



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 121

Location: Bengalla Boardroom
Date: Wednesday 28 February 2018

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Malcolm Ogg	Chairperson
Dennis Burton	CCC member
Jonathan Moore	CCC member
Llewellyn Bates	CCC member
Noel Downs	CCC member
John Campbell	Bengalla Mining Company (Technical Services Manager)
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company (Environment and Approvals Superintendent)
Laurel McGinnity	Bengalla Mining Company (Environmental Advisor)
Debbie Day	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations Specialist)

Meeting opened: 4.00pm

Following a tour of the Bengalla Dispatch by the Committee members the meeting was declared open. Chairperson, Malcolm Ogg introduced Scott Brooks representing Muswellbrook Shire Council. Scott provided a summary of his background.

1. APOLOGIES:

Cam Halfpenny - Bengalla Mining Company (CEO)
Noel Downs - CCC member

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: Llewellyn Bates

3. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ACTION LIST

Action 1 – Provide copy of Mach Energy’s application for a new location for rail line currently on the Department of Planning website – copy of main volume provided to members at the meeting. Craig White further provided a brief outline of the Modification 4 Application lodged by Mach Energy with the Department of Planning particularly the new location for the rail.

Action 2 – Livestock owned by Parkinson on Roxburgh Road. Craig White advised the property had been checked and issue addressed.

Action 3 – Tour of Dispatch – complete.

Action 4 – Review of monitoring network. The members were provided with fact sheets for the various monitoring networks operated by Bengalla.

Craig White discussed the compliance monitors on site and how the data is collected from each of the monitor types.

Jonathon Moore asked who decides where monitors are located and if there is a change, who instigates the change. The Monitors are located to be representative of the privately own land around Bengalla and in particular the house on privately-owned land.

Malcolm Ogg asked, if the mine was to purchase the privately-owned land would the monitors be relocated? Craig White advised that while the mine had not been in that situation there is potential for that to occur.

Scott Brooks outlined options available to Bengalla.

Laurel McGinnity reviewed the location of the blast monitors and ground water bores and method for data collection.

Jonathon Moore raised an interest about the mining of Dry Creek and the groundwater. Craig White comments that as part of the Bengalla Continuation of Mining Project Environmental Impact Statement Bengalla Mining Company did a groundwater study that predicts water inflow to the pit. Craig to check the inflow amount and report back to the next meeting providing information from the AEMR on the effects of mining on water. Every drop of water that flows to the pit requires a water licence, Bengalla has made application for that.

Laurel McGinnity reviewed the location of the compliance dust monitors and depositional dust gauges and method for data collection.

Scott Brooks provided information on the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring network monitors operated by the Environment Protection Authority, the data can be found on the EPA website.

Craig reverted back to Jonathon's query about location of monitors explaining the modelling process and impact results. Bengalla has a responsibility to minimise impacts and is looking at some trials to minimise dust leaving site.

Jonathon Moore commented that for more than a year they have been emphasizing the Castlerock and Wybong communities concern about dust yet both Mt Pleasant and Bengalla are indicating that they would like to remove some dust monitors on Mt Pleasant land. Jonathon said that "it is really important that they do not get moved even if they are an old version as it is a history of the dust that is being collected and at some point the community has to stand up and say that dust is increasing and the mines have to show that they are recording it." Jonathan encouraged Bengalla to have as many monitoring points as possible and if there are dust monitors on the northern side of Bengalla the community wants it recorded.

Craig White responded advising that Bengalla's obligation is to minimize dust leaving site and that the Environment Protection Authority required Bengalla to measure 'dust in dust out' of the pit for all mines in the Hunter Valley during the recent spring/summer period. In Bengalla's case, from three monitors as highlighted on the fact sheets. These monitors are still in place and recording data.

Action 5 – Rehab trial final report. Report presented by Laurel McGinnity.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Clr Rod Scholes advising his resignation from Bengalla CCC.

6. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- Bengalla Complaints Hotline is still providing option to make a complaint about Dry Creek. Bengalla to rectify.
- All residents (Castlerock and Wybong) travelling along Wybong Road are complaining about the increase in dust.
- Rarely see water carts on Bengalla haul roads. Llewellyn advised that when it is windy the dust is very noticeable in particular the area past Dry Creek and when the visual bund was being built. Scott Brooks provided advice on the EPA guidelines for dust on haul trucks. John Campbell advised that Bengalla had been talking with its workers about the EPA guidelines and Bengalla's expectations to comply with those guidelines
- Clarification of approval for dust to go over Wybong Road. Craig White advised that the development consent includes modelling for dust which shows the impacts. That modelling shows dust crossing Wybong Road which is the predicted impact however there are conditions within the consent and the management plan that require Bengalla to manage and minimise those impacts.
- Blasting - are there monitors in the dam wall (CW1). Does the blasting affect the dam wall. Craig White advised that there are a range of monitors across the dam and regular inspections are carried out on the dam. John Campbell advised that the dam is designed to earthquake standards.

Report from Jonathan Moore:

- Wild Dog meeting at Wybong. Annual baiting which has been successful. Encouraged Bengalla to be involved by providing funding for the baiting programme and participate in the programme.
- Real concern about dust and in particular dust leaving Bengalla's mine as well as dust in the morning. The community wants to see that water carts are being used at all times including during the night. Scott Brooks provided some facts about early morning dust.
- John Campbell acknowledged that dust is a real concern for the community. Bengalla has five watercarts on site and are looking at ways to maximise their utilisation as well as trialling a water spray on the northern end wall.
- In recent times has there been an increase in size or length of blast? John Campbell advised that the size of the blast has not increased but the community may be feeling the Vaux blasts.

7. MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for period November & December 2017 and January 2018.

- Air Quality
 - PM₁₀, TSP and dust depositional compliance monitoring data was presented. During November and December 2017 elevated 24-hour average PM₁₀ monitoring results were recorded at PM4 on Wybong Road.
 - During January 2018 elevated 24-hour average PM₁₀ monitoring results were recorded at PM1 on Racecourse Road, PM3 on Roxburgh Road and at PM4 on Wybong Road.
 - An elevated annual TSP measurement of 96.4 µg/m³ was recorded at HV6 for the 2017 calendar year.
 - Investigations are occurring on all data exceedances.
 - Dennis Burton asked as to the legal parts per million of dust for a human being. Action: Craig White to provide information at next meeting.
 - For the reporting period, annual average and maximum increase dust deposition data was below the Development consent criterion.
- Noise Management:
 - For the reporting period, Bengalla complied with all noise criteria application at all monitoring locations.
- Blast Monitoring:
 - Bengalla remained in compliance with all consent limits.
- Water Usage:
 - Rainfall and water sourced from Hunter River was presented.
- Progressive Rehabilitation:
 - Approximately 16 ha, comprising generally in the south of the Overburden Emplacement Area, is planned for rehabilitation in 2018.
- Complaints:
 - During the reporting period 17 complaints were received.
- Environmental incidents:
 - During the period Bengalla had 11 environmental incidents.

8. COMMUNITY REPORT

Debbie Day presented a slide outlining the 2017 spend within the community and the events scheduled for Q1 2018.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Scott Brooks provided an update on access to the Hunter River via Keys Bridge.

10. CCC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- The February newsletter was approved by the Committee.

- Suggested articles for the May newsletter:
 - Bengalla's involvement in bushfires and their preparedness for the bushfire season.
 - Bengalla's involvement in community.
 - Recognition of Committee members contribution to the CCC and the open dialogue occurring regarding dust.

Meeting closed at 5:30pm

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides.

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 121 – Wednesday 28 February 2018

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Consider tour of CHPP control room for the August meeting	C White
2	Groundwater impacts from mining – provide information from Annual Environmental Monitoring Report	C White
3	Remove option to complain about Dry Creek from Complaints Hotline	L McGinnity
4	Bengalla to contribute to wild dog baiting programme	C White/J Campbell
5	Provide information on standards around health criteria about air quality. Provide link to Upper Hunter Community monitoring network website	C White
6	Change 2018 colour on rainfall graph provided in pre-meeting papers	L McGinnity