



# BENGALLA MINE

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of Meeting No. 143

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

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd August 2023

**Present:**

Name	Affiliation
Llewellyn Bates	Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Member
Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Jennifer Lecky	MSC (Councillor)
Jonathan Moore	CCC Member
Craig White	BMC (Environment Superintendent)
Fiona Hartin	BMC (Community Relations Specialist)
Glenn Meyn	BMC (Mine Manager)

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#### Meeting opened: 3.05pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** Malcolm Ogg, Cam Halfpenny, Jeff Drayton. In the absence of Chair Malcolm Ogg, Glenn Meyn chaired the meeting.

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

3. **SAFETY SHARE**

Glenn Meyn (GM) shared vehicles and driving incident on Bengalla Road.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

May Minutes Moved by: J Lecky

Seconded by: J Moore

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

**Action 1.** Share the video of the excavator build with the CCC. Video not complete. Share at November Meeting

**Action 2.** Overview on employment arrangements, scholarship program and apprenticeships. How can Scholarships be accessed? Complete. Presentation given to the Committee.

Information shared on Scholarships and Apprenticeships and traineeships. How they work and who can apply. Transition contractors to permanent Bengalla employees.

**Action 3.** Report on the wild dog baiting results. Complete  
Pest management, weed management, track maintenance. Report shared on the wild dog baiting during the period. Bengalla issues a contract each year to

undertake a variety of activities on the mine site and our offset properties. This is primarily focused on pest and weed management and track maintenance. Report provided to the Committee on the results of the pest management during this period.

- Action 4.** Report on the hazard reduction burns. Complete  
[CW] presented summary of the hazard burn reduction that has been completed. Bengalla has an offset Management Plan. We have a burn approval from the RFS. Merriwa River reduction burn to be started tomorrow and Kenalea work has been completed. Merriwa reduction burn is 152ha. [TF] How are the areas chosen? Does the RFS nominate? [CW] Our expert goes out and does an assessment, makes recommendations, those recommendations are reviewed, and we seek approval to undertake the works.
- Action 5.** Provide an example of the predictive forecasts we receive each day. Complete  
This is an obligation under the Air Quality Management Plan so that we are aware of predicted weather conditions and if required we can prepare for those conditions. The predictive forecast is widely distributed daily, including to production and CHPP with those functional areas primarily responsible for control of dust emissions onsite. To assist with the environmental forecast the consultant is provided with Bengalla's quarterly aerial photograph and 22-week plan. Based on the predicted meteorological conditions dust plumes can be modelled. Predicted noise is also modelled and applied during the night period only. We use this information to plan when to blast. Bust the dust - From now to early/mid-December the Regulators will be conducting frequent inspections of mines throughout the Hunter with drones and visual inspections. To assist with dust management, we conduct external site inspections of Bengalla generally daily, and OCE's conduct regular inspections of the mine.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

14.06.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC members – Email – Stage 2 of the Bengalla refurbishment program.

27.07.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Members – Email- Invitation to a site and rehabilitation site tour prior to the August 2023 CCC Meeting.

27.07.2023 Theresa Folpp, Jennifer Lecky, Jonathan Moore to Fiona Hartin – Email acceptance to the site tour.

02.08.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC members – Email – Bengalla Road refurbishment – Stage 2 traffic switch.

23.08.2023 Fiona Hartin to CCC Members – Email – Agenda, Premeeting papers, newsletter and May minutes.

23.08.2023 Malcolm Ogg to Fiona Hartin – Email – Apology for the August CCC meeting.

23.08.2023 Jeff Drayton to Fiona Hartin – Email – Apology for the August CCC meeting.

## 7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- Since the reopening of Rosebrook Bridge, I have been surprised at the advancement of the mine west wards.
- Increasing number of kangaroos and pigs around sunrise, sunset and dark. [CW] Following the completion of the tube stock project we are investigating the increase of kangaroos and discussions are occurring on how we can control them. Hopefully control measures will commence soon.
- A lot of people commented that with Rosebrook Bridge shut and the Bengalla roadworks occurring at the same time the increased travel time to get into town. [CW] As part of the refurbishment of Bengalla Link Road the project is being completed in stages to minimise delay time. [LB] Having a traffic light controller in situ during shift changes was a noticeable improvement regarding traffic management.

Report from Theresa Folpp (TF):

- Turbine blades - Council are hoping the Department of Planning will have a strategic approach to transportation of turbine blades with say one agreement for turbine transport. This has not occurred. Council have received applications from Hills of Gold. It appears that Council will have separate applications from each proponent. This will likely be a big impact on the community and industry for road users. Council has requested a strategic plan but haven't seen a plan at this time. [CW] was this a public document? [TF] Yes

Report from Jonathan Moore:

- One positive is having the traffic lights for the road works manned. The community has seen this as a positive.

Report from Jennifer Lecky

- Conservatorium has just held the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a fantastic evening.

