



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 137

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 23rd February 2022

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Jonathan Moore	CCC Member
Llewellyn Bates	CCC Member
Cam Halfpenny	Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) (General Manager)
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company (Environment Superintendent)
Glenn Meyn	Bengalla Mining Company (Mining Manager)
Fiona Hartin	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations Specialist)
Teresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)

Meeting opened: 3.15pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** Malcolm Ogg. In Malcolm's absence Glenn was nominated and accepted to act in the role of Chairperson for the February meeting.

2. **DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** Nil

3. **SAFETY SHARE**

[GM] Sharing of a Resources Regulator video of a dangerous shot firing incident. Discussion on how the mines work together to communicate and organize blasting. Discussion on how the mines communicate when blasting occurs.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

November Minutes Moved by: J Moore Seconded by: L Bates

5. **OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ACTION LIST**

Action 1. Find the name of the company who did the Boxthorn spraying on the agricultural land. Enright Land Management. Complete

Action 2. Connect with RFS to ensure they are aware of fire hydrants available onsite (McCully's Gap, Kayuga, Mangoola, Edinglassie). Email sent. Complete.

Action 3. Do we have a way to track where the tyres are buried? Presentation given. Complete

Action 4. Presentation on where the new Bengalla monitoring stations will be. Presentation given. Complete.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda and draft Newsletter, Chairpersons CCC Annual Report 2021 emailed, or copies given to the CCC members.

10.12.2021 Update on Roadworks to Bengalla Road commencing December 13th F Hartin to CCC members.

23.12.2021 Bengalla Mine CCC Chairperson's Annual Report 2021 F Hartin to Malcolm Ogg

22.02.2022 Bengalla Mine Bushfire Fighting Capacity C White to Kayuga, Edinglassie, Wybong, and Mangoola Rural Fire Brigades and Hunter Valley RFB headquarters.

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Malcolm Ogg (given by F Hartin on behalf of Malcolm):

- Malcolm commended the high quality of the candidates for the Engineering Scholarship. 2 candidates have been selected and this will be announced shortly. Both students are local.

Report from Jonathan Moore:

- Can you explain the flags in the fencing? I was wondering why that was important and why a decision was made to do that. [CW] Mt Pleasant have constructed their new rail; they are in the commissioning phase with what we call Rail 2 east of Bengalla. What they have identified with the flags is the demolition area for the existing rail which probably should commence in the first week in March. [JM] There are also flags appearing on Wybong Road, so we were wondering why the use of so many flags. So, the flags will disappear in time? [CW] Yes. They are only there at the moment to indicate the area they are going to work in.
- We are impressed with the Road works and the patching but there is one pothole which is an issue. [CW] We have a life of mine requirement to manage the road, from Denman Road through to our mine entrance road, and Mt Pleasant have a maintenance requirement from there to their mine entrance. On the east resurfacing is complete, and on the west, it is a full upgrade. So, you will see the surface of the road will raise up approx. 300mm. The road will be widened as well. All the Geotech work has been completed. BMC will ensure the pothole is fixed
- How does the price of diesel effect mining? Is it different from us? [CH] We get a rebate, currently at 78c a litre, and our budget was 58c a litre, we burn 60-65 million litres a year of fuel. We expect some inflation as we go forward.
- There were some beautiful young cattle on the farm. Do they get sold locally? [CH] Yes, they go through Scone. [JM] That is great. I was hoping they were being sold locally.

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- The new dam has been built on the north western side of Wybong Road - where is the water coming from? Glenn will provide a presentation later in the meeting.
- With the new central pivot on Overton flats, it is good to see that. Obviously thinking about cropping or lucerne. [CH] We are gradually improving in our agricultural land management. Another new pivot below the BMC Homestead that is going in as well. You can see the crops in and the cattle. It is excellent country and a work in progress.

8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

[GM] Shared the Bengalla 22-week plan- video presentation. This is updated every month.

BMC do an aerial photo each month particularly showing how close we are to the rail line that is to be removed shortly. This was shared at the meeting.

Photograph shared of the water impact in pit and how Bengalla is managing the water. JM commented that the hall road has been dusty. BMC has a regular water committee meeting which Craig chairs. We have no uncontrolled discharges of mine water. It is a compliance requirement and we are very focussed on that we do the right thing.

[TF] How is the water transported up into the dam? Trucked or pumped? Large pumps.

9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

Tyre Management presentation given by CW.

What does BMC do with their tyres? In terms of the process a tyre is removed from a truck after we determine it is no longer usable, an inspection is done, and we track that closely. We have a team dedicated to tyre management. If it is classified as a scrap tyre, we have software that tracks the tyre, so it has a token on it, then it is taken to the laydown area. We store them temporarily, until we get a number. We have a number of documents that control disposal of tyres being PHMP and a Scrap Tyre and In Pit Dumping Procedure, from that procedure work instructions are generated, the location of the tyres is surveyed and then they are covered over in overburden. LB So it is always recorded where they are? [CW] Yes and captured in the database GM Sometimes we also send tyres off to be repaired.

New Air Quality Monitoring Network Presentation given by CW.

