BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 154

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom

Date: Wednesday 27 May 2026

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Jonathan Moore (JM)	CCC Member
Llewellyn Bates (LB)	CCC Member
Dee-Anne Douglas (DD)	CCC Member via teams
Sharon Pope (SP)	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Cam Halfpenny (CH)	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Ltd (BMC) (General Manager)
John Campbell (JC)	BMC (Technical Services Manager)
Hayley Frazer (HF)	BMC (Environmental & Approvals Superintendent) via teams
Fiona Hartin (FH)	BMC (Community Relations Specialist and PA to the General Manager) (minute/note taker)

Meeting opened: 3.20pm.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Malcolm Ogg, Glenn Meyn, Theresa Folpp. In the absence of Malcolm Ogg John Campbell chaired the meeting.

2. **DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:** JM declared he is selling his property to BMC.

3. **SAFETY SHARE**

   [JC] shared dragline dozer contact.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

   February Minutes Moved by: [JM] seconded by: [LB]

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

   Action 1.
   Share results of piezo drilling near LB property. Has water been found? How deep is the drilling?
   Complete.

   Action 2.
   Follow up on noise results for 27/11/2025. Presentation given.
   Complete.

   Action 3.
   Share photos of Australian Hobby

Complete. Video shown

Action 4.
Present findings of Independent Environment Audit at May 2026 CCC Meeting
Complete.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda, Draft Minutes and Newsletter, given to the CCC members.

25.03.2026 Email FH to CCC Members-Temporary Lane Closure Notification Bengalla/Denman Road

09.04.2026 Email FH to CCC Members-Temporary Lane Closure Notification Bengalla/Denman Road

09.05.2026 Invitation to Bengalla Mine Tour 27 May 2026 and responses from CCC members

7. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from [JM]:

- Impressed with the slashing and mowing of Wybong Road. Makes it neater and safer.
- Has Bengalla had any issues with fuel? [CH] We have had issues with break ins which was reported to police. We had a temporary shortage of fuel, and this has now resolved.
- There is a lot of development on the Western side of Bengalla Road. Could we have an update on this? [CH] This is construction by Mt Pleasant of a dam as part of the Master Corporation agreement. Mt Pleasant hope to have this completed by the end of the year. A further update will be given at the next CCC Meeting.

Report from [LB]:

- Appreciate the mowing being done along Wybong Road.
- When the excavators fill the truck is that when they blow the horn? Is it from that or from other machinery? Can also hear dozers but not as often. [JC] The digger will toot when the truck is full. There are other options to use instead. Action will be taken to look into this. Complaints number also to be given to JM and LB particularly if there is night time noise so it can be investigated immediately.

Report from [SP]:

- Squadron Energy has started moving components to their windfarm near Wellington. All equipment will go via Golden Highway and Denman Bridge. Mostly the trucks movements are between 7am and 830am. If people are being caught in traffic let Council know who can liaise with Squadron Energy.
- Energy Co have formally reached out to Council regarding the port to Rez Option 1B which would use Bengalla Link Rd/Wybong Road and Kayuga Road route. Council will keep BMC informed.
- Council have been working with Stage Government agencies and Mt Arthur for potential for other uses on buffer mine land whilst the mine site is still active. This has been progressing well.

Report from [DD]:

- WLALC has had a break in and vehicles destroyed. WLALC as part of a cultural care program with local services, completed a cultural burn out at Denman Common with the support of Muswellbrook Shire Council. Denman Common is half owned by WLAC and half owned by Council.
- Cultural training is coming up, and all are invited. First day is in class and the second day is on country. The cultural training includes cultural processes, artefacts, scar trees, and Uncle Glenn is running this program.
- The shed is close to being finished.

8. BENGALLA OPERATIONAL UPDATE

22-week plan shown. Bengalla Link Road relocation which is subject to approval of a modification of our consent. Bengalla are hopeful to commence construction Q3 2026. There will be minimal disruption, with some interaction around Wyndham Arms ROW. It will take approximately 18 months to complete. As it gets closer to commencement, we will have some information sessions on this. There are three elements to completing this- we are working on a deed with Council, securing contractors to complete the work and securing offsets.

9. LAND MANAGEMENT

SSD- 5170 conceptual final landform for BMC. Forward work program on rehab- Mod 9 will be submitted to the regulator next month which sees a change to the landform- geomorphic design. If Mod 9 is approved rehab work will pick up/increase.

The area highlighted for 2027 is topsoil and we are looking to move this shortly to be able to use for rehab.

Weed management – Currently focusing on cactoblastus and other biological controls on prickly pear and tiger pear. Bengalla trialled this in Merriwa River and onsite and this has been successful.

Due to the workload and offset locations, Bengalla has utilised additional companies to manage weed control. We have 6,000 hectares of land to manage so extra assistance to manage this land.

Feral Pest Management. Have kicked off Autumn wild dog program which will occur over several weeks in partnership with LLS. Will present the results of this in a future meeting. Also partnering with a neighbour in the offset area for an aerial shoot.

Rabbit issue onsite and a baiting program was instigated.

Bengalla has partnered with the Agricultural Company, and they have had success with nighttime feral pig control.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Environmental monitoring review for February to April 2026 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:

- Criterion - 24 Hour PM10. During the Reporting Period BMC with the 24-hour PM10 air quality criterion we had 1 exceedance in April. BMC are still preparing a report which will show BMCs contribution, exceedance is not anticipated. Bengalla are still under the annual average criteria requirements. There was also an exceedance at the Constable residence which will also be investigated.

  2 further dust monitors have been installed and will be commissioned shortly. Need to register an easement.

