

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

**Date:** 05/09/2012

**Time:** Commenced – 5.10pm

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

**Attendees:**

- Kerrie Belter (KB) – CCC Member
- Robert Scullion (RS) – CCC Member
- Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) – Independent Chairperson
- Ryan Pascoe (RP) – Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Josh Daniel (JD) – Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Allan House (AH) – CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) – CCC Member
- Michelle Durant-Chambers (MDC) – CCC Member
- John Collins (JC) – CFMEU/Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Peter Turner (PT) – CCC Member
- Anthony Barnes (AB) – Wollongong City Council

**Apologies:**

- Amanda Reilly (AR) – CCC Member
- Brad Staggs (BS) – Wollondilly Shire Council
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) – Peabody Energy Australia
- Melody Innes (MI) – CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) – CCC Member

**Welcome and Apologies:**

**MMH:** Welcome everyone

**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:**

PT amendments to Page 4, 7th paragraph, line 5 delete 'sub' and insert '*the wider regional*' and Page 6, 2nd paragraph from bottom, line 1 delete 'deep' and replace with '*multi-level*'.

Minutes confirmed by RS and seconded by AH.

**Business Arising:**

- Questions arising from Greg Tarrant's presentation in previous CCC meeting (covered in RP presentation).

**Action items from previous meeting:**

- MMH to email CCC members to confirm proposed date and time for Waratah Rivulet visit – *Complete*.
- SC to email Peabody Sponsorship Guidelines to CCC members once finalised – *Sponsorship Guidelines not yet finalised (work in progress)*.
- RP to talk to police and mine security about potentially observing Walker Street in their usual patrols. Would advise that if they observe anything untoward that security contact police – *Complete*.
- JD to send email to AB regarding a proposed memorial at Charles Harper Park (Consolidated list of ANZACs) and approval requirements – *Complete*.
- AB to investigate possibility of heated pool within Council – *Investigations ongoing*.
- RP investigated possibility of Metropolitan supplying coal for historic tug boats in Sydney Harbour – *Feedback provided from tug boat operators that Metropolitan's coal is not suitable for their application*.

**Correspondence Tabled:**

**In:** Nil.

**Out:** Nil.

**RP Presentation: Metropolitan Coal Project Update**

- *Electrical Upgrade Project Update*
  - *Cable trenching and underboring complete*
  - *Trench width to be resurfaced to Wollongong City Council's satisfaction following testing and acceptance of cables by Endeavour Energy*
  - *Next project phase will be power pole replacement and overhead line installation*

**KB:** When will works be complete?

**RP:** Anticipate completion within months, notionally early November, however timing is influenced by acceptance conditions established by Endeavour Energy and weather.

**KB:** What is the size of the two permanent pits along Parkes Street?

**RP:** Approximately less than 1m<sup>2</sup>. The pits are an Endeavour Energy requirement and have RTA-approved road covers.

**KB:** Can we get grass watered on roadside verge adjacent to works?

**\*Action – RP to arrange watering of grass north of Centennial Hotel on Parkes Street.**

- *Surface Area Improvements*
  - *Slope stabilisation*
  - *Drift switch room*
  - *Biodiversity plantings*

**KB:** Was there any vegetation affected in the bank stabilization/shotcrete area?

**RP:** Only weed growth in this area. Significant trees at the top of the embankment were retained and protected. Vegetation on these slopes would have eventually eroded away along with the banks without these works.

- *Catchment Groundwater Monitoring*
- *Discussions*
  - *CCC funding*
  - *Ourhelensburgh.com content*
  - *Proposed date for Christmas gathering*

### **General Discussion**

**RS:** How is the drift progressing?

**RP:** As previously reported, work ceased on the new men and materials drift several months ago. Peabody is considering future options with regard to the new drift given the current economic climate and softening of commodity markets. Since the drift drive ceased, a great deal of additional work has been undertaken to improve standards in the 500m tunnel. For example, service pipes have been installed and the floor has been concreted.

