



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 145

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 21st February 2024

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Malcolm Ogg (MO)	Chairperson Community Consultative Committee (CCC)
Llewellyn Bates (LB)	CCC Member
Jonathan Moore (JM)	CCC Member
De-anne Douglas (DD)	CEO Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLALC)
Theresa Folpp (TF)	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Officer
Jennifer Lecky (JL)	MSC (Councillor)
Jeff Drayton (JD)	MSC(Councillor)
Cam Halfpenny (CH)	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Ltd (BMC) (General Manager)
Glenn Meyn (GM)	BMC (Mine Manager)
Craig White (CW)	BMC (Continuation Superintendent)
Hayley Frazer (HF)	BMC (Environment and Approvals Superintendent)
Fiona Hartin (FH)	BMC (Community Relations Specialist and PA to the General Manager) (minute/note taker)

Meeting opened: 3.10pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** Nil
3. **SAFETY SHARE**

GM shared incident related to a tyre rim unplanned movement which occurred in Bengalla Mine (Bengalla) maintenance workshop. BMC are currently reviewing our tyre handling processes. Presentation shared on how lock rings work. BMC are currently in the process of changing out all lock rings. BMC is sharing this incident with industry by presenting at Regulator forums. BMC have engaged with EMESRT to assist. EMESRT will conduct an audit of BMC in March.

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Update (UHMD) – presentation given by Cate Sims [CS]. History of the UHMD outlined. The purpose of the UHMD is to provide factual information to the community and enable a community voice to represent their concerns and issues to the UHMD and then industry. The UHMD's organizational structure is composed of the Joint Advisory Steering Committee and 3 Working Groups. The Dialogue places the community as its highest priority and works with all stakeholders to respond with practical fact-based work. Following the 2022 forum issues identified included residual voids and mine closure. Currently there are issues being raised around economic and social development. The 2024 workplan is influenced by feedback from the 2022 forum and from community surveys. UHMD is currently planning for the 2024 forum 23 October in Singleton at the Civic Centre.

The UHMD collects data regarding air particulates, rehabilitation, and water use. For example, rehabilitation reporting commenced in 2012 and reports annually. The UHMD collects and collates data from across each mining operation in the Upper Hunter. Information is available on the UHMD website.

The School Mine Tours program commenced in 2018 and now involves around 700 students each year. There are 17-18 schools scheduled to participate in 2024 and post mine tour surveys for students will be introduced this year.

The UHMD are actively seeking new community members who live in Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter.

[JD] Do you have representation on government bodies/committees? [CS] Representations can be made to government through the NSW Minerals Council, for example, to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). [JD] For Muswellbrook Shire (Shire) the biggest issue now, and MSC have passed a resolution, is jobs and people living in the area that they work. This is an issue in the local community. Some of the local complaints are from people who have never been in the mining industry. During 2016-2021 the Shire population increased by 360 people. In that time Mt Pleasant Mine (MTP) opened, other mines expanded and most of that population growth was taken up by social housing. The Shire has lost coal miners. [CS] To what extent for Muswellbrook is it livability/desirability vs housing availability/affordability? [JD] You won't have availability of housing if no one is going to come and live here so you won't have the houses developed. Developers won't want to invest here when there isn't the demand. Singleton Council are starting to have the same conversation. Muswellbrook has one of the lowest population growth rates in NSW. [CS] The UHMD is committed to support work that has a tangible outcome. The UHMD are looking for ways we can help address/progress identified issues. [JD] MSC needs support from the industry to encourage people to live in the Shire again. MSC may look to legislate this. [CH] For Bengalla 89% of our employees live in the Upper Hunter (Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shires). We have encouraged local living since commencing the mine, and we will continue to do that. Relevant to 2023, 270 new employees including trainees have started at Bengalla, and we have lost more than 100 full time equivalent employees as people move further down the valley. As an industry we need to show leadership on this issue. [CS] You are all invited to participate in the UHMD.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

November Minutes Moved by: [JL] Seconded by: [LB]

5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ACTION LIST

Action 1.