- Noise Management:

- For the Reporting Period BMC was compliant with the noise criteria. Update to committee on noise exceedance on 26-27 November, Bengalla had a noise exceedance. Report from specialist consultant shows Bengalla was compliant with noise criteria- the exceedance was not applicable due to invalid meteorological conditions (inversion) train noise was audible.

- Blast Monitoring:

  - In the coming months the compliance monitor will change due to land ownership changes.

  - Since the last CCC meeting one blast exceeded compliance limit of 10mm/s at the Moore monitor. No blasts exceeded compliance limits of 120dB(L).

  - BMC have a blast agreement in place to the landowner with the Moore blast monitor. BMC were asked how often they exceeded the 10mm/s levels. Environment and Approvals Superintendent noted no more than once a month following the implementation of the blast agreement with the landowner.

- Water Usage:

  - BMC has extracted 720ML from the Hunter River from 1 Feb 2026 to 30 April 2026. Rainfall was above the long-term average for February 2026, below the long term average for March 2026 and April 2026 was the driest April in nearly 35 years.

- Complaints:

  - In 2026 BMC have received 5 complainants with 10 complaints via the complaint's process/hotline.

- Environmental incidents: 0.

[JM] Recently there was a lot of smoke coming from what looked like a coal seam. What was occurring? [CH] Bengalla had some spontaneous combustion in the Mt Arthur Seam, and this is a reportable incident.

Independent Environment Report outcomes discussed and available on the public website. Auditors happy with the general environmental management of the site. 20 minor non-compliances were identified across the different authorities. These were discussed at the meeting. Opportunities for improvement have been identified.

11. PROJECTS AND OTHER ITEMS

APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

Modification 6

- Recycled Water Pipeline is on hold. Currently decision sitting with Muswellbrook Shire Council.

Modification 8

- Bengalla Link Road. Hoping to have this approved in Q3 2026. In the response to submissions phase.

Modification 9

- Changes to the approved final landform.
- Looking to submit in June. The final landform will be more visually improving.
- Looking at capturing flaring to reduce our emissions.
- Minor changes to our water infrastructure to manage water off the new landform changes.

Future Bengalla

- Multiple mine planning options have been considered.
- Considering underground options as well.
- Currently looking at tyre recycling options. Bengalla team members have viewed a facility in Cootamundra.
- Tailings to topsoil- have been doing trial work for a long period of time.

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 March to May 2026

- Aberdeen Highland Games
- Denman Cricket Club – Completion of synthetic cricket nets
- McCully's Gap Hall Assoc Inc – Replacement of septic system
- Merriwa Junior Rugby League Club – Metal grandstand and seating
- Upper Hunter Country Tourism – Postage and printing costs of magazine
- Upper Hunter Dog Stock Challenge – Event Sponsorship
- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council – Sponsorship of Wanaruah Women's Group Workshops
- KOTR Stockman's Challenge – Event naming rights sponsor
- Red Door Community Kitchen – New kitchen appliances
- Muswellbrook RSL Sub-Branch – New Marquee
- Upper Hunter Homeless Support – Sponsorship of Kitchen Packs
- Muswellbrook Scouts – Program Record Books
- Muswellbrook Rugby Union Club – Junior Training Shorts
- St Mary's School Scone – Sponsorship towards swimming program
- Denman Pony Club – Club Sponsorship
- St Josephs Primary School Merriwa P&F – Junior Campdraft Sponsorship
- Denman Charity Horse Ride – Donation of 2x Fire Baskets
- Deman Public School – Sponsorship towards transport to a Recreation Camp
- St Joesph's Catholic College Aberdeen – Heart to Heart Program
- St James Primary School – Sponsorship towards a shade cover

- Muswellbrook High School – Sponsorship towards Inclusion and Support Educational Camp

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

- Rotary Community Monthly Dinners
- International Women's Day Celebration (onsite)
- Muswellbrook Shire International Women's Day
- Upper Hunter Veteran's Golf Association – Week of Golf
- Upper Hunter Show & School Beef Cattle Judging
- NCHA Autumn Spectacular – National Finals
- PCYC Youth Visit
- MCCI After Five Event
- Muswellbrook Art Prize
- Blackroo –Mick Sheedy Golf Day
- Muswellbrook Touch Football Presentation Night
- Easter Family Fun Day
- Upper Hunter Stock Dog Challenge
- Scone Charity Rodeo
- Muswellbrook High School 90th Anniversary Opening
- WRHS Muswellbrook Golf Day
- Scone Grammar School Fete
- Muswellbrook Polocrosse Carnival
- WRHS Newcastle Ball
- Muswellbrook High School Work Experience
- Hunter Melanoma Biggest Morning Tea
- Singleton Careers in Mining Dinner
- Voice for Mining Family Fun Day
- UHMD School Mines Tour – St Joseph Campus
- Newcastle Careers Mining Event

Bengalla Community Open Day is scheduled for Saturday 12 September 2026.

13. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Ideas include- Bengalla Link Road relocation- design and construction (May 2026), Modification 8 and 9 update, Emissions reduction programs, Western Diversion Levee, 2026 Scholarships, Bengalla Continuation, how we survey for ecology of the road, Open Day article, Hawk.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 August 2026 at 3.00pm.

Meeting closed at 5:11pm.

Attachments:
- Meeting Presentation slides.

1 ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 154 – Wednesday 27 May 2026

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Update on construction on the western side of Bengalla. The Mt Pleasant dam	HF
2	Is there an alternate to horns on diggers/dozers? Noise on excavators. BMC report back on alternate actions	HF
3	Provide more detail on Bengalla's future plans	JC
4	Update on exceedances investigation to all members	HF
5	Share to Committee non compliances from Independent Environment Audit	HF
6	Share cultural burn report	DD