Report from De-Anne Douglas

- Illegal dumping and fires at the common have been causing issues. Would love to do a cultural burn but the Rural Fire Service are conducting a hazardous burn.
- Grant successful to put on 2 land carers.
- On 4 and 5 September training will occur at the WLALC with Uncle Glenn and Uncle Laurie running the program. The training will include scar tree training, Aboriginal artefacts training and cultural awareness training. Artefacts have been found at Malabar recently.

## 8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

CCC members taken on a tour of Bengalla. Visit to the Lookout overseeing the operational area of the mine as well as the rehabilitation areas.

[GM] 22-week plan shown. The detailed 22- week plan is developed every month, so we know what coal is produced for shipments. The Western Diversion Levee for clean water is shown on the map - we are currently re-aligning part of the Western Diversion Levee further west. We will be doing a larger diversion in the future to allow Bengalla progress. The current diversion involves water diverted to the old rail cutting underneath the bridge in Bengalla Link Road. A video was shared of the new excavator working - it took 10 weeks to build the excavator. [GM] shared summary of FY - TMM 14.88Mt, coal moved by excavators 6Mt, drills drilled 1.3Million kms, and saleable product just over 9Mt.

## **9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS**

[CW] shared Bengalla's mining leases and Bengalla's exploration lease.

Exploration Licence 9431

The extraction limit for our current development approval is shown in the presentation. For Bengalla to extend our extraction limit further to the west, we need to seek approval for this. The first part of this is to obtain an exploration licence. We have proposed drill hole locations and we have done an aerial survey looking for any extrusions that would indicate a problem with the resource. We have made another application, which is called a REF, which we will lodge at the end of next week. Following this we will go into a consultation program which will go through more specific details. We have ecologically surveyed the tracks and had an Aboriginal archaeologist inspect the areas to ensure it is clear of Aboriginal artefacts and high-quality ecology. The approval process could take around 3 months.

## **10. LAND MANAGEMENT**

[CW] Conceptual Final Landform – Plan shown on what Bengalla is required to deliver for the final landform. Reinstated Dry Creek is just east of the final void. BMC doing work on closure and what that will look like. This is work for 10 years into the future. In the last modification, Modification 5, we had a new condition added to the consent, which is about delivering a rehabilitation closure strategy. This report is due to Government February 2024.

New rehabilitation areas shown on the map. Likely to be bulk shaped by early September and then topsoil and seeding to be completed. The High Density Woody Vegetation area of planting has finished, and we are in a watering phase now.

Forward program - We nominate areas for rehabilitation and areas for disturbance and we report on this. We are required to produce a 3-year rolling plan.

Proposed Bengalla Link Road realignment - Map shown of the road and the proposed realignment and its relationship to the mining plan for Bengalla.

Bengalla Link Road pavement upgrade - BMC looks after Bengalla Link Road from the Denman Road intersection to the mine entrance road. We are also undertaking work on Keys Bridge, and we are inspecting and maintaining Keys Bridge. We are continuing the upgrade work to Bengalla Link Road and anticipate the works completing around March 2024.

## **11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS**

Environmental monitoring review for May, June and July 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 has extracted 523ML from the Hunter River from 1 May 2023 to 31 July 2023.
  - Bengalla Mine did not discharge to the Hunter River from 1 May 2023 to 31 July 2023.

[CW] We have run our water system lower as we have commenced a desilt program on certain dams. At the Washery Dam we have a dredge, and it is dredging material from the Washery Dam to a pipeline to the West Facilities Dam and then transporting this material with coagulant added to the reject cells. We will be dredging the Washery Dam, Discharge Dam and the Facilities Dams, and this work will continue over a few months. [TF] What is the purpose of the coagulant? Is it to make it easier to handle? [CM] The material in the dam is very fine and it is like handling water. So, you need to bind the materials together so you can pick the materials up. We drain the water, and the material should clump together and also be drier.

- Complaints:
  - During the reporting period 9 complaints were received - 7 blast, 1 dust, and 1 Bengalla Link Road complaint.
- Environmental incidents: 0.

## 12. 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:

- Power FM Summer Pool Parties.
- Scone Basketball Association.
- Scone and District Netball Club.
- Total \$9,980.

There have been many events that have occurred over the last quarter, these include:

- Westpac Charity Golf Day.

- Scone Grammar School Fete.
- Denman Day Out.
- Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue School Mine Tours.
- Muswellbrook Polocrosse Carnival.
- Hunter Valley Careers Expo.
- Muswellbrook and District Camera Club Workshop.
- Muswellbrook Poultry Club Carnival.
- NSW Minerals Council Careers in Mining Dinner.
- Muswellbrook High School Work Experience.
- MIGAS Apprentice Recruitment.
- Aberdeen Pony Club Presidents Cup.
- Aberdeen Highland Games.
- Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize.
- Upper Hunter Stock Dog Challenge.
- Bengalla Cup Day.

### 13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Bengalla growth, fire danger period and what Bengalla is doing - controlled burns.

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

Meeting closed at 4:45pm

#### Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides

#### ACTION LIST

##### Meeting No. 143 – Wednesday 23rd August 2023

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Present a video of the dredging of the dams. If dredging is still occurring in November arrange a CCC Committee site tour	C White