



# BENGALLA MINE

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of Meeting No. 141

**Location:** Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

**Date:** Wednesday 22nd February 2023

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Malcolm Ogg	Chair
Llewellyn Bates	Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Member
Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Jennifer Lecky	MSC (Councillor)
Jonathan Moore	CCC Member
Cam Halfpenny	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited (BMC) (General Manager)
Craig White	BMC (Environment Superintendent)
Fiona Hartin	BMC (Community Relations Specialist)
Jeff Drayton	MSC (Councillor)
De-Anne Doulas	CCC Member
Glenn Meyn	BMC (Mine Manager)

---

**Meeting opened: 3.10pm**

**1. APOLOGIES:**

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

**3. SAFETY SHARE**

[Glenn Meyn (GM)] Vehicles and driving. Review of incident.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

November Minutes Moved by: Jenifer Lecky

Seconded by: Llewellyn Bates

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

- Action 1. Follow up on weed management on our land - St Johns Wort and Paterson's Curse. Complete.
- Action 2. Plan to host the next CCC meeting at Bengalla Homestead. Complete.
- Action 3. De-anne to share plans on a new cultural centre that will be built at Muswellbrook Common at February meeting. De-anne shared information. De-anne to share plans once they are available.
- Action 4. Photos of the rehabilitation areas at BMC. Mainly tube stock plantings. Provide presentation to De-anne. Complete.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

03.01.2022 Fiona Hartin to Jeff Drayton- Request for Code of Conduct and Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest Forms completed forms.

03.01.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Committee – Final CCC Minutes August

05.01.2023 Jennifer Lecky to Fiona Hartin- signed Code of Conduct and Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary interest completed forms provided

06.01.2023 Fiona Hartin to Malcolm Ogg – Nomination form for De-Anne Douglas to the Bengalla CCC emailed to Malcolm Ogg

06.01.2023 –Malcolm Ogg to Fiona Hartin –Acknowledgement of email regarding De-Anne Douglas’s nomination for Bengalla CCC

25.01.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Committee- Email regarding resealing of Bengalla Road.

02.02.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Committee- Email Invitation to attend Bengalla Homestead for the February CCC Committee. Draft Minutes from the November meeting. Communication back from all

14.02.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Committee – Email regarding upcoming Road Works to Bengalla Road

21.02.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Members - Pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda, and draft Newsletter provided.

## 7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- The northwest of BMC current mining lease where the Clean Water Dam 1 (CW1) pipeline has been constructed there has been a number of iron bark trees knocked down and there is another pipe being installed. Is that Bengalla’s? [Craig White (CW)] That pipeline is Mount Pleasant Mine pipeline. For BMC to mine this area including the Dry Creek area that mining required the diversion of Dry Creek and then reinstatement of same. BMC built CW1 and a pipeline which runs along the southern side of Wybong Road, the pipeline continues generally along Bengalla Link Road (BLR). The exit to the CW1 pipe is west of the BLR near the mine entrance road. In broad terms that was Bengalla’s component of the Dry Creek Diversion Project. There was a second component to the project being the movement of a Mount Pleasant Mine dam known as Mine Water Dam (MWD) north to enable the construction of CW1 and the construction of a pipeline from the MWD to a new Mount Pleasant Mine dam west of BLR for storage and discharge purposes. What you are seeing built is a Mount Pleasant Mine pipeline which runs along the same general alignment as the CW1 pipeline.
- Any progress on the exploration area? [CW] Yes, I have a presentation for later in the meeting. The price of coal has been reducing recently, is it still good for Bengalla?

[Cam Halfpenny (CH)] Yes Bengalla is running well. It is a good asset. Coal is the largest export earner for Australia at the moment. The budget for the NSW Government is 6 billion dollars in royalties this year.

Report from Theresa Folpp (TF):

- TF indicated MSC have had a meeting with Regional NSW to commence discussion regarding the Hunter Regional Plan in respect to final land use at mine sites. At the moment final land use is normally trees and grass. Regional NSW are investigating other options for final land use. There are a couple of options. Option 1 - At the moment there is a voluntary scheme called the Place Strategy. What this strategy entails is you apply to Regional NSW to assist planning regarding how the rehabilitated land can be used post mining. There is a hope there will be an industry shift towards a final land use that has similar employment levels as current levels of employment per the conduct of mining. [CW] It is a good point. It is quite topical in the industry. More mines are approaching closure, so what does closure mean? We should be able to have a robust approach, that is multiple land uses being considered post mining. [Jeff Drayton (JD)] We have the best road and rail infrastructure, and in some cases the best workshops and these could be good for other industries. This will be topical in the next 6 months. [Malcolm Ogg (MO)] It is important to have community consultation on how the land will be used.
- What does BMC do with water that Bengalla hasn't used? [CW] We see Bengalla as the mine and the surrounding agricultural land. Our agricultural company uses some of the licenced water as do some licensees. BMC has access to various water licences one being the high security water licence which is 1449 ML. Depending on meteorological conditions, for example, drought we are able to transfer water allocation from other water licences to operate. The mine water management system is designed to account for both wet and dry conditions. We are blessed in terms of water licencing but even in the dry times we come under pressure.