**KB:** Noticed vehicle/machine using reversing beeper all day – can it be turned off?

**RP:** The reversing alarm cannot be turned off due to safety reasons but the noise can potentially be muffled/reduced to a reasonable level cognisant of relevant safety requirements.

**MDC:** Also noticed this noise for the first time from across the road.

**RP:** There has previously been an excavator operating at the substation site using a reversing alarm which was muffled as soon as it was identified.

**\*Action – RP to make enquiries regarding reversing alarm/beeping noise sources.**

### **Catchment Groundwater Monitoring**

**PT:** Are there piezometers measuring groundwater levels between 20-500m?

**RP:** Yes, a number of multi-level piezometers are employed in the groundwater monitoring network.

**PT:** How long does it take for deep groundwater piezometers to be commissioned once they have been installed?

**RP:** The timing is variable and depends on a range of factors including the amount of geological material and drilling fluid in the piezometer holes, recharge rates and so on. The groundwater expert evaluates the data to determine when the piezometer has stabilised.

**PT:** How extensive is the deep groundwater baseline data?

**RP:** The baseline data is extensive and is detailed in our Environmental Assessment, Annual Reviews and Monitoring Registers as available on our website. The next Annual Review is being prepared presently and will be complete at the end of October. It will be made available on the website after this time.

### **CCC Funding Ideas**

**RP:** A good list of funding opportunities is being compiled by the CCC.

**RS:** Will the previous suggestion of public amenities be kept on the table?

**RP:** Yes – this will be kept on the list along with all the other ideas and a decision on the best way to proceed will be taken at a future CCC meeting.

**JC:** Council may be installing toilets in the park (Charles Harper Park) in the next couple of months.

**RP:** The idea was that we would assist by contributing to a second ablution facility to be collocated with the facility that Council is going to install in the near future.

**All:** General discussion regarding situation of public amenities in Helensburgh.

**RS:** Suggestion of the possibility of assisting Helensburgh Workers Club (currently being operated by administrators).

**RP:** This opportunity is more commercial in nature as opposed to our standard philanthropic program. I will be meeting with the club president and vice president in the coming weeks to see how we may be able to assist the club. It may be that the club's and mine's business plans will align to help with the viability of club.

### **CCC Input to Community Website ('Our Helensburgh')**

**RP:** Recent article published based on Work At Home Mothers (WAHMs) in Helensburgh as suggested by Patricia Gauci. Looking for other ideas for another story/article.

**KB:** The list of community clubs and groups for the website looks complete – does Angela (website convenor) need any further help with this?

**RP:** If it is agreed that this list is complete then it should be published on website.

**\*Action – RP to request Angela Fagerstrom to publish list of community clubs and groups on website and to provide links to their respective websites.**

### **Proposed Venue for Christmas Gathering**

**All:** Venue suggestions included:

- Heathcote garden restaurant (between railway line & park/garden)
- New Italian restaurant opening in Helensburgh
- Sublime Point/Bulli Tops restaurants
- Samuel's restaurant, Thirroul
- Harbour Front restaurant, Wollongong

**\*Action – RP to investigate potential venues and circulate email.**

### **General Business:**

**KB:** Progress on the safety improvements to the intersection of colliery road/mine entry road and Parkes Street? Noticed a white painted line across the intersection and thought it might relate to this?

**RP:** The detailed designs & construction drawings for the intersection have now been approved by Council's Traffic Safety Committee. The white paint relates to an underground water pipe. There are a number of underground services/utilities in this area and given the agencies involved, getting all the required approvals is bureaucratic. In the meantime, plans have been approved by the Traffic Safety Committee to improve safety at the Parkes and Colliery Road intersection with a raft of signage improvements. Expecting timing of the construction works (road widening and refuge island) to be complete by mid-2013 and signage to be erected in the meantime.

**KB:** Is the boom gate at the entrance proceeding?

**RP:** We need electricity in this location and to consider timing/staging with the other road works but it is still on the agenda for improved increased site security. This was raised as a requirement in a recent security audit of our facility.

