



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 139

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 24th August 2022

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Malcolm Ogg	Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Chair
Llewellyn Bates	CCC Member
Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Council)
Jennifer Lecky	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Councillor)
De-Anne Douglas	CEO Wanaruah LALC
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)

Meeting opened: 3.10pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** Jeff Drayton, Jonathan Moore.
2. **DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** Nil
3. **SAFETY SHARE**

[GM] Shared a photograph of a windrow fail. We have experienced 3 floods this year, and subsequently we have a lot of wet material at Bengalla. We are continuing to undertake work in this space to investigate and work through the hazards. This failure is reportable to the Resources Regulator, and we will complete the report and forward the report to the Resources Regulator.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

May Minutes Moved by: Llewellyn Bates Seconded by: Cam Halfpenny

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

Action 1. Visit to the Bengalla simulator prior to the CCC meeting. Complete

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda, and draft Newsletter emailed, or copies given to the CCC members.
30.05.2022 – Councillors who have nominated to attend the CCC Meetings- S Pope to M Ogg and F Hartin.

02.06.2022 -Railway over pass of Bengalla Link Road - Guard rail repairs Tuesday 7th June 2022 F Hartin to CCC members.
14.06.2022 Councillors who have nominated to attend the CCC meetings - Contact detail information M Sandell-Hay to F Hartin
18.07.2022 Road repairs Bengalla Link Road - Tuesday 19th July 2022 - Thursday 21st July 2022 F Hartin to CCC Members
09.08.2022 Bengalla CCC Meeting – Wednesday 24th August 2022 – Draft minutes of the May 2022 Meeting and Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest Forms. Invitation to visit the simulator prior to the August 2022 CCC Meeting. F Hartin to CCC Members
10.08.2022 RSVP to attend simulator T Folpp to F Hartin. M Ogg to F Hartin
11.08.2022 RSVP to attend simulator L Bates to F Hartin
24.08.2022 Agenda, draft May minutes, August Presentation and CCC Newsletter. F Hartin to CCC members
24.08.22 Apology from Jeff Drayton. J Drayton to CCC

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Meeting began with a tour of the Bengalla Simulator from 2.30pm-3.00pm and attended by Llewellyn Bates and Theresa Folpp

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- We are in for another east coast low in October. With that in mind are Bengalla preparing as much as you can in case it does come? [CW] Yes, we are preparing, and we have been reducing our dam levels, currently sitting around 30%.
- Could we have an update on the agricultural land. There is a lot of effort going into that. The land is managed separate from Bengalla. There has been some capital expenditure. We have built a shed, two new centre pivots, upgrades to pumps and water reticulation. We are in the process of upgrading the Bengalla Stud and some demolition occurring on some old houses. There are also more cattle on the land. Some lucerne on the right-hand side as you drive along Bengalla Link Road. We have also purchased Leahurst on Wybong Road. We are also looking to hire local people to work on the farm, currently have a Superintendent from Scone working on the farm.
- Thank you for allowing us to look at the simulator. Employees are being trained well. Using technology for training. [CH] Suggest Kent to talk at the next CCC about the technology we are using onsite. [GM] Current approximate cost to train a trainee is \$100,000.

Report from Dee

- Asked for permission to share photos of the rehabilitation of Bengalla. DD would like to share with others for a better understanding of the rehabilitation of the mines. Permission approved and CW will forward through better photos for Deanne to share. Invitation extended for others to view the rehabilitation areas completed to date.

Report from Theresa

- For the Rehabilitation Management Plan is there a requirement to consult with Aboriginal people during the preparation of those plans? [CW] No I don't think it is. Will discuss this further later in the meeting. There has been a fair bit of development in that space.

- There have been high level plans put forward to the Council for the realignment of Bengalla Link Road. The Roads team have requested before the plans are finalised for the Councillors to be consulted so it can be put to the SSD Committee to comment. They want to consult about the northern section near Roxburgh Road. If a presentation can be made on the background, reasoning for the realignment, proposed plans, and the time frames and when it is expected to commence. [CW] Bengalla presented the plans for the upgrade to the Bengalla Link Road to Council. Kelly has some comments and once we address the comments, we need to make an application to Council. First quarter next year would be when work is expected to commence and there will be some impact on the road network.