Provide update on the Blast Management Plan (BMP). Action Complete. Prior to the presentation on the BMP [CW] announced that this CCC meeting would be his last meeting as a regular member of the CCC and introduced [HF] to the CCC. Relevant to the BMP BMC deliver an environmental training package each year to all full-time equivalent employees. BMC operate Bengalla according to several authorities. The development consent State significant development (SSD) 5170 requires several management plans one being the BMP. Bengalla is also operated according to Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 6538 which in part is to manage emissions and pollutants from/at Bengalla, for example, dust, noise, discharging of water. BMC is required to minimise the mines' impacts. Part of BMC obligations under the EPL 6538 is to maintain equipment in a good and efficient working

order and carry out our activities (mining, maintenance) in a competent manner. There are similar obligations in the development consent and there are obligations regarding criteria for noise (at private receivers), dust (at private receivers), water management and rehabilitation. Relevant to blasting there is blasting criteria for blast vibration and overpressure at private receivers and BMC have operating conditions around the management of blasting and reporting of same. If BMC identifies a non-compliance BMC report same to the relevant authority and typically provide a report to that authority for consideration.

BMC coordinate the timing of our blasting with surrounding mines. A blasting notification is also placed on the MSC website. There are restrictions on when blasts can occur being 7am - 5pm Monday to Saturday and no blasting Sundays or Public Holidays. If blasting occurs within 500m of a road we have a road closure process in place. There is a hotline for people to make complaints. An example of our blasting process is the blast from last Saturday that includes a risk assessment, a sentry plan, and a blast simulation for dust and fume. All blast monitors record in real time with the blast data provided to BMC within a few seconds of the blast. We also have photos/videos of the blast.

Action 2. Update on Bengalla's blasting technique. Action Complete. Presentation.

[GM] BMC Drill and Blast Engineers run detailed blast designs and blast timing to manage MIC (maximum instantaneous charge) to minimise blast vibration. When blasting in sensitive areas BMC use electronic initiation systems. (a product called IKON from Orica). Blast simulation and video of blast shown to the CCC.

Review of the CCC Guidelines

Presentation shown. [CW] When the development consent is issued there is a condition which requires establishment and operation of a CCC according to the to what is now the Community consultative committee guideline for State significant projects 2023 (Guideline). From time to time the DPHI review the Guideline and operators of the mines must operate the CCC generally in accordance with the Guideline. BMC have received communication from the DPHI regarding the operation of the CCC. The letter from the DPHI to BMC shared with the CCC. At this CCC meeting BMC have 4 representatives [CW] with the permission of the Chairperson attended his final meeting as a regular member of the CCC and [FH] continues as note/minute taker. Relevant to the Guideline BMC has contacted CCC members over the last month and MSC. There is a paper to be presented to the next MSC meeting to identify who will be the Council representative on the Bengalla CCC. It can be any representative on behalf of MSC, Councillor or MSC staff member, however the Guideline identifies one representative can attend each CCC meeting. [DD] I am under the understanding that I am representing the WLALC. [CW] Yes that is correct. [JL] expressed an interest in staying on the CCC as a Community representative. [JD] I have had feedback that other mining companies do not have the same view and will continue to operate as they are. I have been in contact with Minister Houssos's office to ask why they would try and water down CCC membership, particularly MSC as they are the elected arm of the community. I was hoping to have an answer before the meeting today of why the DPHI are directing BMC to do that as it doesn't appear that they have directed anyone else to do. Has [DD] always been the Wanaruah stakeholder representative? [DD] Yes, I only commenced on the Bengalla CCC once I had settled into my new role as Chief Executive Officer of WLALC, and I am also the representative from WLALC on other CCC's. [CH] Apologies for any misunderstanding around the changes that have been communicated as this has not been our intent. We have been asked to look at our CCC and how it operates, and we wanted to be transparent before the meeting and talk through the Guideline and our understanding of it. [JD] When is the next

CCC Meeting? [CH] May, August and November [JD] This may impact Councillors from attending the May and August CCC meetings due to the lead up to the election.

[CW] In the email we also included Code of conduct and Pecuniary interest forms which are to be signed and returned and we thought we would make this a matter for the first meeting of the CCC in each calendar year. The other item is the Terms of reference for the operation of the CCC. There has been a draft Terms of reference provided to the CCC and if the CCC members would like to review the draft Terms of reference the final Terms of reference can be adopted at the next CCC meeting. Paper copies of code of conduct, pecuniary interest forms, nomination as a community member, and draft terms of reference given to all present at the meeting today.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

27.11.2023 – [FH] to CCC Members email Bengalla Road refurbishment.

02.01.2024 – [FH] to CCC Members meeting invitations for 2024 CCC meetings.

11.01.2024 – [FH] to [MO] draft minutes for the November 2023 CCC meeting.

