aspects which were considered in reviewing the performance measure.

- AH referred to SCA claim in their annual report there were no exceedences of the water quality thresholds in the Woronora Reservoir, which contradicts the findings of SP's review which found some exceedences. SP explained that this was due to use of different thresholds.
- At the end of SP's presentation LR stated that she was impressed with the Independent Review, but expressed concern that the presentation goes beyond the terms of reference of the CCC. RP conceded that it was unfortunate that such a detailed presentation was required, but Metropolitan Coal considered that it was warranted to ensure the CCC properly understood the matter given media coverage over Christmas around iron concentrations in the Waratah Rivulet. As a conduit to the community Metropolitan considered it necessary to address the issue through the CCC.
- AH sought to clarify for the CCC that iron concentrations in drinking water are not a health issue. There is no international or Australian health based guideline for iron in drinking water, but community is largely unaware of this.
- MMH asked if SP's presentation could be made available to CCC Members. SP agreed on the condition that the presentation or any of its content were not used in the public domain. All CCC Members agreed to this condition.

### **Metropolitan Coal Activities Presentation – Ryan Pascoe, Manager Safety & Environmental Services**

- KB noted Colliery Road was not being washed down as frequently as past. RP explained that this was due to increased road damage from daily road washing which causes more road noise issues for neighbours. Washing is conducted on an as needs basis and reviewed daily.
- KB queried if cessation of truck deliveries to Illawarra Coke Company (ICC) would result in more trains. RP confirmed that this would be the case, but a site initiative to minimise train horn use would reduce this impact.
- AH asked how Helensburgh landfill site to be rehabilitated by Wollongong City Council (WCC) would be built and completed. RP explained that the final landform would be designed by WCC to meet NSW regulatory criteria and pending approvals, Metropolitan was well placed to assist through provision of site-sourced materials (coal wash reject and sandstone).
- MDC observed that trucks travelling to landfill may cause controversy for neighbours on eastern end of Parkes Street. RP and SC confirmed that plans and timeline would be communicated to residents in conjunction with WCC before works commenced and that the works were required to be implemented by WCC regardless of the source of capping material.

### **General Business:**

- LR asked about current status of mine after industrial action and poor economic conditions in 2013. EJ outlined that mine is returning to normality, and while there is still some tension amongst workforce, things are improving and production has picked up. Selling price of coking coal is still very low but markets are expected to improve in 2014.
- KB has noticed a recent increase in local rabbit population in area. Asked if mine would be happy to work with Pest Officer to control rabbits on site. RP confirmed Metropolitan would be willing to assist.
- BS expressed concerns that PT's communication with media regarding 2012 Metropolitan Coal Annual Return water quality results has misrepresented the views of CCC, and showed a lack of consideration for CCC members by not informing them prior. PT asserted that he does not need to inform CCC and was within his rights to speak to media. MMH commented that PT had a right to speak as an individual.

- MMH advised she has invited the NSW Land and Water Commissioner to attend the next CCC Meeting, he is available 28 May 2014 and she proposed this date with the CCC concurrence.

**Meeting closed:**

6:55pm

**Next meeting:**

28 May 2014, 17:00, (Metropolitan Coal Meeting Room, Upper Admin Building, Helensburgh)