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## Wilpinjong Community Consultative Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Wollar General Store

24 June 2013

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**Present:** Brian McDermott (BM)  
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)  
Kim Peach (KP)  
Bev Smiles (BS)  
John Webb (JW)  
David Crust (DC)  
Kieren Bennetts (KB) –Environment & Community Manager, Peabody Energy, Wilpinjong  
Jamie Lees (JL) – Manager Project Development & Approvals, Peabody Energy, Wilpinjong  
Ian Livingstone-Blevins (ILB) – General Manager, Peabody Energy, Wilpinjong

**Absent:** Col Bailey (CB)

**Apologies:** Bruce Hughes (BH) Wollar Resident

**Invited Guests:** Clark Potter (CP) \_ Senior Environmental Advisor, Peabody Energy, Wilpinjong

**Observers:** John Jakes (JJ) – Wollar Resident  
Helen Barnes (HB) - Wollar Resident  
Howard Reed (HR) – Manager of Mining, Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoP&I)  
Tom Hodgson. - Principal, Wollar Public School  
Stirling Bartlam – Resource Strategies Consultants  
Lisa Andrews – Work associate of MMH.

**Scribe:** Catherine Lunn (CL)

**Commenced:** 2.05pm

**Chair:** Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)

1.	<b>Welcome:</b> Margaret MacDonald-Hill welcomed everyone to the CCC meeting.
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MMH – Independent chairperson approved by DP&amp;I, Member of the Mine Subsidence Board and Ministers Arbitration Panel</li><li>2. BS – Declared to be a member of Mine Watch and Mudgee District Environment Group</li><li>3. KP – Proprietor - Wollar General Store</li></ol>
3.	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes – Monday 18 March 2013</b> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved by BM and seconded by BS.</p>
4.	<b>Business Arising:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MMH sent letter to DoP&amp;I regarding spon com issue as per Bruce Marshall's request.</li><li>2. Howard Reed, Manager of Mining for the DoP&amp;I will sit in on today's meeting as representative for David Kitto, Director – Mining and Industry Projects who has had a long standing invitation to attend the CCC meeting.</li><li>3. Updates on land ownership, Mudgee-Ulan Road, realignment of Cumbo Creek, answers to questions asked by JJ &amp; HB, &amp; 75W modification included in Presentations.</li><li>4. MMH reminded CCC members to provide contact details for display at the Wollar Store</li></ol>

