

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

Date: 10/12/2014

Time: Commenced – 5.10pm

Location: Red Nectar Restaurant, Helensburgh

Attendees:

- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) - Independent Chairperson
- Ryan Pascoe (RP) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - 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
- Michelle Durant Chambers (MDC) - CCC Member

Apologies:

- Ernest Johnson (EJ) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Brad Staggs (BS) - Wollondilly Shire Council
- Anthony Barnes (AB) - CCC Member / Wollongong City Council
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) - Peabody Energy Australia
- John Collins (JC) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal / CFMEU
- Melody Innes (MI) - CCC Member
- Amanda Reilly (AR) - 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 and member of the Mine Subsidence Board. No longer on Ministers' Arbitration Panel.

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

Confirmation of Draft August 2014 Minutes:

- Confirmed by BS, Seconded by KB.

Business Arising:

- KB enquired about dust control measures at top carpark. SL gave an update on investigation of improved dust suppression products. Metropolitan Coal has identified a potentially suitable product which dramatically reduces evaporation rates when the carpark is wet. Product requires road surface to be carefully prepared prior to application. Dust control treatment will be applied when conditions are suitable.

Action items from previous meeting:

- **Action:** MMH to draft letter of thanks to Geoffrey Sykes for Black in Time DVD on behalf of CCC.
- MMH confirmed that she sent a letter of thanks to Geoffrey Sykes on behalf of the CCC for his work in creating the *Black in Time* film (copied to CCC members).
- **Action:** RP and SL to investigate if any historical records remain at Metropolitan.
- RP confirmed that despite search, Metropolitan Coal was unable to find any historical records regarding employees which may be of use to the Helensburgh Historical Society.

Correspondence Tabled:

In: emails 11 & 13/11/14 Questions from PT regarding water in underground workings

Out: email 5/9/14 Letter of thanks sent to Geoffrey Sykes

Metropolitan Coal Response to questions from PT

Metropolitan is considered a dry mine, with minimal water make measured from underground. Metropolitan Coal monitors the mine water balance from the underground workings by measuring the total water in (such as reticulated water for machinery cooling, dust suppression, moisture in ventilation, and the in-situ coal moisture content etc) and total mine outflows (reticulated water out of the mine, moisture in the exhaust ventilation, and moisture in the ROM coal).

The average water make for 2013 was 0.078MI/day which totals just 28.47MI over the year. This is significantly less than Metropolitan's authorised groundwater extraction limit of 182.5MI per year as specified in our groundwater license.

In addition to the monitored water make, the mine inspection system includes reporting of any anomalous water flows and none have been evident. Metropolitan does not store water underground.

Further details can be found in the Metropolitan Coal Annual Environmental Monitoring Reports available on our website.

Metropolitan Coal Year in Review – Ryan Pascoe, Manager Safety & Environmental Services

- RP gave a quick summary of the year at Metropolitan. Outlined achievements such as reduced trucking, improved rockbar remediation process implementation and general site improvements. Thanked all CCC members for their participation and feedback during 2014.
- AH asked for an update of the expected mine life for Metropolitan at a CCC meeting in 2015. RP confirmed that this could be done.
- KB mentioned noise monitoring taking place shortly after August 2014 CCC meeting. RP and SL explained quarterly noise monitoring requirements and assured KB they would look into who may have been conducting monitoring.

General Business:

- KB raised concerns regarding vegetation management on site at Metropolitan. Concerned about the destruction of vegetation screening around site which provided habitat for wildlife. RP agreed that the loss of screening was unfortunate, but a vegetation management plan was required for site. Process involves removal of weed species such as Lantana and revegetation with native local providence plants. Unfortunately, while the natives are regenerating the overall vegetative screening effect can be reduced. Previous plantings have demonstrated that typically the plants take a couple of years to get well established and begin to provide effective screening.
- AH mentioned impact of weed populations in Helensburgh/Otford area on Royal National Park, and potential for encroachment from human-disturbed areas on natural areas.
- KB highlighted potential pedestrian hazard at Metropolitan entrance road now that the new fence has been installed on the grass area between Colliery Rd and Hume Drive. Believes need for mine entrance intersection upgrade is now more urgent. RP outlined legal liability for Metropolitan by allowing pedestrians to access part of mine surface lease and need to secure area. Metropolitan looked at fencing with the intention of minimising visual impact and chose farm fence accordingly. Metropolitan is currently in discussions with Department of Planning & Environment to look at possible alternative course of action to allow intersection upgrade to progress.
- MMH passed on AB's best wishes, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all CCC members
- PT asked why water quality data was not provided to University of Wollongong student for research project and confirmed that he knew the lecturer involved in the data request. RP had no recollection of making that statement, but reiterated willingness for universities to use data in the public domain but reinforced position regarding provision of raw data.
- AH thanked Metropolitan for assisting with printing of WWI veterans list for Remembrance Day 2014. AH also gave update on proposed plans for memorial garden at old mine surgery on Parkes St. Wollongong Council has largely approved plans with some minor changes and will provide \$15,000 funding once final approval occurs. Memorial will contain a plinth with a list of men who died at Metropolitan over the 125 year history. Works expected to commence in 2015. RP suggested an excursion with CCC sometime next year. AH confirmed that this could be done.
- MMH thanked Peabody Energy and Metropolitan Coal for the dinner, and the CCC members for their commitment and contributions to the CCC in 2014. Margaret also announced that this would be her last meeting as Independent Chair of the Metropolitan Coal CCC as she is stepping down. Lisa Andrews will take her place as Independent Chair if approved by DP&E.

Meeting closed:

6:20pm

Next meeting:

25 February 2015, 17:00, (Metropolitan Coal Meeting Room, Upper Admin Building, Helensburgh)

DRAFT