8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

[GM] Shared the Bengalla 22-week plan video presentation. We do a life of mine plan. A 5-year plan, a 12 month planned a detailed 22-week plan focussed on coal delivery for our customers. Scheduling and planning is further refined into a monthly plan which tells us exactly what we are going to dig for the month. The Mt Pleasant rail loop, most of that is gone now. [CW] It is practically complete. The rain has hampered Mt Pleasant somewhat with the rehabbing, but the area will be vacated by 31 October. We are completing the final review of the Mt Pleasant rail removal area now. It is testament to the relationship between Bengalla and Mt Pleasant.

Operationally we are 24 days into a new financial year that commenced 1 August 2022. Last financial year we finished 1.3 million tonnes of coal behind plan. This was partly due to the significant weather events. The time we lost due to weather in that 12 months was 36,000 truck hours. A truck does about 6,000 hours a year and so it was like having 6 of our haul trucks parked up for the year. Currently have onboarded close to 100 new operators in the calendar year 2022. In the last financial year, we lost approximately 14,000 hours due to lack of haul truck drivers with 7,000 hours lost due to COVID.

[MO] with the prediction of a third El Nina can you change your maintenance work to accommodate that? [GM] We are always flexible and undertake opportune maintenance. Ideally, we are future proofing, for example, placing gravel on haul roads which enables us to run for a longer time in the wet. We are in a good space with water at the moment. We have done a great job pumping water out of Bengalla and discharging to the Hunter River according to the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS). But the weather does have a big impact.

[CH] We have recently purchased HRSTS credits that enables larger discharge water volumes. We have 120 credits per day which means we can empty our dam in around 5-6 days, noting previously that would take around 20 days to empty the dam. We are also doing some work with the Council with regards to supply of recycled water from their sewerage treatment plant, to reduce risk from a drought perspective. In 2007 and 2019 they were both periods when came close to not having water supply for the Hunter River. The risk is going forward we have a lot more rain coming for us. [TF] Out of interest out of those 100, are you training any of them from scratch? [GM] Yes about 80. We employed around 20 people with previous skills/experience out of the 100.

[CH] Safety wise we had 3 injuries last year. Industry average is around 6. Safety is a core value at Bengalla. A production volume of 9.6mt of coal was achieved compared with planned 10.6mt. The reduced production compared to plan was the result of 3 big weather events and COVID. The price of coal today is over \$400 US /tonne. Our view very strongly is the outlook

for coal is great. This precinct is the best in the world, with the Upper Hunter coal quality outstanding and we are regarded as reliable suppliers. We have a good workforce and reliable infrastructure. We aim to benefit the local community through our spend with local businesses and employment of locals. Local employees are at around 90%. New Hope Group values this community with the Annual General Meeting to be held here in November.

[MO] How much of BMC is added to other coal suppliers to bring them up to standard?

[CH] This year Bengalla should produce 10.3Mtof coal coming at around 6000Kcal. Coal out of Indonesia is 450mT at around 4300-4600Kcal, so a lot of Australian coal is blended with coal out of Indonesia, Africa, South America. There is a premium for good quality coal approximately currently around \$420/tonne for the higher quality coal 6000Kcal. The poorer quality coal 5500Kcal is around \$200/tonne. We have expansion plans to that will require a spend in the vicinity of \$200 million and that will increase Bengalla production to 13.5 MT Rom which is within our 15Mt development consent limit. In a year we will have another 100 employees which will take us from 685 to 785 employees onsite. There is a big focus this year on growing the business. We have secured an exploration license to explore for more coal, and if approved this would take Bengalla beyond our current life of 2035.

