



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 140

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Llewellyn Bates	CCC Member
Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Council)
Jennifer Lecky	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Councillor)
Jonathan Moore	CCC Member
Cam Halfpenny	Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) (General Manager)
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company (Environment Superintendent)
Fiona Hartin	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations Specialist)

Meeting opened: 3.10pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** De-Anne Douglas, Malcolm Ogg, Glenn Meyn. In the absence of Chair Malcolm Ogg, Cam Halfpenny acted as Chair for the November Meeting.

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

3. **SAFETY SHARE**

[CW] Snakes. Being prepared in the event of a snake bite. Safety and driving. People travelling for holidays and driving safely.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

August Minutes Moved by: Theresa Folpp Seconded by: Llewellyn Bates

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

- Action 1. Shared photos of the rehabilitation areas at BMC. Mainly tube stock plantings. Complete subject to presentation being provided to De-anne Douglas.
- Action 2. Overview of what Bengalla is doing in the digital mining space. Complete.
- Action 3. Presentation on Bengalla's Exploration Lease at the next CCC. Complete.
- Action 4. Carbon reduction and ESG update. Complete.
- Action 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. Complete.
- Action 6. Plan to host the next CCC meeting at Bengalla Homestead. Planned for February 2023. CCC advised.
- Action 7. De-anne to share plans on a new cultural centre that will be built at Muswellbrook Common. To be undertaken in February 2023.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

12.09.2022 Theresa Folpp to Fiona Hartin - Bengalla presentation to the SSD Committee Meeting.

13.09.2022 Fiona Hartin to Theresa Folpp - Confirmation of BMC attendees to the SSD Committee meeting on 19 September.

16.09.2022 Theresa Folpp to Fiona Hartin - Fact Sheet Airborne Surveys and return of code of conduct and Pecuniary Interest signed forms

19.10.2022 Sharon Pope to Fiona Hartin - Liverpool Range Wind Farm MOD1- Council Objection.

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- With regards to the drone that Bengalla used recently, with the software that is used how far down does the signal penetrate to pick up coal and the depth? [CW] The drone does pick up geological structures and if coal is at a mineable depth it will locate it. [LB] Is the coal still dipping at a ratio heading down deeper? [CH] It is about 5 degrees and dipping west and at the edge of the basin it does flatten a little. CH gave a description of Bengalla moving forward and the cross sections of Bengalla mine.
- When is the New Hope Board Meeting in Muswellbrook? The AGM is being held tomorrow.

Report from Theresa Folpp:

- Council have had a number of companies approach us regarding wind farms to be established in the central west and access to local roads, including Bengalla Link Road and Wybong Road. There are over 2000 turbines proposed, so that is 2000 movements along Council Roads. Council has been objecting to those projects because they are proposing blades up to 100m and the subsequent impact on the roads network. A centralised approach has been advocated by Council with all Mines to be contacted regarding the proposed traffic movements and how they will be managed. The proposed movement of the blades is an issue due to closure of intersections for around 15 minutes per truck. If they have 4 in a row that is an hour. This interacts with mining vehicles and the mining companies have buffer land that may be impacted. Agreements with landholders will be required. We are objecting to all those projects until they figure out how to get their turbines there in a better way. [CW] From a BMC perspective - Hills of Gold and Tilt Renewables are requesting to use Bengalla Link Road (BLR), but at the Denman BLR intersection there is a small area of Bengalla Joint Venture land that will be encumbered. We have been negotiating an access agreement for that land but also protecting the Bengalla Link Road asset. One of the things we have embedded in the agreement, which is not signed yet, is that they have to provide a maintenance bond and BMC can draw down on that maintenance bond. They will have to provide records of use of the BLR, we will inspect the road for

damage, and if we identify damage, we can draw down on that maintenance bond. BMC has responsibilities for the maintenance and upgrade of the BLR with the upgrade design provided to Council for approval. [TF] There are about 9 windfarms proposed in central west that straddles Upper Hunter Shire/Mid-Western Regional Council. [JM] The community are not aware of this, and they don't want to be put at a disadvantage again with having road closures or delays. The Wybong community have been particularly understanding when there have been delays due to road works, or even just with repairs to roads. [CW] My sense is that there is benefit for the inconvenience. If you look at Wybong Road now it is a better road than what it was 2 years ago. But there is an interruption while the BLR is being maintained. The BLR will be a better Road once the upgrades have been completed. We do coordinate the road works with Council to minimise the impact. [CH] Thank you to the Council for their support as it needs to be strategically managed.

Cam Halfpenny:

- Digital Mining - BMC has been doing work with Hitachi. We have collected data over 12 years. Tracking the quality of the coal. Operator scorecards. We are looking at preventative initiatives on machines e.g., temperatures. We have found we have decreased the number of fires on equipment per month.
- ESG Update. BMC will need to establish an emissions energy framework. There are challenges with accessing alternative energy in a short period of time. What are our Scope 1 and 2 emissions? For BMC to hit our target by 2030 what is the target we are looking at? We need to meet a 43% reduction on Scope 1. Most of our emissions are scope 3 that is ,downstream emissions. Some of our customers are doing work in this space. We are examining what are the initiatives that we can do to improve our efficiency and we are looking at these now?

8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

[CH] Similar to most mines in NSW we have been impacted by rain. Last year production was down about 10%. We are down about 25% year to date. We are down about 1 million tonnes on our planned production this year. We are growing our business and will increase from 685 to 785 employees as we ramp up production and the focus is on employing locals. We are moving to 80% permanent employees up from 65%. [JM] Are most of the jobs in the pit? [CH] Most of them, but also in the CHPP and Maintenance Departments. We have not much water in our pit due to good management. We are also working with Council on a water agreement. We have had difficulty securing skilled labour to get maintenance work done. There is little skilled labour available. [JM] Do we engage with local schools. [FH] We have a lot of engagement with schools - work experience, mock interviews, and careers days.