Our current air quality network was put in place when BMC commenced in 1998 it is likely no longer fit for purpose where the mine is now. In the early days focus was on the Racecourse as the mine was close. The mine is approximately equidistant from private receivers in the west and the private receivers in the east. We are relocating our monitors to reflect those private receivers. The Racecourse monitor is relatively well located to the nearest private receiver. The new Racecourse monitor will run 24 hours a day 7 days a week whereas the current compliance monitor now runs every 6 days. [JM] When will these be installed? [CW] The process has taken 3 years so far due to a variety of factors. Explanation of the new monitoring network given.

10. LAND MANAGEMENT

Looking at Bengalla's final land use which is looking at some type of cattle or primary industry outcome. Bengalla's final landform use is potentially grazing cattle. In 2021 Bengalla completed 32.4 ha of HDWV, 5.8 ha new pasture established. 40.9 ha of HDWV seeding into existing rehabilitation. Some areas were aerial seeded due to the wet conditions. The approach was successful. Video shown of the aerial seeding approach.

What will Bengalla complete this year. We will complete what we couldn't complete in 2021 HDWB installation area due to the weather. There will be a mixture of tube stock planting, the other areas will likely be seed planted.

Bengalla Offsets- Fire trail maintenance was completed on Kenelea properties. Fire trail inspection of Merriwa River Offset undertaken. The trapping (pig) and weed program will continue.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for November 2021, December 2021, and January 2022 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's short term (24-hour) PM₁₀ criteria (50 µg/m³), 1 elevated result was recorded during the Reporting Period being:
 - 52.6 µg/m³ at PM10-4 on 28 January 2022. Bengalla increment estimated to be 28 µg/m³.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual PM₁₀ criteria (25 µg/m³), at the end of the averaging period (2021 calendar year):
 - PM10-1 read 21.8 µg/m³.
 - PM10-2 annual average excluding extraordinary events 18.3 µg/m³.
 - PM10-3 read 17.6 µg/m³.
 - PM10-4 read 25.1 µg/m³.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual Total Suspended Particulates criteria (90 µg/m³) at the end of the averaging period:
 - HV1 read 48.5 µg/m³.
 - HV2 read 47.2 µg/m³.
 - HV3 read 38.7 µg/m³.
 - HV 4 read 39.6 µg/m³.
 - HV6 read 95.5 µg/m³.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual Total Deposited Dust criteria (4 g/m²/m) at the end of the averaging period Bengalla was below the criterion.
- Noise Management:
 - For the Reporting Period Bengalla complied within the noise criterion at compliance monitoring locations.
 - JM There has been a clunk that I can hear, and it has been hard to identify in the past what it is. Have heard it over the past month in the evening. [GM] We will investigate and try and solve it.
- Blast Monitoring:
 - For the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the blast criteria.
- Water Usage:

- Rainfall was above the long-term average for November and December and was close to average for January.
- Rainfall for November 234.5mm, December 111.4mm and January 64mm
- During the reporting period BMC discharged 134.95 ML to the Hunter River under the HRSTS.
- BMC has extracted 470 megalitres of water in the 2021/2022 water year (1 July 2021 to 31 January 2022).
- [JM] Do you go to the water sharing meetings that are happening Craig? CW I am on a ROSCO group. Many farming people attend. I am also on the HRSTS Committee. That is primarily focussed on the protection of the Hunter River from a salinity perspective. In the Minerals Council space, we have a working group on water and there is a new water sharing plan out for the Lower Hunter. [JM] The farmers at the moment feel like they are being told when they can and cannot pump.
- Complaints:
 - During the reporting period 8 complaints were received. In 2021 we received 68 complaints in total.
 - JM the main complaint is still the dust. The dust is a real concern and the one people are talking about. Every effort needs to be made to be visibly controlling the dust. If people can see that every effort is being made to contain dust. There are a number of days that dust is billowing up. [LB] The smell of dust on Wybong Road is also evident. [JM] If people could see watercarts working and efforts being made to control dust, the community would see attempts are being made to control dust.
- Environmental incidents: 0

12. COMMUNITY REPORT

Community slides presented including a summary of the community partnerships and community events.

A summary of the approved sponsorships through the Community Support Team (\$22,250) and the Community Development Fund (\$124,645) over the last quarter was presented. Warbirds over Scone event is coming up. A summary of the VPA contribution over the last quarter was presented (\$750,652.53) and the types of projects the Bengalla VPA has used for such as Tertiary Education Campus and Sam Adams College.

Bengalla's Community open Day will be held on 22 October 2022

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Continue with articles on Bengalla including agricultural land, identify how the mine will be managed under the new Air Quality Management Plan, MOD 5, bushfire season preparation, reject cells and how they are managed, Hitachi big data. Annual report- feedback welcome on the Bengalla annual report.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 3.00pm

Meeting closed at 5:00pm

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 137 – Wednesday 23rd February 2022

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Noise being heard- clunking- over the last month. Investigate	Glenn
2	Add Theresa to the Bengalla CCC Newsletter	Fiona
3	Provide a summary of Bengalla's emissions	Craig
4	Organise a Bengalla Mine Tour	Fiona
5	Opguard/Safemine presentation	Glenn