

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

Date: 20/08/2014

Time: Commenced – 5.06pm

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

Attendees:

- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) - Independent Chairperson
- Ryan Pascoe (RP) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) - Peabody Energy Australia
- John Collins (JC) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal / CFMEU
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Melody Innes (MI) - CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) - CCC Member
- Amanda Reilly (AR) - CCC Member
- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Observer

Apologies:

- Brad Staggs (BS) - Wollondilly Shire Council
- Anthony Barnes (AB) - CCC Member / Wollongong City Council
- Michelle Durant Chambers (MDC) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member

Welcome and Introductions:

MMH: Welcomed everyone to the meeting

Declarations of Interest:

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

Confirmation of Draft May 2014 Minutes:

- Confirmed by KB, Seconded by BS.
- PT enquired about procedure around confirmation of amended February minutes. MMH advised PT that in circumstances where changes were suggested which applied to what other individuals had said, it was entirely appropriate for those changes to be forwarded to the people in question before the minutes are confirmed.

Business Arising:

- MMH asked for an update on the Helensburgh Landfill Rehabilitation tender process currently being undertaken by Wollongong City Council (WCC). RP outlined process as described in previous minutes. Metropolitan has since received feedback from Council that there is a preference not to use coal wash reject (CWR) for capping of landfill. Metropolitan has emphasized the trucking benefits of our proposal to WCC.
- KB enquired if Metropolitan was aware of what WCC planned to do instead. RP advised that he was not aware of alternative options or further developments at this stage, however, Metropolitan will continue to highlight benefits of proposal to WCC.
- MMH asked for an update on Parkes Street/Colliery Road intersection upgrade. RP explained that WCC is not willing to acquire the road easement from Crown Lands, which would have allowed negotiations with asset owners (Telstra, Endeavour) for intersection upgrade to commence. Metropolitan will now have to return to discussions with Crown Lands to assess any possible alternative arrangements.

Water Quality in Sydney's Dams and Catchments Presentation – Allan House, CCC Member

- AH outlined the science surrounding water quality, based on his experience in water quality monitoring throughout his career
- AH observed that the science does not support benchmarks/limits on iron levels in water for ecology or human consumption, suggested water quality limits placed by regulatory authorities are largely arbitrary and for indicator purposes only.
- MMH thanked AH for his contribution
- PT disputed the correlation between rainfall and iron levels in the Waratah Rivulet, believes instead that correlation is much stronger between iron levels and mining
- AH agreed that it is difficult to make simple conclusions, but doesn't want to comment too much on interactions with groundwater due to lack of expertise. Noted that local area has been known for its iron rich groundwater for a long time.
- PT disputed AH's claim that elevated iron levels are not cause for concern
- MMH noted difference of opinions and suggested that the discussion be left there due to time constraints

Action items from previous meeting:

- No actions

Correspondence Tabled:

In: None

Out: None

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

- RS stated that having already seen the *Black in Time* production, he was very impressed, and wished for the CCC to thank Geoffrey Sykes for his work.
- **Action:** MMH to draft letter of thanks to Geoffrey Sykes for *Black in Time* DVD on behalf of CCC

General Business:

- PT enquired why Metropolitan didn't adjust layouts of Longwalls 23-27 based on the concerns raised by SCA in a letter to the operation. RP advised that the SCA's position on mining in the catchment area has not materially changed since the Project Approval was granted in 2009. During the Project Approval process, the SCA as well as other stakeholders were given the opportunity to raise concerns. Approval was granted with strict conditions after the merits of the project were considered and subsequent consultation with stakeholders including SCA.
- MMH confirmed Department of Planning is the regulator in regard to those matters.
- KB raised concerns regarding dust in top carpark area. RP explained that a project to upgrade and seal the top carpark is currently being investigated, but in the meantime Metropolitan can look at using the water cart more frequently to suppress dust.
- AH enquired about status of trucking CWR from site, and whether the ultimate aim is still to cease trucking. RP confirmed that with ongoing projects (CWR reuse, backfill plant) trucking has been reduced by approximately 50%. As part of the Project Approval, all CWR trucking must cease from site by 2021.
- AH enquired if Metropolitan has any historical records of the early workforce at the mine which may assist the Historical Society in identifying the Helensburgh residents who fought in WWI. RP confirmed that Metropolitan would look into it. JC stated that some of the historical records from the mine were thrown out by previous mine management approximately 16 years ago. He is unsure if anything remains.
- **Action:** RP and SL to investigate if any historical records remain at Metropolitan.

Meeting closed:

6:56pm

Next meeting:

19 November 2014, 17:00, (Metropolitan Coal Meeting Room, Upper Admin Building, Helensburgh)