The Bengalla 22-week plan video was presented. The 22-week plan is an overview of what the mine is proposing to undertake for the next 22 weeks. If we don't have labour the sequence is interrupted. [TF] If you are short on labour will you divert some of the work from some areas of the mine to more important areas where the work needs to be done? [CH] We do that on a short-term basis, but we don't like to. Occasionally we have to move machines around to meet with customer requirements, but we prefer not to. Our marketing approach is to carry a buffer, so we have flexibility. With the weather events this has increased pressure.

[CW] We have had feedback from Michael White that he could smell spontaneous combustion and he notified BMC. We inspected the area and couldn't see spontaneous

combustion on the landform however spontaneous combustion could be smelt. The meteorological conditions were reviewed with the wind was gently from the north so my sense the spontaneous combustion was probably a different source.

We also had feedback on the rehabilitation. The MOP is no longer in place. There are 2 documents that replace that. These are the Rehabilitation Management Plan and the Forward Work Program. This applies for a rolling 3-year period from June 2022 – June 2025. Each year will provide a new Forward Work Program to Resources Regulator. This is done through the GIS portal provided by the Resources Regulator. The NSW government has the Forward Work Program showing Bengalla rehabilitation polygons for new rehabilitation, pasture, the high density woody vegetation (HDWV) and the new disturbance footprint. [JM] What was Michaels real concern? Was he seeing that there was a lack of rehabilitation in that area? [CW] That observation is fair however the rehabilitation is being undertaken according to BMC approvals.

9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

BMC is required to install HDWV over the previously rehabilitated areas. We have clay and topsoil stockpiles storage. The clay is to contribute to the works regarding the realignment of Dry Creek as Dry Creek was clay-based in its original form. For the areas of new pasture we install topsoil then the pasture seeding and in the new areas of HDWV seeding into the overburden occurs.

The HDWV installation area have been segmented into 5 zones that will be completed according to a schedule. Some zones have been completed and the next zones is near the intersection of Wybong and Overton Road. The aim is to have these zones completed by May next year. [JM] This area has been an eyesore for years. That corner needs tidying up. [CW] The area I am referring to is the area that has already been rehabbed. The area you are referring will be rehabilitated over the next few years according to our approvals. [CH] We need to get this done and make it look great.

Exploration Licence (EL) - we have been able to obtain the exploration licence. If the coal in this area is of similar quality and volume, there might be 10 years of mining in this area subject to exploration drilling results. In the first or second quarter 2023 there will be drill rigs operating west of Bengalla subject approval. The EL term is 6 years. We are also looking at opportunities beyond the EL area further to the west.

Bengalla Link Road Realignment - We are in the early design phase. It has been presented to Muswellbrook Shire Council. We are looking at a construction period commencing during 2024.

10. LAND MANAGEMENT

[CW] We continue with pest management, weed spraying, dog baiting and pig trapping on the offset properties. We have instigated controlled burning on the offset properties. It is a significant investment, but it has been too wet to commence the controlled burns. We are currently checking the suitability of the tracks prior to the controlled burns commencing. On one of the offsets there is St John's Wort and it is located on a steep part of the property and is very difficult to access via ground spraying method. We are looking at solutions for this including aerial spraying.. [JM] there are two weeds right here along the Bengalla Link Road you have Salvation Jane (Paterson's Curse). Is someone spraying this? Also, St John's Wort is

in this area. [CW] The mine has a Weed Management Program. I will check what arrangements are in place to manage weeds in this area. JM concerned that it is in the area and is it being managed.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for Aug, Sept, and Oct 2022 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
 - During the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the air quality criteria.

[TF] Asked about cumulative impact during drought. [CW] Bengalla has an obligation to implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the cumulative air quality impacts with other mines. One of the ways we seek to do that is we meet with the neighbouring mines, and we discuss cumulative impacts. This is not just for dust but also road networks, water use, community impacts and other things. This is also to understand what drivers there are in the cumulative impact space.

- 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:
 - Bengalla Mine has extracted 129ML from the Hunter River from 1 July 2022 to 31 October 2022
- Complaints:
 - During the reporting period 8 complaints were received - 6 blast, 1 noise and 1 spontaneous combustion.
- 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 (\$33,290) was presented. A summary of the Bengalla Community Apprentice project was shown which was completed at St Joseph's primary School Merriwa. This project gives the apprentices an opportunity to project manage and be involved in giving back to the community. Further discussion on the events that have been held in the last quarter which Bengalla has supported including Hunter Challenge and Campdraft, Scone Basketball Club, Muswellbrook Golf Pro-Am, Muswellbrook High School CAPA Department and Lake Liddell tree planting to name a few. In the last quarter we also held our Bengalla Community Open Day which was successful and many people attended at Muswellbrook Showground.

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Water management and blasting - how we go about preparing to do a blast, reload facility, the design, blast crew, safety aspect, monitoring.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 3.00pm

Meeting closed at 5:20pm

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 140 – Wednesday 23rd November 2022

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Follow up on weed management on our land - St Johns Wort and Paterson's Curse. Craig to follow up regarding management	Craig White
2	Plan to host the next CCC meeting at Bengalla Homestead	F Hartin
3	De-anne to share plans on a new cultural centre that will be built at Muswellbrook Common at February meeting.	D Douglas
4	Photos of the rehabilitation areas at BMC. Mainly tube stock plantings. Provide presentation to De-anne	F Hartin