

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 Continuation project

The future of the Bengalla mine and its 400 employees has been assured following the New South Wales Government's approval of a new Development Consent for mining until 2039.

Bengalla general manager operations Jo-Anne Scarini said: "This approval secures a long term future for our mine, which provides work for 400 employees and flow on jobs in the surrounding region.

"We have always planned to continue mining at Bengalla and spoken with the community about this from the very beginning, including in our original Environment Impact Statement in 1993.

"Our mining operations will continue to move away from Muswellbrook, on land already owned by Bengalla and Coal & Allied.

"This approval comes with comprehensive conditions that have been determined by the Department of Planning and Environment and the Planning Assessment Commission through a rigorous assessment process.

"We are committed to operating our mine responsibly, by working closely with community members and maintaining our high environmental standards.

"Bengalla has been part of the Muswellbrook community for more than 16 years and we look forward to continuing to make a strong contribution over coming decades."

A day in the life of a dragline planning engineer

The dragline planning engineer role forms a very important part of the planning process at the Bengalla mine site that ensures the safe and efficient operation of

the dragline to meet the site operation targets. The dragline planning engineer forms an integral part of the Bengalla Technical Services team which produces detailed and accurate plans for the operational teams onsite.

As with all Rio Tinto operations, safety is the number one priority when performing any task onsite to ensure all employees can go home at the end of a day's work uninjured to their families.

The dragline is a key piece of equipment onsite at the Bengalla operation and ensuring it has minimal delays, efficient and productive dig areas is critical to ensure the uncovering of coal in a timely manner to allow time for the coal to be washed and railed to the Newcastle port for shipments.

The dragline planning engineer produces a 'strip booklet' that looks at the path the dragline will take through the upcoming strip and outlines the volumes, blocks to be taken, placement of material (spoil) such as rocks and dirt, what the spoil is made up of, seams of coal to be exposed, excavator and dozer assistance required, Geotechnical and environmental issues, maintenance opportunities, survey requirements, cable placement, walk roads and improvement opportunities. More detail plans are produced for each pass and on a weekly basis. These pass and weekly plans are then provided to the operational team to ensure they have a clear understanding of the task ahead to achieve the monthly targets in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Reconciliation is completed at the end of each pass to review what worked well, areas for improvement, compliance to design, issues that were encountered, actual production achieved versus what was planned.

Bengalla is committed to employing leading dust management practices for activities on site, including those undertaken by the dragline. In response to changing and variable weather conditions (eg temperature, wind speed and direction), the dragline minimises the generation of dust by:

- Reducing bucket load;
- Reducing swing speed;
- Minimising drop height; and
- Gently disengaging the bucket (slow tipping).

Where dust cannot be effectively minimised through these controls, the dragline ceases operations.

Review of monitoring network



With the anticipated approval of the Continuation of Bengalla Mine project, Bengalla is working to review and improve its monitoring network to ensure ongoing high standards of environmental performance. The review will involve, but not be limited to:

- revision of existing monitoring sites and the commission of new monitoring sites in relation to the progression of mining, private receivers and predicted impacts;
- upgrade of select monitoring units to replace or augment existing monitoring units; and
- update of existing management systems (e.g. air quality and blasting) with predictive meteorological forecasting.

Bengalla will also endeavour to establish a monitoring data sharing arrangement with neighbouring coal mines to investigate the issue of cumulative impacts.

Local student kick starts engineering career

Bengalla has continued its support of local students from the Upper Hunter by awarding a \$34,000 engineering scholarship to St Joseph's High School graduate, Renee Hirst.

This is the ninth consecutive year that Bengalla has offered the scholarship - worth \$8,500 per year over four years - to assist a local student who wants to become an engineer.

The scholarship is awarded each year to a student from either Muswellbrook High School, St Joseph's Aberdeen, Scone High School or Scone Grammar who plans to complete a mining, electrical, mechanical, environmental, chemical or mineral processing undergraduate engineering degree.

Renee said "When I found out I had won the scholarship I was very excited. I have been accepted at Newcastle University to study Bachelor of Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Science. The Bengalla scholarship will help me pay for living and study expenses including equipment for university projects and assignments.

"I am also very excited about the prospect of gaining experience through vacation work at Bengalla where I will be able to get a real feel for what chemical engineering is like and work with people who can give me practical feedback on my studies."

Bengalla general manager operations Jo-Anne Scarini said "The Bengalla engineering scholarship continues to be a way that our mine can support and encourage young people to pursue a career in engineering."



Renee Hirst with Bengalla general manager, Jo-Anne Scarini

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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Mrs Jo-Anne Scarini (Bengalla GM)
Mrs Debbie Day (Bengalla)
Mr Craig White (Bengalla)

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