

BENGALLA MINE

Community Consultative Committee Update

The Bengalla CCC Newsletter...

The material in this issue of the Bengalla Mine Community Consultative Committee (BMCCC) newsletter has been selected by the CCC representatives.

The BMCCC is comprised of community representatives and representatives from Bengalla Mine including the General Manager. This newsletter aims to inform interested community members on matters discussed during CCC meetings.

Dry Creek project

As part of the wider Bengalla Continuation of Mining Project, upstream clean water runoff is proposed to be diverted around the future mining operation.

Following approval in March 2015 of a new Development Consent for Bengalla to continue mining, construction of the clean water infrastructure will now proceed, as the Dry Creek Project.

Dry Creek is an ephemeral creek that generally only flows following periods of high rainfall.

The Dry Creek Project comprises:

- New clean water dam CW1 north of Wybong Road;
- Pump station and pipeline used to direct water around the mine to return the dam to an empty state;
- Contour levee to the west of the future mining operation to intercept clean water runoff and deliver it, under gravity downstream of the mine.

The following road crossings are required to deliver the water downstream:

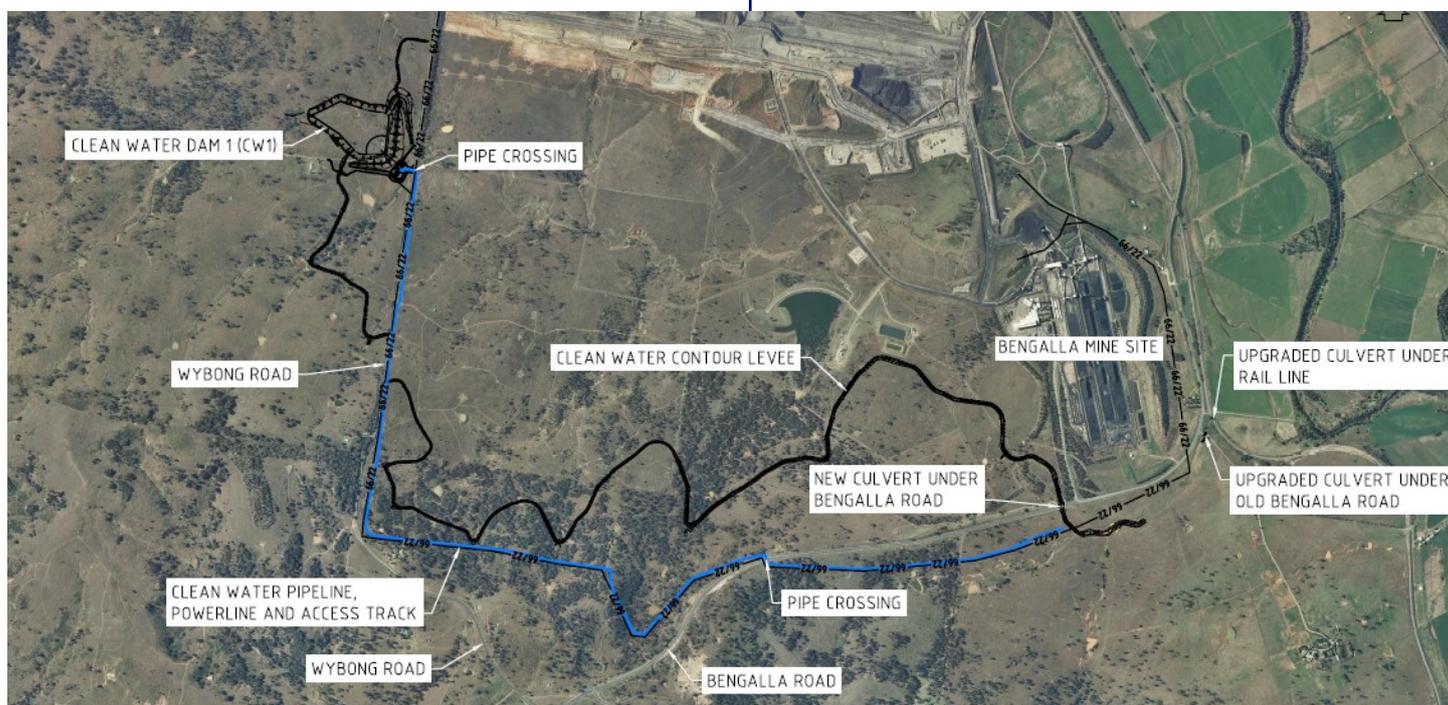
- Wybong Road – clean water pipeline installed under the road, directly opposite the CW1 dam;
- Bengalla Road – clean water pipeline installed under the road, approximately 1km east of the Roxburgh Road intersection;
- Bengalla Road – culvert installation under the road, immediately west of the existing Bengalla site access road;
- Old Bengalla Road – existing culverts will be upgraded.

Construction works for the Dry Creek Project are scheduled to begin in the coming months and is due for completion is 2016.

Whilst the majority of the works will take place within the Bengalla site, installation of the road crossings will require periods of construction access. Our detailed traffic management plans will minimise delays for motorists as much as possible, particularly at peak times.

At the conclusion of mining, the clean water infrastructure will be removed and the pre-existing drainage paths reinstated through the rehabilitated mine site.

A Dry Creek community reference group will be established for the project. Expressions of interest will be sought for appointment to the group. For further details email: Debbie.day@riotinto.com



Cattle trial

In accordance with the conditions of Development Consent 211/93 and the Mining Operations Plan, Bengalla is required to address all aspects of rehabilitation, including the development of final land use objectives and the implementation of measures to achieve such objectives.

Bengalla has committed to attaining a post-mining land use compatible with surrounding land uses. This will comprise a mixture of native woodland and cattle grazing for the majority of land within the approved operations boundary. To demonstrate the capability of rehabilitated land to achieve the final land use objectives, Bengalla is seeking to trial cattle agistment activities within established rehabilitation on the eastern overburden emplacement area. Furthermore, the trial will also provide a setting to investigate alternatives for the management of groundcover growth and weed control.

The trial will be undertaken in a fenced enclosure which encompasses an area of approximately 10 hectares. A 20,000 litre water storage tank has been installed outside the fenced area to facilitate watering of the cattle via a poly pipeline and a 1,200 litre water trough.

An agreement has been finalised with an existing lessee regarding the supply of cattle. The trial is anticipated to commence in the coming months.



Rehabilitation progress and new goals

Rehabilitation works conducted in 2014 are becoming evident with pasture and crop cover species forming a blanket of vegetation over the recently shaped overburden emplacement area and the emergence of native trees. To date, a variety of Acacias, Corymbia and Paspalidium have been identified with more species expected to appear with time.

In 2015, Bengalla is committed to achieving a rehabilitation target of 20 hectares. The shaping of the south-eastern overburden emplacement area is fast developing in turn creating a face for rehabilitation works to progress closely behind active mining. Works will continue to advance throughout the year with the majority of the rehabilitation to be completed by the end of October.



The minutes and presentations from CCC meetings are available for public viewing at the Muswellbrook and Denman Libraries. If you have an interest in any of the topics discussed at the CCC and would like further information on this topic or in future newsletters, please contact one of the members listed below.

If you wish to attend a Bengalla CCC meeting, or would like an issue raised by one of the Committee members, please contact any of the members listed below:

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