

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.

New management arrangements announced

Following the announcement by New Hope Corporation Limited (NHG) that the agreement to purchase Rio Tinto's 40 percent interest in the Bengalla coal mine has cleared two material conditions, the Bengalla Joint Venture has announced that Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited will undertake the management functions of Bengalla following completion of the transaction which is expected to occur on 1 March 2016.

Bengalla Mining Company is

owned proportionally by the Bengalla joint venture participants and these revised management arrangements will provide the Bengalla mine with access to the collective and extensive experience of all of the joint venture participants.

A transition team has been formed and plans are well advanced for the successful transition of management to Bengalla Mining Company. An interim leadership arrangement has been announced with Mr Ian

Neill, Wesfarmers Resources, appointed as the Managing Director and Mr Jim Randell, New Hope Group, appointed as the General Manager Operations until a permanent CEO is appointed. These appointments will be effective once the transition is complete. Jo-Anne Scarini, a Rio Tinto executive and current General Manager, will continue leading the Bengalla team until sale completion and transition of management to Bengalla Mining Company is complete.

Dry Creek project progresses

As part of the wider Bengalla Continuation of Mining Project, upstream clean water runoff is proposed to be intercepted, diverted around the advancing mining operations and returned to the Hunter River. This project will proceed as the Dry Creek Project.



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

Whilst most of the works will be internal to the mine, a number of pipes and culverts are required to be installed under Wybong Road, Bengalla Road and Old Bengalla Road to deliver the clean water runoff to the Hunter River.

Under road boring will be used to minimise traffic disruption for the pipe crossings. By adopting the boring technique, two way traffic can be maintained at all times. These road crossings are to commence in late February 2016.

Bengalla Mine Community Consultative Committee Update

Dry Creek project progresses *cont...*

Prior to commencing the road crossing, Muswellbrook Shire Council will review and endorse the Traffic Management Plans.

Further works will include:

- dam embankment at Wybong Road;
- pipeline and power line around advancing mining operations;
- Installation of culverts under Bengalla Link Road, adjacent to Bengalla Mine entry.

In April installation of the powerline will be commencing along Wybong Road. Whilst the powerline is being constructed along Wybong Road there will be temporary traffic management.

The project is expected to be completed in September 2016.

Carbon project delivers fertile soil for Hunter Valley farmers

Hunter Valley farmers are reaping the rewards of more fertile soils with increased carbon storage thanks to a four year partnership between Bengalla mine, landholders, University of Newcastle, BDM Resources and Hunter Local Land Services.

Soil carbon is widely considered an important indicator of soil health, landscape resilience and productivity while increased levels can help drought-proof properties.

Seventeen landholders implemented carbon management practices such as rotational



grazing and improved cropping techniques as part of the project. Results from their properties show an average increase in the amount of carbon stored in the top 30cm of soil of close to 12 percent, or 7.6 tonnes per hectare.

Merriwa landholder Kim Finley, who implemented the trial carbon management practices at his property, has noticed significant improvements in productivity.

Mr Finley said "The difference between the lands I traditionally graze to the trial area is a two to three fold productivity increase due to the carbon practices put in place.

"The carbon practices included using rotational grazing to allow

better use of the paddocks and using controlled improved grasses and crops to increase productivity while native grasses are allowed to come forward.

Bengalla general manager Jo-Anne Scarini said "I am very proud of the partnerships and engagement with community members that has been a key to the success of this partnership.

"The project has delivered great results and the fact landholders can continue to benefit from the outcomes mean it was truly worthwhile."

The project area included approximately 1,100 hectares of Upper Hunter Valley land and resulted in an approximate 8,400 tonnes of additional soil carbon present in the project area.

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 65434583	Mr Noel Downs	Ph: 65431 288
Mrs Jo-Anne Scarini (Bengalla GM)	Ph: 6542 9500	Mr Jonathon Moore	Ph: 6547 9164
Mrs Debbie Day (Bengalla)	Ph: 6542 9500	Mr Craig White (Bengalla)	Ph: 6542 9500

Bengalla Environmental Complaints Hotline number 1800 674 662

As at 1 March our new Environmental Complaints Hotline number will be 1800 178 984

Also from 1 March, check out our new website at www.bengalla.com.au