Report from De-Anne Douglas (DD):

- DD shared information on the Cultural Centre. The plans are being amended and will be available later. The Cultural Centre will be for everyone. We are expecting the build to cost between 20 - 25million dollars. The Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLALC) were successful in the bid for a business plan grant. We are working on a staged plan for the Cultural Centre and consulting on same with Ministers. Community consultation will be important and will occur. Currently the biggest issue on the common land is illegal dumping of cars and tree waste. There have been recent actions to address these issues and the illegal entry onto the land. We have an Environment Protection Authority grant to do a clean-up and to employ two land carers. A Development Application has been lodged to build a shed at the back of the WLALC which is the start of the Cultural Centre. We have recently painted the Land Council building and have started art exhibitions. We want artists working from the Cultural Centre that are linked in with Arts Upper Hunter. We are also applying for a grant for a bush tucker garden. Our aim is to sell bush tucker food from the Cultural Centre, through a café, run cultural workshops, have huts where people can stay so they can have a full cultural experience. When visitors undertake a tour of the Cultural Centre local guides will accompany the visitors. DD indicated she has been attending tourism workshops so she can report to her Board on the required steps.

## **BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE**

[GM] 22-week plan shown. There are some activities occurring to the west of the mine. We have a clean water diversion levee part of which will move west to allow the mine to advance. The diversion levee will continue to divert water away from the mine to the Hunter River. The diversion levee will be relocated to nearer and still east of BLR. We have a new excavator arriving shortly and other new equipment as part of our growth projects (trucks, drills, loaders, dozers, graders). A lot of new assets are coming to Bengalla. In January Bengalla set a site record for total material moved waste, coal, reject in a calendar month. The dry weather has been welcomed. [CH] We are growing our business by adding equipment and people employed onsite and this will happen throughout this year. We hire 90% local people. We have demand overseas for our coal.

### **8. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS**

[CW] Exploration License (EL) 9431 slide presentation. We have completed the environmental assessment for the drilling program for ecology and archeology. These reports are being prepared now. We will make an application to Mining Exploration and Geoscience, that sits within Regional NSW, and if we are successful, we will commence a drilling program over EL 9431. We have some consultation to do. Part of the approval process is to consult with the CCC and also near neighbours to make sure everyone understands the project. If there is a mineable, profitable resource in EL 9431 and we hope there is, a continuing Bengalla beyond 2039 subject to approval will be pursued. [JM] If this is to happen in future what will happen to the void. [CW] It will move further to the west. [JM] What are you envisioning the void will be? [CW] This is unknown at this point? Current stage of Bengalla is about 900 hectares. There is 556 hectares in the new area but not regular in shape. [CH] Currently there are only 2 drill holes in the vicinity so not a lot of data. The geology of Bengalla is we are in a basin. We are not sure if there is coal there. We have 13 years to secure an approval. We are keen to understand the resource, commence the project and share the information as we progress.

The approved BLR Realignment will be mined out, so we need to align it further to the west and we have approval for most of that. CW shared the plan. Where we are up to with the ecologist are currently there this week doing their seasonal ecological surveys. The next stage will be archeology.

Bengalla has an obligation to maintain BLR from Denman Road to our mine entrance road. Mt Pleasant has an obligation from our mine entrance road to their mine entrance road. We are upgrading approximately 3kms of this road. The pavement will be widened where it can. We are breaking the construction into stages to minimise impacts on traffic delay. One lane will be open and traffic will be controlled by a traffic light system. There will likely be a 3 minute average time delay. The project will run from March 2023 to January 2024.

### **9. LAND MANAGEMENT**

[CW] Showed Conceptual Final Landform slide. We have a 3–4-year program to install High Density Woody Vegetation (HDWV) over the landform, about 350 hectares. We have a stockpile that stores clay to enable reinstate Dry Creek. Around May/June we have some areas that will have further HDWV planted. The installation of HDWV is to be at a minimum of 400 stems per hectare.

The Forward Plan in short details disturbance and new rehabilitation over three year rolling period. The Forward Plan and polygons are provided electronically via a portal to the Resources Regular (RR). The Year 1 plan of the current Forward Plan shows the rehabilitation for 2023 and identifies potential disturbance.

