

Minutes of the Wilpinjong Community Consultative Committee held at Wilpinjong Coal Mine, Monday 15 March 2010

Committee Members Present:

Brian McDermott (BM)
Col Bailey (CB)
Esme Martens (EM)
Shaun Cleary (SC)
John Webb (JW) – Alternate
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)
Bruce Hughes (BH)
Keith Downham (KD)
Linda Lewis (LL)
Victoria Tapp (VT)

Invited Guests

James MacDonald-Hill - MMH Driver – (JMH)
Charlie Mitchell – WPA – (CM)
Kylie Leonard – WPA – (KL)
Jennifer Morgans – Peabody Aust - H/O Brisbane – (JM)

Scribe: Linda Atkins (LA)

Absent: N/A

Apologies: Bev Smiles (BS), Kim Peach (KP), Andy Rooke (AR)

Meeting: Commenced: 4.35 PM

Chair: MMH

1	Welcome: Margaret MacDonald-Hill welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.
2	Declarations of Interest <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MMH - Independent chairperson approved by DoP, Member of the Mine Subsidence Board and Ministers Arbitration Panel;2. BM - Declared he is a casual contractor for Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd;3. LL - Declared she has a family member employed by Thiess;4. EM – Mid Western Joint Regional Planning Committee.
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MMH advised that as this is a Special Meeting, confirmation of the previous minutes, together with this meeting's minutes will be ratified at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.
4	Business Arising: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. N/A
5	Correspondence Out: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. N/A Correspondence In: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. N/A
6	Report – AR <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. N/A
7	Report – KD <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Thanked all for making the time to attend this special meeting, which has been convened to talk about some of the issues in regards to noise and land purchases in Upper Cumbo Valley and Slate Gully, which is east of the mine site.2. Process is in place for noise management we use a series of three noise monitors which are placed nearest of non-mine owned properties in Slate Gully, Araluen Road and other locations. This provides us with real time noise monitoring of our noise levels so we can manage noise to allow compliance with the criteria set in the Environmental Protection Licence and the Development Consent set by Department of Environmental Climate Change and Water (DECCW). From time to time the monitors are moved around to different areas. The monitors are computerized and signaled by telephone and

data is delivered straight to the mine, we receive instantaneous feed back, we have provided to the community with a free call option to call the "Complaints Hotline".