5.	<p><b>Correspondence In: (handed to Chair prior to meeting)</b>  <b>24/06/2013</b> - John Jakes applied to be a member of the CCC.  <b>26/04/2013</b> – Helen Barnes wrote a letter regarding a recent blast in which she felt was beyond blasting limits.  <b>Correspondence Out:</b>  <b>10/04/2013</b> – MMH sent letter on behalf of Bruce Marshall addressed to David Kitto, Director – Mining and Industry Projects, DoP&amp;I regarding spon com issues. Also seeking approval for Scott Lillis to become a CCC member  <b>10/04/2013</b> - MMH emailed KB a copy of letter sent to DoPI.</p>
6.	<p><b>Correspondence Discussion</b>  <u>Letter to DoPI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BS raised concern regarding information about a draft Mine Amenity Agreement that Bruce Marshall had tabled was not included in the letter. MMH explained that BM did not reply to her email regarding specific points that were to be raised and believed the Agreement was an issue between BM and PEA not an issue for the committee. HR indicated the agreement in general terms could be a discussion for the committee.</li> </ul> <p><u>Blast Complaint</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KB - confirmed that investigations into the blast complaint from Helen Barnes confirmed that WCM was compliant.</li> <li>JL - offered to install temporary blast monitor at Helens Barnes property in addition to the noise logger to measure any blasting effects.</li> <li>Resident Helen Barnes agreed to allow blast monitor placed at Helen's home to gain an accurate reading of blast vibrations.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Report Kieren Bennetts</b>  <u>Environmental Monitoring Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depositional Dust Gauges were compliant at private receivers.</li> <li>High Volume Air Samplers were compliant at private receivers.</li> <li>TEOM's (Real time dust monitors) were compliant. 2 x non mine related exceedances caused by localized traffic including the school bus were measured.</li> <li>BS - questioned the reasoning over why the real time noise monitoring sites were chosen and KB explained those sites would give the best spread of results for the area.</li> <li>20.29 hours lost production for noise management since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.</li> </ul> <p><u>Complaints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KB - Complaints since 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 include: 19- odour, 12- noise, 9 - blasting.</li> <li>HR - It was noted that complaints have increased since October 2012 with majority coming from Wollar regarding Spon Com odour.</li> <li>BS raised that on the original EIS it stated that this type of coal would not cause this odour. KB confirmed there was a management plan and will be discussed in the presentation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ambient Air Monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KB - Real time ambient air monitoring is currently being conducted from two sites, Wollar and Cooks Gap. Monitoring is also carried out on site to assess employee exposure.</li> <li>Sampling is being conducted by independent companies and reports will be distributed once complete.</li> <li>There were questions over the difference in distance between the two monitors with Cooks Gap being 12km and Wollar being 7km from Wilpinjong.</li> <li>CP - It was confirmed that wood smoke could potentially be picked up in the air monitors.</li> <li>CP - Report will be due by end of June or early July to determine the relationship of odour vs what is actually detected.</li> </ul> <p><u>Spontaneous Combustion Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current mine plan sequence is being reviewed to ensure a timely response to managing the original Out of Pit dumps and the Spon Com issues. KB advised that the dumps are scheduled to be re-handled over the next 2 years as mining voids become available to put carbonaceous material in the ground.</li> <li>KB - Currently reviewing the dump strategy.</li> <li>Other techniques are being reviewed including, water sprays and chemical suppressants.</li> <li>Currently managing out of pit dumps through selective rehandling when suitable voids become available and track rolling to promote compaction and oxygen exclusion.</li> <li>Since the ROM coal stockpile Spon Com event in 2012, Wilpinjong has implemented a stockpile risk ranking system</li> </ul>

whereby stockpiles would be monitored for their age and then prioritised for washing / raling offsite if stockpiles are approaching their maximum stockpiling period.

#### Environmental Incident

- Exploration hole WRNE08 was drilled in August 2012 adjacent to Cultural Heritage site 237. This hole was drilled without the Ground Disturbance Permit resulting in a potential disturbance of an Aboriginal site on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013. This incident was reported to the regulator.
- KB - A number of controls have now been put in place to avoid Cultural Heritage disturbance.

#### Exploration

- Drilling commenced on 17/06/2013 with one rig on site within ML 1573. This program will continue into the EL 6169 and EL 7091.
- The exploration program is looking at coal quality and will allow for a more accurate Geological model.

#### Licences

##### *Water Licences*

- Renewal of 5 Ground Water Extraction Licenses.

##### *Environmental Protection Licence*

- Particulate Matter Control Best Practice Implementation Program includes Wheel Generated Dust monitoring and Overburden Handling in Adverse Weather monitoring.

#### Ground Water Monitoring

- Ground water monitoring expansion map displayed.
- It was questioned if the Ground Water model gets updated and JL explained that there have been changes to the pit alignment since the original model was generated in 2005 and subsequently is now being reviewed through s75W modification.

#### Ulan Road Strategy

- Ongoing consultation between MWRC and the mines resulted in the matter being referred to the Minister for dispute resolution. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 the DG approved the Ulan Road Strategy and a joint meeting between the mines and MWRC to progress the "Binding Agreement Structure" resulted in MWRC cancelling due to funding concerns.
- JW advised committee that the council will find the \$13M difficult to fund and believes the mines should have done more in the way of research and funding.
- JL confirmed that WCPL will continue to work with MWRC to move forward.

