



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 144

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Llewellyn Bates (LB)	Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Member
Theresa Folpp (TF)	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Officer
Jennifer Lecky (JL)	Muswellbrook Shire Council (Councillor)
Jonathan Moore (JM)	Community Consultative Committee Member
Cam Halfpenny (CH)	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Ltd (BMC) (General Manager)
Craig White (CW)	Bengalla Mining Company (Environment Superintendent)
Fiona Hartin (FH)	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations Specialist) (minute taker)
Glenn Meyn (GM)	Bengalla Mining Company (Mine Manager)

Meeting opened: 3.12pm

- 1. APOLOGIES:** De-Anne Douglas, Malcolm Ogg. In the absence of Malcolm, Glenn Meyn chaired the meeting
- 2. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** Nil
- 3. SAFETY SHARE**

GM shared incident related to unintended activation of explosives.
- 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

August Minutes Moved by: JM Seconded by: JL
- 5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ACTION LIST**

Action 1. Share the video of the excavator build. Action Complete.

Action 2. Present a video of the dredging of the dams. If dredging is still occurring in November arrange a CCC site tour. Action Complete.
- 6. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

29.08.2023 FH to CCC members – Email – Bengalla Road Refurbishment Stage 2 sealing.

20.09.2023 FH to CCC members – Email – Approved CCC Minutes Meeting 142 May 2023.

10.10.2023 Cate Sims to FH – Email – Request to attend the CCC meeting to provide an update from the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.

08.11.2023 FH to CCC members – Email - Invitation to attend a site visit prior to the November CCC Meeting.

13.11.2023 LB, JM and MO to FH - Email – Acceptance to attend site visit.

14.11.2023 TF to FH – Email – Acceptance to attend site visit.

15.11.2023 FH to MO – Email – Chairpersons report.

21.11.2023 FH to CCC members – Email - agenda, draft minutes, presentation and newsletter emailed to CCC members

22.11.2023 MO to FH – Email - Apology for the November CCC Meeting.

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from LB:

- The drilling that is currently occurring, what are you trying to find? [CH] On the northern end wall of Bengalla mine there is potential for geotechnical risk. We are undertaking work to understand this geotechnical risk. The Bengalla mine sits below up to 2 gigalitres of water contained within the Mt Pleasant dam MWD north of the Bengalla clean water dam CW1 that has a storage capacity of up to 900 mega litres. The risk is if there is a failure in this locality water flows to Bengalla mine. There is safety risk and business risk. The dams MWD and CW1 are prescribed dams and are designed, constructed and monitored to prevent failure by Mt Pleasant and Bengalla. [LB] How deep are you going? [CH] Probably around 250 metres. When the drilling rigs are finished at the northern end wall, likely around the end of 2023 and as we are looking to expand Bengalla to the west into Exploration Licence (EL) 9341, the rigs will move there.
- With the progress with Bengalla Road is it progressing on time? It is tracking ahead of time [JM] Why is the road such a big project? [GM] The length of the Bengalla link Road refurbishment for this project is significant, additionally the sub structure underneath the road has been ordinary in places. The contractor has imported sound material to replace the unsuitable material. [CH] When the road was first constructed that was to a different design standard. With the development of Mt Pleasant and Mangoola the road incurs light and heavy vehicle traffic, so the road was refurbished to a higher design standard. Bengalla as part of our consent is required to maintain the road.

Report from TF:

- MSC had the mines General Managers and other staff attend a meeting recently and it was a productive discussion. The meeting focused on operational management in response to dust.

- The transport of the blades. MSC is meeting with Transport for NSW and Energy Co. The blades will generally be transported via the Golden Highway. Loads taller than 5.8m will be transported via Bengalla Link Road, Wybong Road, Dartbrook Road. The NSW Government may take the lead regarding access to enable the transport of the blades. There is still a lot of information to be determined, for example, how many blades will be transported and at what time, how much interruption will that invoke, and how will that be communicated to the public. [CH] We have felt that there is a lack of coherency in some of the communication. We have been approached by some individual wind farm proponents and it is piecemeal and reactive. Bengalla's intention is to communicate with the NSW Government and MSC as this issue requires collective management. What will be the damage to the roads? [JM] There may be damage to road pavements through screwing when the trucks turn corners and there is also an impact on the local residents who have been very tolerant of changes over the years regarding use of the road network by industry.