3. Real Time Noise Monitors provide noise data which is sent to our environmental department, this data is sent to us by email and received as a graph format 24/7. The alarm level is set 3dBa lower than 36dBa, if the levels exceed more than 33dBa the alarm goes off. We review the situation and address by either relocating the machinery being used around the mine site. If this is not successful we will then shut down the machinery until the noise levels reduce. The beauty of having Real Time Noise Monitoring we can stream in the data and see what the noise level is at any time of the day. The person in the control room in particular at night is able to monitor any increase of truck, dozer or any other noise, the primary function is to manage noise, and they will investigate immediately and shut the machinery down. This process is the state of the art in NSW when it comes to noise monitoring.
4. The Noise Management strategy that we have in place has had an impact on the mine and no doubt it had impacts on the surrounding community. In 2009 due to noise levels being higher than the alarm levels the mine had shut down operations for 500 hours. That equates to \$2.5M of lost revenue. Now that we are moving into June, July, August and October again our noise levels are likely to increase.
5. Now, we are moving forward with an application to modify our project approval, seeking to increase production levels by about 10%, going through this process in the near future, this will increase 12MT production of coal by 2012.
6. In 2012 our development consent requires to operate with noise attenuated equipment, this is a quietening mechanism for the dozer, trucks, excavators and other machinery, in turn with a lower noise levels this will increase our production levels at this mine.
7. We are pursuing a capital upgrade on the wash plant to provide better flexibility to our customer commitments. In the foreseeable future, we will be continuing with the same noise management strategy, and submitting an application which will be available to the public to review.
8. Peabody Energy in the past has gone through the purchase program in Cumbo Valley we own a majority of properties in Cumbo Valley, there are couple of properties that Peabody don't own. We have commenced earlier this year speaking with land owners to the East of the mine. If any land owners are interested in selling their properties to the mine we would be interested in purchasing at appropriate commercial conditions. If they wish not to sell we will be offering noise agreements to compensate for the noise impact that they are experiencing.
9. Modeling is showing that noise levels will be approaching our noise consent conditions if we increase our production.
10. Peabody has engaged Allan Andrews from Webb Bros as our agent to facilitate property purchases. It's a commercial arrangement between Allan and Peabody, he does not receive any commission based on minimizing purchase price etc. He is working on behalf of Peabody Energy, who are prepared to purchase properties at market value
11. We performed exploration drilling in Slate Gully in 2009, we found that there is coal in the valley, we still need to go through a process to do more geological modeling and economical analysis. If we decide to proceed, we require an internal approval and this may take a year, then an application needs to be forwarded to the government to seek an approval for mining. We hold an Exploration Licence for Slate Gully, previously the government had the exploration licence. Wilpinjong Coal doesn't have a mining licence in Slate Gully, Wilpinjong Coal has had the exploration for two years since 2008. If Peabody were to mine in Slate Gully a Mining Lease is required. BM - What is the duration of an Exploration Licence? MMH – around 6 years. KD – Will respond at the next meeting.
12. CM – If infrastructure and the process of Mining are to go ahead the Wollar Village would be non existent, trucks travelling along Slate Gully Road.
13. KD – We don't have the answers for Slate Gully as we haven't gone through the assessment of the coal resource.
14. CM – The village is getting smaller, When Excel came along they mentioned that Wollar would not be another Ulan. That is a lie, we have in our community 60 families left in recent years instead of having 200 families before 2004, our community should not give up on our lifestyle due to the mines being on our doorstep. I came out to my property for tranquility from Mudgee and now I'm faced with this issue. We are still receiving a lot of noise complaints from Cumbo Road, the noise is like an excavator with rail track type noises on some clear days and nights. Is the mine prepared to pay for our families to relocate at the same standards as what we have? Our road from Wollar to the mine site, why is this such an issue to have it tared?
15. KD – We will hold a community forum at Wollar in the next couple of months.
16. KD – WCPL are endeavouring to get the noise levels down as much as we can. Our presentation that we put forward to you was based on Noise/Land Purchases/Expansion & attenuated machinery to be below 36dB on all machinery.
17. JW – More information is required from the mine in the Wollar Village Voice. It would be beneficial to extinguish tempers, rumours, and innuendoes which is spread by the community.
18. EM – I wish to make a suggestion, other mines in the area provide a newsletter once a month to inform the community on what is happening with the mine, this would be a great idea to commence in the near future and enables the community to receive information on what the mines have done and the support they provide by sponsorship etc back to the community.

	<p>19. KD – We are doing exactly what you mentioned, we hold CCC meetings, advertise in the Wollar Village Voice.</p> <p>20. CM – Rumours were going around that Excel Mining were going to buy the village, but this was gazetted. What would stop Peabody or anybody to purchase Wollar at a cost and this could happen.</p> <p>21. KD – What we have been doing is renting back to previous owners at the market value rate, some land owners would prefer to stay and others couldn't go quick enough. Cumbo Valley we rent back out to the mine employees and this brings more people to the community</p> <p>22. KD – Three empty blocks of land at Wollar, to relocate houses only would be excessive cost. Would have to go back to Peabody US for approval to go ahead and build houses on these blocks. This is unlikely to happen.</p> <p>23. JW – Slate Gully no doubt will be mined in the future, the community is still unsure of what to do with their properties</p> <p>24. KD – Wintersun Hill Last year we found stone arrangements on the South Western side of the hill. At first we suspected they were graves, we sourced advice from the archeologist, experts in graves and the Aboriginal elders of the North Eastern Wiradjuri people and they carried out an investigation. From the investigations there were no skeletal remains found. We are still not sure what these stone arrangements were. The exact stone arrangement that was found has now been placed in the garden at the administration building between Thiess and Peabody office. It is unsure if they were Aboriginal origin or Non-aboriginal, with all the information we have archived all findings.</p> <p>25. JW – Coal discussion day is being held on Friday at Mudgee</p> <p>26. KD – Our plans are to mine Pit 2 for five years, on going basis eventually mine Pit 3 & 4, next year 80% of coal is coming out of Pit 5.</p> <p>27. KD – Will commence on rehabilitation of the tailings dam in the near future.</p>
8	<p>Report – SC</p> <p>1. N/A</p>
9	<p>General Business:</p> <p>1. N/A</p>
10	<p>Next Meeting: Combined Meeting 31March 2010 at 4.00 PM at the Stables at Mudgee</p>
11	<p>Meeting Closed: 6.00 PM</p>