#### JJ & HB Questions from previous meeting

- **Q: Has a social and economic impact study been completed for Wilpinjong? Is so can we see it? Are you going to complete another study on the impact re mine expansion?**  
*A: The 2005 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) for Wilpinjong Coal Project contained an Economic Assessment and Community Infrastructure Assessment. The EIS was on public exhibition during 2005 allowing for review. Project was approved in Feb 2006. A comprehensive Social and Health Impact Assessment and Economic study will be undertaken during the Wilpinjong Extension Project in accordance with the relevant guidelines.*
- **Q: Ron Bush stated Wollar Service Centre had been purchased by Peabody and Terry Rhineburger would have first right to re lease the centre. He assured us all services that existed now would be continued except alcohol. When questioned on specific matters such as rural hardware and stockfeed he stated these items would be stocked. He also stated mechanical services would continue. When will you honour this commitment?**  
*A: We cannot speak for employees who no longer work for the company and confirm or deny any verbal conversations. PEA has maintained the operation of the Wollar General Store as a convenience store to supply the necessary essentials for the local community. This store is run as a commercial business and items will be stocked if they provide a commercial return for the store. Supply of rural hardware and stockfeed can be negotiated with the current shop lessee. The current lessee does not have the skill set to provide mechanical services nor is it commercially viable. Mobile mechanics are available in the area.*

#### Community Update

##### **Recent Donations:**

- Mudgee PCYC, Mudgee Hospital , PCYC- Hyrdo Pool, Kandos Public School, Gulgong Eisteddfod, Mudgee Tourism, School Support Program, Cancer Council

Upcoming Donations:

- Watershed Landcare – Green Day

##### **Community Consultation**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Have a Chat' sessions are still being received well. Sessions are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month between 1.30pm &amp; 4.30pm. Bookings are required through Kim at the Wollar Store.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Report Jamie Lees</b></p> <p><u>Section 75W Modification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade of reverse osmosis plant to water treatment facility (e.g. pre-filtration) to manage variability.</li> <li>• Operation of light vehicle servicing facility workshop at the existing Cumbo farm shed.</li> <li>• Construction workforce for the Modification of up to 20 people in 2014 (belt press and water treatment facility) <i>Belt Press: used for solid/liquid separation.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Noise and Blasting – SLR Consulting (Draft Findings)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated/calibrated noise model – for previous CHPP and materials handling upgrades.</li> <li>• Real-time monitoring and operational controls to continue to achieve current Project Approvals noise limits in Wollar under adverse conditions (e.g. mobile fleet shutdowns).</li> <li>• 4 properties will be noise affected 1 – 2 dBA above limit</li> <li>• No private dwellings noise affected (&gt;5 dBA above limit)</li> <li>• No blast exceedences predicted at private dwellings.</li> <li>• Community raised concern over the elevated dump and the noise impact it could create. JL advised that the construction of the elevated dump was assessed in the 2014 modelled year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Air Quality – Todoroski Air Sciences (Draft Findings)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No predicted project only or cumulative exceedences of applicable air quality criteria at private dwellings.</li> <li>• Real-time air quality monitoring and management to continue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater – Heritage Computing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open cut extensions are generally in southern half of the mine.</li> <li>• Remodeled impact of the approved mine and Modification.</li> <li>• Modification predicted negligible impacts on pit inflows, and impacts on baseflow and alluvium not discernable when compared to the approved mine.</li> <li>• No measureable incremental effect at any private bores.</li> <li>• Ongoing water licensing requirements have been identified- negligible variation from the Modification.</li> </ul> <p><b>Surface Water – Gilbert and Associates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site water balance remodeled incorporated the Modification.</li> <li>• Catchment area changes would be negligible in terms of streamflow in Wilpinjong Creek and Cumbo Creek.</li> <li>• Belt press filter would improve water supply and reduce rate of pumping from borefield.</li> <li>• No changes to the approved licensed discharge rate of EPL12425.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecology – Hunter Eco/ Biodiversity Monitoring Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 51.7 ha of native vegetation identified outside of existing approved disturbance and /or heavily weed infested areas.</li> <li>• No threatened flora species recorded.</li> <li>• Nine threatened fauna species recorded (5 woodland birds and 4 bats)</li> <li>• Biodiversity offset strategy – WCPL owned land adjacent to Goulburn River National Park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aboriginal Heritage – South East Archaeology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight Aboriginal stakeholders registered.</li> <li>• 21 sites in Modification open cut extension areas.</li> <li>• 20 site low archaeological significance and one open artifact site high archaeological significance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant traffic impacts identified from the Modification.</li> <li>• Limited potential for population or community infrastructure issues as the construction workforce is small and no additional operational workforce is required.</li> <li>• No highly productive land – limited impact on agriculture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finalisation and EA Lodgement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of draft specialist assessments and Environmental Assessment.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with community stakeholders and government regulators.</li> <li>• Lodgement of Environmental Assessment to DP&amp;I (target early August).</li> <li>• Public exhibition.</li> <li>• Responses to submissions.</li> <li>• Assessment by DP&amp;I.</li> <li>• Determination by Minister for Planning (under delegation).</li> </ul> <p><u>Wilpinjong Extension Project</u></p> <p><b>Project Definition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine Planning – Exploration in Slate Gully continuing with 3 exploration holes being dug in August 2013.</li> <li>• Commencement of environmental baseline studies of relevance to Gateway/Site Verification.</li> <li>• TransGrid 330kV ETL Relocation to be relocated to a backfilled mining area, still undergoing approval process.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Report – Cumbo Creek Diversion – K Bennetts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replicating the existing stream and floodplain system</li> <li>• Emphasis on replication of geomorphic form, features and vegetation of the existing system.</li> <li>• Diversion designed to be subject to rates of erosion or sedimentation consistent with the existing ‘stable’ system.</li> <li>• Design includes a meandering low flow channel which replicates the existing low flow channel and includes some pools/wetland areas.</li> <li>• Design comprises a floodplain and an accompanying low flow stream course.</li> <li>• Replication of the existing floodplain length and width and also alluvial material, designed to safely convey major flood events and replicated the flood conveyance of the existing creek system.</li> <li>• Proposed alluvial material will form a ‘sponge’ that will soak up water in wet periods and release that water in periods of dry.</li> <li>• Diversion replicates the existing shallow aquifer processes and does not impact on low flows in Wilpinjong Creek and the upper Hunter system.</li> <li>• BS raised concern over disturbing the current alluvial material and identified that it is relatively new science to replicate the material. ILB confirmed that this same project was successfully undertaken at Isaacs River in Central QLD.</li> <li>• It was confirmed that it will take 2 + years for vegetation growth.</li> <li>• Strong discussion regarding non compacted material. HR expressed concern and believes that the material should be compacted. KB explained that this design goes back to GeoTech and a proper explanation will need to come from them.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>General Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JW confirmed that the Ulan Road will be sealed in September. Delay in sealing is due to the cold weather.</li> <li>• JL explained that he is proposing to commence planning work on the road realignment around Pit 3 and Pit 6. This will be done within the next 6 – 8 months and could potentially give an update at the next CCC meeting.</li> <li>• The LOM plan is currently being worked on.</li> <li>• KB explained that it was agreed with the EPA that the monitors for Spon Com will be kept on location for 3 months and if nothing harmful is showing then monitors will be removed. A report will be produced on the results.</li> <li>• Inductions will now be held on a weekly basis at the Wollar Store.</li> <li>• HR encouraged committee members, at the next meeting to look at Wilpinjong’s current rehab schedules and to take a site tour.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Next meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 23 Sept 2013 – 1.00pm – On site at Wilpinjong, including inspection.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Meeting Closed:</b> 4:20pm</p>

### Action Items List

Agreed Action Items/Outcome	Who	When
Blast monitor to be put at Helen Barnes home.	KB	Prior to next meeting.
Compacted material on Cumbo Creek Diversion- GeoTech explanation.	KB	Prior to next meeting.
Provide John Jakes with EIS appendixes on Socio Economic Assessments	JL	30 July 2013

Road realignment presentation	JL	Next meeting
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