

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.

Bengalla welcomes new CEO

Following the completion of the sale of Rio Tinto's 40 percent interest in the Bengalla coal mine to New Hope Corporation Limited, the transition of management is now complete with the appointment of Cam Halfpenny as the new Chief Executive Officer of Bengalla mine.

Cam has extensive experience in

open cut coal mining having worked in mining in NSW and



Queensland as well as some time in Indonesia and United States of America.

Cam's most recent role was Managing Director - Productivity Improvement for Rio Tinto's Technology & Innovation Group. Cam's experience will be a tremendous addition to Bengalla.

Cam is looking forward to working and continuing Bengalla's partnerships with the local community.

Bengalla applies for Modification

On 3 March 2015, Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) was granted a new Development Consent (SSD-5170) by the Secretary of Department of Planning and Environment.

Throughout ongoing consultation with key stakeholders associated with the granting of SSD-5170, Bengalla committed to investigate further options to improve the appearance of the top of the main overburden emplacement area (OEA) from primary viewing locations in and around Muswellbrook and from Denman Road.

Bengalla has now completed this investigation and has identified that an improved visual outcome is achievable.

Modification to Development Consent

Bengalla is seeking approval from the New South Wales Minister for Planning or its delegate for a modification to SSD-5170. This Modification is sought under section 96(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the following:

- Alterations to the approved height of the main OEA to improve visual amenity from primary viewing locations in and surrounding the township of Muswellbrook and Denman Road, in two selected locations (Visual Relief Areas):
 - The Northern Relief Area constructed to a maximum height of Reduced Level (RL) 300; and
 - The Southern Relief Area constructed to a maximum height of RL 290.

The changes to the height of part of the main OEA when compared to the current approved landform (up to RL 270) represent a 30 metre and 20 metre increase for the Northern and Southern Visual Relief Areas respectively.

- Establishment of a new gravel access road from Wybong Road to the Clean Water Dam 1 construction site office being a former homestead (Homestead Access).

The Modification was on public exhibition from 29 April to 13 May 2016. To view the Modification visit the Department of Planning & Environment major projects website.

Following completion of the public exhibition for the Modification, Bengalla will respond to submissions received which will then be considered by the Department.

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Dry Creek project continues

Construction of the Dry Creek Diversion Project has continued in 2016 and is on track to be completed by September.

Excavation of the CW1 dam north of Wybong Road is now 40 percent complete. The outlet pipe that feeds water from the dam into a nearby pump station was installed in February and is now encased in concrete.

The CW1 dam wall requires an engineered foundation (called a key trench) to be dug and backfilled with suitable material. This work commenced in January and was completed in April. Post-completion of the key trench, the construction of the dam wall embankment and the dam spillway has begun.

Works on the pipeline that will carry clean water from CW1 dam around

the western side of Bengalla mine are progressing well. Clearing of the pipeline corridor is complete and erosion and sediment controls are being maintained. All pipes have been delivered to site and are in the process of being welded and installed. The access track located parallel to the pipeline is 50 percent complete.

A culvert upgrade on Old Bengalla Road was completed in February. This will allow an increased flow of clean water to travel under Old Bengalla Road to the Hunter River as a result of diverting Dry Creek. Excavation of a diversion levee west of Bengalla Link Road has been completed and lined with rock designed to slow down water flow. This part of the levee is the most downstream point of the greater levee construction that extends from Wybong Road in the north and snakes its way between Bengalla Link Road and the Bengalla mine. This levee will capture clean water

runoff and divert it to the Hunter River. A culvert will be installed under Bengalla Link Road in the next few months to allow water to flow unimpeded down the levee.

Works commenced in March along Wybong Road. These works include installing safety barriers for a planned Mount Pleasant project access, and protection of electrical transmission poles that will be installed over the coming months. Wybong Road will be reduced to one lane traffic for a month to allow this work to occur.

Mechanical, electrical infrastructure and electrical transmission packages were all awarded in late 2015 and have progressed through procurement and readiness phases. Installation of the CW1 dam pump station and associated electrical infrastructure commenced in mid-April.

Work experience for local students

Bengalla mine commenced its work experience programme for 2016 by welcoming Muswellbrook High School students to its mine site.

Year 10 students spent the last week of their school term at Bengalla experiencing what it is like to work at a mine and learn about a variety of occupations in the mining industry.

Employees at the mine offered hands on experience to the students who were interested in maintenance

trades, survey, geology, engineering, environment, production and administration.

Bengalla was pleased to welcome the students. Work experience for a student is one of the most valuable activities that they can do to support their career development. It is an opportunity to develop skills and networks, learn about the world of work and to decide what they would like

to do in the future.

It also provides Bengalla with an opportunity to work with the young people in our community and understand their aspirations and build on the school to work pathways.



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:

Clr Malcolm Ogg (Chairperson)

Ph: 6543 4583

Mr Noel Downs

Ph: 65431 288

Mrs Llewellyn Bates

Ph: 6547 9170

Mr Dennis Burton

Ph: 6543 2730

Mr Cam Halfpenny (Bengalla CEO)

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Mr Jonathon Moore

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Mrs Debbie Day (Bengalla)

Ph: 6542 9500

Mr Craig White (Bengalla) Ph: 6542 9500

Bengalla Environmental Complaints Hotline number: 1800 178 984

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