30.01.2024 – [FH] to Katie Hamm [KH] (MSC) requesting a meeting to discuss June 2023 CCC Guideline.

30.01.2024 [FH] to [MO] nomination of [HF] to the CCC as a BMC representative and requesting a date change to the February 2024 CCC meeting, request from [CS] to attend the February meeting for a UHMD update, request for meeting to discuss update to Guideline.

30.01.2024 [FH] to CCC members draft minutes of the November 2023 CCC meeting

31.01.2024 [MO] to [FH] email to express availability for a meeting regarding update to the Guideline.

02.02.2023 [FH] to CCC members requesting a date change to the February 2024 BMC CCC meeting and associated email responses from CCC members and email responses from [LB], [TF], [JM].

02.02.2024 [FH] to [KH] email the Guideline to be provided to Derek Finnigan General Manager of MSC and Steve Reynolds [SR] Mayor of MSC.

2.02.2024 [FH] email to [CS] confirmation of approval from Chairperson to attend the February meeting and present a UHMD update.

05.02.2024- Further to the correspondence of 2.2.24 [CH] and [FH] meeting with Shaelee Welchman and [SR] to discuss the Guideline.

13.02.2024 [FH] email to [CS] confirming the time to attend the CCC meeting.

13.02.2024 [FH] to [MO] email confirmation of meeting time and BMC representatives [CH], [CW], [FH] and [HF] met with Chairperson [MO] on the same day to discuss the Guideline and the implications for the CCC.

16.02.2024 [FH] email to CCC members providing the CCC documents relative to the Guideline.

17.02.2024 [JD] to [FH] email regarding the process to inform Committee members of the changes required by the Guideline.

20.02.2024 Email [FH] to CCC members providing pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda, and Newsletter.

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from [LB]:

- [LB] received communication from BMC in the mail regarding exploration activities. Why are maps sent out like that are hard to read? The coordinates should be clearer. It is hard to read. [CW] We should split this over 2 pages and provide the plan as an A3. The plans will be provided to [LB] in a larger format at the end of this CCC meeting.
- Assessment Lease (AL) 19. What is the update as [LB] has had community enquiries? [CW] Maps and presentation shown. The first letter is in relation to the drilling west of Bengalla and BMC intention is to start drilling within a few weeks to commence the journey to extend Bengalla beyond 2039. New Hope Group has purchased AL 19 from Idemitsu. There is a letter to all landholders in the AL 19 area from New Hope Group in the next few weeks. The letter advises that there has been a change of ownership and New Hope Group has purchased AL 19. From a Bengalla perspective Exploration Licence (EL) 9431 encumbers freehold land owned by others. BMC have capital allocated to enable purchase of land subject to the landowner's concurrence and we have recently engaged with some landholders.
- When [LB] has been at home there have been some blasts. Wednesday 17 January 11.11am, Monday 5 February 12.09 Friday 17 10.58am. [LB] requested blast results. Blast results to be obtained and given to [LB].

Report from [TF]:

- MSC has been approached by Transport for NSW about reclassifying Wybong Road, Bengalla Road and Kayuga Roads. This is with regards to transporting wind turbines on the roads. [TF] will forward info to [CW]. Discussions should commence in the next few weeks. There are many issues to resolve. [CH] BMC have also had direct contact and our feedback is that these enquiries should be managed in consultation with MSC. [CW] A group has been formed with the NSW Minerals Council to deal with this matter. [CW] is a member of the group and flagged that MSC should be involved in any future meetings subject to the group's concurrence. [CW] will speak with Sharon Pope [SP] regarding this. There is potential for impact on local mines and the MSC road network. [CW] will continue to be the contact person at BMC for this matter. [LB] There are also concerns for the community.

Report from [MO]:

- 4.50pm [MO] excused himself from the meeting and [GM] took over as chair of the meeting.

Report from [DD]:

- Development application goes to MSC meeting this month for our shed value \$500,000.
- There is cultural training about to be undertaken. [DD] offered for BMC personnel to attend the training. First training day will include artefacts, scar trees and skeleton remains and cultural safety. The training is open to non-Aboriginal people. Day two includes sacred sites and history being Wingen maid, caves and then an artefact scatter. Training is free. [HF] BMC will have people attending on the day and thank you for the invitation.
- [CH] Congratulations to [DD] on her Australia Day Award OAM. It is a wonderful achievement.