BMC has completed controlled burns on the offset properties. The Bengalla Joint Venture purchased approximately 6200 hectares of land to offset approximately 950 hectares of disturbance at the mine. The strategy was to buy land adjacent to National Parks and in potential corridor areas to enable potential enhancement national estate. Bengalla offset properties are managed for a range of things, including weed and pest management, bushfire control, track maintenance, and to establish ecology. It has been identified we need to implement a spraying program to spray St Johns Wort on part of the properties. There are challenges on some of our offset properties due to steep topography. Accordingly we conducted aerial spraying over these steeper areas.

Previously there was a bushfire over part of the Kenalea property that initially was uncontrolled. The bushfire at Kenalea occurred for a duration of approximately 21 days. In response to the Kenalea bushfire BMC completed a Bushfire Risk Management Review over the offset properties. The review identified some high risk bush fire areas. As a result, BMC completed controlled burns on those areas. BMC have a plan to do more controlled burns on other offset property areas. As part of establishing the controlled burn BMC consult with the adjoining owners to the relevant properties prior to the burns,

We recently completed a controlled burn at the Black Mountain property which is heavily wooded in locations. We employ a company LRM to undertake the controlled burns. They are well resourced, for example, with helicopters, weather stations and water carts. A track was established around the edge of the burn area. A Rural Fire Service approval was required for this burn. At the end of the burn the LRM usually conduct a heat scan to enable hot spots to be identified that may require control. About a week after the burn was concluded there were some ignitions and LRM returned to site to control those ignitions. Three further inspections of the site have occurred with no identification of ignition. [TF] Is there a positive ecological impact on doing a controlled burn. [CW] We don't burn the trees. The ecologist visits the site before the burn and then will return each year to survey the effect of the burn. [CW] When we disturb the ecology on the mine site there are certain species we need to translocate. We have recently relocated a tiger orchid. [TF] Are the Bengalla offset properties impacted by the gas pipeline? [CW] I am not aware of anything at this time.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for Nov, Dec 2022 and Jan 2023 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
  - During the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the air quality criteria.
- Noise Management:
  - For the Reporting Period 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 262ML from the Hunter River from 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2023.
  - Bengalla Mine discharged 40ML to the Hunter River from 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2023.
- Complaints:
  - During the reporting period 6 complaints were received - 3 blast, 2 dust and 1 hazard reduction burn
  - [JM] A comment regarding the complaints data. I think originally people felt concerned and made a complaint. There are people who over time accept there is going to be a certain level of dust or a certain impact from a blast, so complaints aren't made as often as they were previously. This is an education of acceptance. Dust is still a real concern. Or if you make a complaint about a blast we are told it falls within consent limits. It isn't that suddenly, the mines are complaint free. It is that the community has accepted that there is a degree in which you can complain. [TF] Have you started under the new Air Quality Management Plan? [CW] Yes, we have. There is a transition to the new air quality monitoring network. We plan on having this in place around the end of 2023.
- Environmental incidents: 0

## 11. COMMUNITY REPORT

Community slides presented including a summary of the community partnerships and community events held over the last quarter.

- A summary of the approved sponsorships through the Community Support Team include:

Blackroo - Toy and Food Appeal  
Aberdeen Fire Brigade and Muswellbrook Fire Brigade - Santa Lolly Run  
Hunter Disability – Interacts - Drink Bottles  
Rotary Club - Community Barbeques  
Scone Touch Football - Club Sponsorship  
Muswellbrook Golf Club - Bengalla Muswellbrook Open Championships  
Muswellbrook CATS - Major Sponsor Season 2023  
Power FM Pool Parties  
Aberdeen Highland Games - Major sponsor event 2023  
Muswellbrook Lions Club  
Muswellbrook Polocrosse - Annual Carnival Total \$36,508

- Sponsorships approved through the Bengalla Community Development Fund:  
Wanaruah LALC - Elders Program  
Great Cattle Dog Muster  
New Years Eve Fireworks and Rockn The Brook  
Upper Hunter Country Tourism and Polly Farmer Foundation Total \$137,00

Bengalla also has several ongoing partnerships including Muswellbrook Regional Art Prize, the Bengalla Upper Hunter Show, the Easter Family Fun Day, Group 21 Major Sponsor.

## **12. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS**

Controlled burns, Bengalla growth, apprentices and scholarships

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 3.00pm

Meeting closed at 5:10pm

### **Attachments:**

- Meeting Presentation slides

## **ACTION LIST**

### **Meeting No. 141 – Wednesday 22nd February 2023**

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>1</b>	How the new air monitors work once they have been installed.	Craig White
<b>2</b>	Presentation on the Mt Pleasant Mine interim discharge pipeline that have been relocated	Craig White