9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

[CW] For your reference in the next 2-4 weeks we will be completing a drone survey for a geophysical survey of the resource over the current Bengalla and the exploration lease area. The exploration lease area is generally west of Bengalla Link Road, south of Roxburgh Road, and along the edge of Peter Lanes property.

We made an application to modify our State Significant Development Approval which we call Modification 5. We have lodged the Submissions Report. That gets sent out to the agencies. We have received some feedback late last week from the EPA. They want detailed information on the processes we are currently executing for the disposal of tyres in pit. There is some more work to be done to enable that to be finalised. Once we do that, we are hoping the approval will be issued.

10. LAND MANAGEMENT

[CW] Rehab reforms - In terms of what has changed, there has been new legislation enacted and quite a substantial change to the way the Resources Regulator is operating in the rehabilitation space. Polygons are required to be provided regarding our yearly rehabilitation. The polygons have all Bengalla rehabilitation information electronically on a database and the Resources regulator can come to any place on the mine and then compare that locations rehabilitation with what we have reported. The Resources Regulator requires a Forward Work Plan, this is a 3-year plan and is it a yearly rolling plan. The Rehabilitation Management Plan replaces the MOP.

Rehabilitation 2022 – Bengalla is required to dehab all the rehabilitation completed for the last 22 years and install High Density Woody Vegetation (HDWV). We have completed 41 hectares of HDWV tube stock planting When planting the tube stocks the roots of the plants go into the overburden. There could be some variability regarding the success of the planting, however we can go back and complete infill planting where required.

We are continuing to manage the clay and -topsoil stockpiles. We must relocate the clay onto the overburden emplacement area. We are storing the clay for the reinstatement of Dry Creek which will occur after we mine through that area.

Bengalla Offset Properties. We have approximately 6000 hectares of offset land in 3 different locations Kenalea - near Mt Woolooma National Park, Black Mountain near Parkville, and Merriwa River near Goulburn River National Park. We have completed a bushfire management risk survey, and we have engaged a company to undertake controlled burns on these properties. The high moisture levels in the area are presenting a challenge. We are consulting with adjoining landowners and going through the Rural Fire Service to obtain approvals. There are four proposed burn areas and each one will take about 10 days to complete. This work is planned for the coming months subject to meteorological conditions.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for May, June, and July 2022 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
 - During the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the air quality criteria.
- Noise Management:
 - For the Reporting Period the Bengalla was compliant with the noise criteria.
- Blast Monitoring:
 - For the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the blast criteria.
- Water Usage:
 - Water inflow to Bengalla via rainfall, groundwater and pumped water from the Hunter River and outflows via discharge to the Hunter River via the HRSTS and water use on site are being managed to reduce production and environmental impact.
- Complaints:
 - During the reporting period 8 complaints were received.
- 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 (\$22,120) and the Community Development Fund (\$76,000) and other sponsorships such as The

Bengalla Cup Day and The Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Awards. Further discussion on the work Bengalla does in the education space. Supporting local students, apprenticeships, work experience and work placement, interviews, and resume feedback, scholarship recipients and Vacation work, careers events school mine tours, Upper Hunter Education Fund.

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Bushfire management on the offset properties, agricultural land (in the future), ESG update (in the future)

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 3.00pm

Meeting closed at 4:40pm

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 139 – Wednesday 24th August 2022

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Share photos of the rehabilitation areas at BMC. Mainly tube stock plantings. Dee can share same.	C White
2	Overview of what Bengalla is doing in the digital mining space.	F Hartin
3	Presentation on Bengalla's Exploration Lease at the next CCC Meeting.	C White
4	Carbon emissions reduction update	C Halfpenny
5	Theresa to check which Council regarding meeting when Bengalla is to present to the Council SSD Committee on the proposed realignment of Bengalla Link Road	T Folpp
6	Plan to host the next CCC meeting at Bengalla Homestead. Fiona to send plans on how to access.	F Hartin
7	Dee to share plans on a new cultural centre that will be built at Muswellbrook Common at November meeting.	D Douglas