Report from JD:

- Off the Road (OTR) Tyres disposal in pit. There has been some discussion with BMC regarding a \$50,000 payment to be made to MSC for an independent person to investigate reuse of OTR tyres. Is there any update on where that is up to? [CW] There is a research project by the University of Newcastle and [SP] has expressed an interest for the funds to support the grant application for this project. We have some concerns, [CW] and [SP] have been liaising on a way forward to enable better outcomes and BMC are also open to suggestions. [CH] There needs to be a practical outcome and not just a theoretical study. [JD] OTR Tyres are seen as one of the dirtier by-products so if there is something that can be done to deal with them it would be seen as a good outcome. [CH] BHP have been doing research on this issue in Queensland.

8. BENGALLA OPERATION UPDATE

[GM] 22-week plan shown.

Washery shutdown has been completed. BMC have had to temporarily close Bengalla Road a few times for blasting which will happen more often as the mine moves west.

9. APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

[CW] Bengalla Mine Plan shown.

Presentation shared. The MTP proposed Discharge Dam was discussed. This dam in a commercial sense is governed by the Dry Creek Interaction Agreement (DCIA) which is an agreement between Bengalla parties and MTP parties. Dry Creek has been mined by Bengalla and as a result MTP require a discharge point under the Hunter Salinity Trading Scheme. The DCIA enables MTP to pump water from their Mine Water Dam via a corridor adjacent to Wybong Road to the MTP Lining Lease 1829 area to a future dam for storage and discharge. We are in discussions with MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd about the progress of that dam design and alternatives to building that dam as it may impede Bengalla progressing west beyond our current approved mining limit. First meeting is 29 February 2024.

As part of the next phase of the drilling program for EL 9431 BMC are required to consult on the drilling with consultation done by letter and email to landholders within 5 kms of the EL 9431 area. That area also includes owners within AL19, and they will/have received a second letter from the New Hope Group. BMC anticipate drilling commencing early March. As part of the extension of Bengalla we will look to regularise the EL 9431 area and extend it further.

10. LAND MANAGEMENT

[HF] Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation for 2023 complete being 20 hectares. The High-Density Woody Vegetation (HDWV) will establish over time and germination of pasture is occurring. [TF] What drove the retrofit of that existing HDWV? [CW] As part of the consultation for the Continuation of Mining Project Environment Impact Statement for development consent SSD 5170 there were many meetings with MSC and other parties. At the time MSC were focussed on what is the impact of mining and the legacy of mining to the township of Muswellbrook. So, one of the ways that BMC dealt with that legacy to Muswellbrook question regarding the final landform was to relieve the level top of the landform. To do that required modification of SSD 5170 prior to installing the knolls. The second major component was establishing HDWV on the face of the landform that faces Muswellbrook and Denman Road. This program required removal of approximately 240 hectares of rehabilitation and installation of HDWV over that area excluding the northern face of the landform. [TF] You are planting and not shaping? [CW] For the HDWV installation that was predominantly over the original landform, however there were areas where geofluff has been installed and the knolls area that were different to the original landform. What you will see going forward is a more geofluff in place of the vertical drop structures. [TF] Will you retrofit the whole HDWV area? [CW] Yes that is what we have just completed for the landform built to date. The project is finished, and we are now monitoring it. There may be areas we will need to tidy up over time as some areas may not grow as anticipated.

The current Forward Work Plan rehabilitation area for 2024 was shown. [CH] BMC are undertaking some studies regarding reducing our carbon footprint, one of the projects is to assess the suitability of a solar farm at Bengalla. To operate Bengalla requires approximately 18 megawatts per annum. We are engaging with Ampcontrol to assess power supply reliability at Bengalla, for example, do we secure diesel generator sets onsite. New Hope Group on behalf of BMC have secured Australian Carbon Credit Unit's during 2023 to offset emissions above the Baseline. An additional project is the assessment of the viability of degassing seams prior to mining.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for November and December 2023 and January 2024 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
 - Criterion - 24 Hour PM10. During the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the 24-hour PM10 air quality criterion.

Criterion - Annual PM10. [CW] PM 1 (Racecourse) reading $28.2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and PM 3 (west of Bengalla) reading $26.2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ monitors are located at locations representative of private receivers. The annual criterion is $25\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ being for total impact, that is, particulate emissions from the site plus all other emissions at private receivers. A report is being prepared for review by the DPHI regarding the PM 1 and PM 3 annual readings.