Report from JM:

- Thanked Bengalla for the tour today.
- Dust is an ongoing concern as there are days when the dust is coming from all of the mines. [GM] We are doing work on dust suppression. The Bengalla budget year commences 1 August, so from 1 August to end October 2023 we have parked excavators for around 300 hours for dust and trucks for around 1200 hours for dust. We are vigilant with managing dust. The environment team and other BMC employees do an external inspection of Bengalla Mine generally daily during the spring early summer period. We have an agricultural spray at the dragline to help with dust suppression. We are also looking at other new initiatives. We have a new water cart arriving in March. [CW] Each spring the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) conducts the Bust the Dust campaign. This involves inspection of mines by the EPA and BMC receives a report of the inspection. The EPA expects that we implement appropriate measures to manage dust. Each day a range of people receive the forecast weather predictions. According to Environment Protection Licence 6538 BMC must operate Bengalla to minimise or prevent the emission of dust from the premise. Guidance provided internally regarding dust management at Bengalla is to encourage action prior to the trigger response alerts. [CH] Shared the New Acland website which shows real time information. BMC is working on having similar information available on the website.
- On one occasion there was an orange plume that was quite noticeable in the afternoon. [CW] Prior to the blast and after heavy rain that included hail on Friday afternoon, we believe water has infiltrated the blast holes (number unknown). When the blast was fired on the Saturday the blast resulted in a plume. The videos of the blast have been reviewed and the Environment Protection Authority have requested a report on the blast be submitted.
- Everyone is talking about how quickly Bengalla is moving in a westerly direction which is very visible from Wybong Road. Noted.
- JM is still getting people contacting him regarding concern about why the road project is so big. It seems to be more than just improving the road. The construction is massive. Can you discuss this further? See comments above regarding LB query.

Report from JL

- Pleased with the work that has been completed at the Bengalla Homestead.

8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

CCC members (JM, LB and TF) undertook a tour escorted by GM and Sam Parkinson to view the loader being built and also to the Facilities Dam in the CHPP area where dredging was occurring.

[GM] 22-week plan shown.

Bengalla is currently realigning part of the Western Diversion Levee. We are moving part of the clean water diversion levee further west so we can continue operating at the southern end of the mine.

9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

[CW] Bengalla Mine Plan shown.

EL 9431

Bengalla is seeking to continue beyond the current approved cease of operations date of 2039. EL 9431 granted 4 July 2022 for six years. Aerial geophysical drone survey field work complete. The environmental assessment for the drilling is complete and we are preparing for exploration drilling. A letter will be sent to residents within 5 kilometres of the boundary of EL 9431. Council and CCC members will also receive correspondence.

10. LAND MANAGEMENT

[CW] Bengalla have a 5-year program to install high density woody vegetation (HDWV). There will be trees growing over most of the existing rehabilitation area being approximately 350 hectares. Areas to be completed for rehabilitation in 2023 will be HDWV and pasture.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for August, September and October 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 428ML from the Hunter River from 1 August 2023 to 31 October 2023.
 - Bengalla Mine did not discharge to the Hunter River from 1 August 2023 to 31 October 2023.

- Complaints:
 - During the reporting period 11 complaints were received - 6 blast, 4 air quality, 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 includes:

- Scone Westpac support group charity golf day.
- Upper Hunter veterans golf week of championship.
- Local primary and high school end of year presentation days.
- Aberdeen Junior Rugby League Club sponsors 2024/25.

- Scone Public School bloom markets 2023.
- Denman Little Athletics Club sponsor.
- Merriwa Fitness Centre.
- Muswellbrook Public School colourful fun day.
- Blackroo/ Power Fm food and toy appeal.
- Blackroo Charity golf day.
- Muswellbrook CATS AFL club sponsors 2024/25.
- Muswellbrook Netball Association twilight netball sponsorship.
- St Marys School golf day.

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

- Bengalla Undergraduate University Scholarships awarded.
- Bengalla/MIGAS Apprentice recruitment assessment held.
- Muswellbrook CATS AFL club sponsors round.
- NSW Minerals Council HSEC awards.
- Hunter Challenge and camp draft.
- Voice for Mining Family Day.
- Bengalla Muswellbrook Open golf championship.
- Group 21 presentation evening and grand final.
- Muswellbrook High School support class site tour.
- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce business breakfasts.
- Great Cattle Dog Muster and Blue Heeler Film Festival.
- Muswellbrook and Scone Netball presentation days.
- Aberdeen Junior Rugby League presentation days.
- Muswellbrook Public School colour run.
- Murrurundi King of the Ranges, MATS the Musical.
- Dougal Archibald Cup and Muswellbrook Cricket grand finals.
- Scone Westpac Helicopter support group golf day.
- St Mary's School golf day.

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Ideas included apprenticeships and reasons for employing more apprentices for 2024, scholarships and how they cover a wider selection of courses, Christmas events, the farming side of Bengalla's agriculture work, and commencement of the exploration drilling program.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 28th February 2023 at 3.00pm.

Meeting closed at 6:00pm.

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides.

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 144 – Wednesday 22nd November 2023

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Provide information to the CCC on the Bengalla Updated Blast Management Plan.	CW
2	Update on Bengalla's blasting techniques.	GM