**AB:** Enquiries made within Council regarding the proposed consolidated war memorial in Charles Harper Park. There is not a lot of info in relation to permissibility/approval requirements. Quietly confident a formal approval/DA is not required but would need to obtain some form of Council consent. Suggest submission of a letter request to Council's Property & Recreation Division – and also in relation to the year-round heated swimming pool.

**LR:** I have contact details for the Council Director of Property from involvement in Peace Park.

**AH:** I now have a list of WW1 & WW2 Helensburgh recruitments to assist with a consolidated list for the memorial. The year 2014 marks 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of WW1. A committee in Canberra is looking at local commemorative events for this occasion.

**PT:** What percentage of deep groundwater piezometers are actively operating?

**RP:** Currently there are 6 established/active piezometers and 7 that are commissioning as shown on the presentation plan.

**PT:** The Independent Audit raised a performance indicator issue with iron levels in Waratah Rivulet.

**RP:** This was first highlighted in the Annual Review and as per the commitments made in this document Metropolitan commissioned an independent report to investigate this matter further. It concluded that the performance measure was not exceeded. The performance indicator is being revised as further analysis indicated that it was not appropriate.

**PT:** Has there been any further increase in iron since then?

**RP:** Data is not at hand, however such monitoring data is regularly reviewed and reported. Work is in progress for the 2012 Annual Review and will be published on the website with associated monitoring results.

**PT:** The audit made a couple of recommendations and suggestions – has there been any action on these?

**RP:** Metropolitan has taken these on notice and will work towards them, however they are relatively minor suggested improvements and do not constitute any compliance breaches.

**PT:** One recommendation related to more control sites potentially for flora aspects.

**RP:** This is a legitimate recommendation and we are seeking to incorporate this in the next iteration of the Biodiversity Management Plan.

**RP:** The audit result was extremely positive for the operation with a very high level of compliance demonstrated. Some minor tweaks have been recommended to our management plans and we have written to the Department to say that they will be taken forward in subsequent iterations of our management plans.

**PT:** Is there a map showing swamp piezometers in relation to the Longwalls?

**RP/JD:** The Water Management Plan shows the locations of swamp monitoring piezometers in relation to Longwalls 20-22. The Biodiversity Management Plan shows the swamps themselves in relation to Longwalls 20-22. Both management plans are available on the website.

**AH:** In relation to iron concentrations in the Waratah Rivulet, recent water sampling conducted around Helensburgh showed Kelly's Creek to have very high iron concentrations (out of kilter with other creeks in area). The studies were conducted weekly over a three year period. The high iron levels were attributed to natural leachate from a previous sand mining operation upstream.

**MMH:** Noted experience with naturally occurring elevated levels of iron from previous mine work in the Illawarra area.

**PT:** Who carries out the water sampling for Metropolitan?

**RP:** A consulting company, Environmental Earth Sciences (EES) and a separate independent laboratory. The results are followed up with QA/QC.

**RS:** Noticed omissions from the list of Helensburgh community clubs and groups for website – Helensburgh & District Probus, Neighbourhood Forum No.1. Also WAVES (Wives of Veterans).

**\*Action – JD to request Angela Fagerstrom to include above groups to list of community groups for website.**

**RS:** The electricity upgrade is not likely to be completed until December?

**RP:** Correct. Road resurfacing in November and the system would be energized in November or December (although this is dependent on Endeavour Energy sign-off ).

**RS:** Concern regarding the possible drift re-evaluation.

**RP:** At the moment there is no certainty regarding the future of the drift.

**All:** General discussion regarding possible planned electrical outages in Helensburgh associated with the electrical upgrade project.

**RP:** The latest newsletter issued covers some this information and Endeavour Energy's contractor will liaise with affected individuals.

**RP:** If there is interest we could hold a short meeting prior to the Christmas gathering. If interested, CCC members requested to notify RP/MMH one month in advance of the date scheduled for the Christmas gathering (below).

**Meeting closed:**

6:55pm, 05/09/2012

**Next meeting:**

6:00pm, 05/12/2012 (location to be confirmed)