To manage dust at Bengalla BMC implements all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise dust emissions from the site according to the Air Quality Management Plan, for example, have air quality alerts for wind speed been responded to appropriately. BMC implements other dust control measures

including responding to visual cues regarding visible dust emissions from the site. Cumulative impact is also considered. Together with Mt Arthur Coal Mine, MTP and Bengalla we have a Cumulative Framework meeting generally quarterly to discuss impacts from mining and other issues. HF will have carriage of this meeting moving forward. At the meeting we talk about the primary impacts being dust, noise and blasting.

[GM] There are other initiatives from other government agencies to monitor dust emissions for Bengalla. The Environment Protection Authority have been running the Bust the Dust program over late spring and summer in the Upper Hunter and have been undertaking activities such as inspections of Bengalla and other mines both announced and unannounced for dust. BMC has also implemented an additional initiative being external generally daily dust inspections of Bengalla by HF's environment team during the week. The Production team do the external dust inspections of Bengalla on the weekends.

- 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 1252ML from the Hunter River from 1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024. Rainfall was below the long-term average for all months of the reporting period.
 - Bengalla Mine did not discharge to the Hunter River during the reporting period.
- Complaints:
 - During the Reporting Period 12 complaints were received - 7 blast, 4 air quality, and 1 Blast fume 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:

- St Joseph's Merriwa P and F - PA System.
- St Joseph's High School Aberdeen - Musical.
- Muswellbrook High School - CAPA Tour.
- Muswellbrook Cricket Club - Major Sponsor.
- Richard Gill School - Bush to beach swim program.
- Muswellbrook Fire Brigade - Santa Lolly Run.
- Aberdeen Fire Brigade - Santa Lolly Run.

- Muswellbrook Eagles - Major sponsor junior/senior teams.
- Muswellbrook Polocrosse Club - Annual competition.
- Muswellbrook Rotary Club - Monthly community meals.
- Muswellbrook Squash Club - Junior School Holiday Program.
- Upper Hunter Show - School Cattle Day.
- Scone Mustangs - Jersey sponsor.
- Dubs By the Lake - Raffle prize for Westpac Helicopter.
- Scone Junior Rugby Club - Jersey sponsor.
- Upper Hunter Youth Services - Platinum sponsor youth week event.
- St James Primary School – Breakfast Club.

A summary of the approved sponsorships through the Community Development Fund includes:

- Warbirds Over Scone - Major Sponsor.
- TV and Movie Nostalgia Festival - Event Sponsor.
- Polly Farmer Foundation - Follow the Dream Program.
- Upper Hunter Westpac Ball - Event Sponsor.
- Edinglassie Rural Fire Brigade - Repairs to water semi.
- Upper Hunter Stock Dog Challenge - Event sponsor.

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

- Steve Jones Memorial Golf Day.
- Bengalla Muswellbrook Charity Rodeo.
- Scone Campdraft.
- Peter Riddy Memorial Scholarship awarded Upper Hunter College of Music.
- School Presentation days.
- Rotary Club of Muswellbrook Community meals.
- Santa Lolly Runs - Muswellbrook and Aberdeen.
- Power FM Pool Parties.
- Blackroo Food and Toy Appeal.

Summary of the VPA payments from 2011/12 to 2023/23 discussed with total payments \$6,092,565.

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Ideas included Bengalla scholarship recipients 2023/24, the farming side of Bengalla's agriculture work, and commencement of the exploration drilling program, HDWV installation completion.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 3.00pm.

Meeting closed at 6:00pm.

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides.

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 145 – Wednesday 21st February 2024

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Distribute information/presentation from CS UHMD to the CCC	FH
2	MSC – await decision from MSC on appointment of One MSC Representative to the CCC. Subject to MSC meeting resolution	TF
3	TF to forward information about the reclassification of roads to CW	TF
4	CW will liaise SP regarding wind farms	CW
5	CW liaising with SP regarding tyre recycling and \$50,000 payment.	CW
6	CCC members to review the terms of reference and provide feedback at the next CCC meeting	CCC Members
7	Code of conduct and Declaration of interest forms to be completed by all CCC members	CCC members
8	Provide a larger map to LB and JM	CW
9	RSVPs to DD – attendees for the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Training March 26 and 27	FH
11	HF to follow up on blast results for LB - Request for blast results-17 January 11.11am. 5 February 12.09 Friday 17 February 10.58am.	HF