



BENGALLA MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting No. 134

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Boardroom and Via Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday 26th May 2021

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Jonathan Moore	CCC Member
Llewellyn Bates	CCC Member
Cam Halfpenny	Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) (General Manager)
Craig White	Bengalla Mining Company (Environment Superintendent)
Glenn Meyn	Bengalla Mining Company (Mining Manager)
Fiona Hartin	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations Specialist)
Sharon Pope	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)

Meeting opened: 3.15pm

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Jonathan Moore, Malcolm Ogg. In the absence of the Chair it was opened to the CCC members to chair the meeting. This was declined. Glenn Meyn chaired the meeting.
- 2. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**
Nil
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was agreed that the minutes of the February meeting would be emailed prior to the next meeting
Moved by: J Moore (via email after meeting) Seconded by: L Bates (via email after meeting)
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/ACTION LIST**

Action 1. Follow up on new representative for the Wanaruah LALC. Upon appointment by Wanaruah LALC of a chief executive officer Wanaruah LALC would advise BMC. Complete
Action 2. Present a summary of last year's rehabilitation on the southern mound-Presentation given by CW at the meeting. Complete
Action 3. Provide CCC presentation to all CCC members. Craig briefed CCC Members. Complete
- 5. CORRESPONDENCE**
Pre-meeting Summary Papers, Agenda and draft Newsletter emailed or posted to the CCC members.

Additional agenda items will be emailed to the CCC members.
- 6. REPORTS FROM CCC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

New agenda. A draft agenda was shown to the CCC members. This will be emailed to all CCC members for their consideration and then adoption at the August meeting.

Report from Llewellyn Bates:

- Potholes - Due to increased traffic on Bengalla Road due to the closure of Wybong Road there are a number of potholes that require repair. Could these be repaired before it becomes a major issue. [CH] Because of the increased traffic it highlights the importance of keeping the road up to scratch. [GM] There has also been money put forward in the 2021/22 budget to repair the worst sections of the road.
- 27/4/21 BMC blasted. There were no visible signs, but LB noted an odour. LB felt the blast (from Vaux) and made a complaint. LB received a report in return but notes there was no feedback on the odour from her complaint. [CW] How often would that happen? There was a blast last Saturday. This blast was noticeable.
- People have asked out of interest about the weaner cattle. Are they from Queensland? [CH] New Hope Group subsidiary Bengalla Agricultural Company is managing the land since NHG have become 80% owners. There has been improvement and there are further opportunities to become better. Mitchell Lucht is the farm manager and we have approval for a trainee on the farm. [LB] People are impressed with the way it is being managed.

Report from Sharon Pope:

- Mt Arthur have confirmed that they are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to extend the life of their mine to 2048. It will come closer to the new Edderton Road. They are also proposing a new entrance to the mine off the new Edderton Road. There is concern about the increase in traffic on Thomas Mitchell and Golden Highway.
- The Liddell power station the battery EIS has come off exhibition. Should travel quite quickly through the approval planning process. There is a conveyor belt on the Mt Arthur site that will be removed.
- Maxwell don't have their mining lease, it is expected soon. Construction is expected to commence shortly and coal from mid to late next year.

Cam Halfpenny:

- From a vehicle and driving perspective, there has been an increased focus in the industry regarding vehicles and driving. Particularly interactions between light vehicles and heavy machinery. BMC also take this very seriously.

Craig White:

- In future with the new CCC agenda we will present a general overview of Bengalla. Typically, each quarter we undertake aerial photography. The March aerial photography is shown.

Glenn Meyn:

- [GM] The Operation is nearing the Mt Pleasant train line, hence the focus on assisting Mt Pleasant to move their rail by the end of October next year. We are conscious of the residents around us and we do all things practicable, so we minimise interruption to others. We continue to focus on rehabilitation, particularly the knolls.

Cam Halfpenny:

- [CH] From a future production perspective we are running at 10Mt product coal a year and 13Mt ROM coal. We are close to the processing limit on the plant and we are investigating growth options. BMC have applied for an exploration licence over A102 to our west with the aim of understanding if there are coal reserves to support Bengalla's operation beyond 2039. From a marketing perspective we are seeing good quality coal sold at US \$100 per tonne. The 5500-kcal product is selling for approximately US \$55/tonne. We have sourced alternative customers for our 5500-kcal product. The outlook from the media is negative on coal. Our view is the opposite. We are positive about the future of thermal coal. There are increasing renewables in the market, but demand from our customers continues to be strong.

Sharon Pope:

- [SP] Have you undertaken test drilling? Do you think the new area will be open cut or will it be underground? [CH] We are a shallow pit and our future would be to continue with open cut mining. This work is commencing due to the approval process. [SP] One matter for a new approval is the final void being established in a more natural way. [CH] Yes that is something we will need to consider.
- [CW] Exploration Lease Application:
BMC lodged the application 23 February with public advertisement complete. Regional NSW are preparing the market test. It is anticipated any approval will take around 12 to 18 months timeframe. [LB] Is there many privately owned places within that? [CW] There is one parcel of freehold land which to the West of Bengalla that has acquisition rights.
- Modification 5 queries:
The Western Diversion Levee - Why is it there? It diverts clean water west of the mine to the Hunter River. BMC don't have a licence to harvest this water.
ROM pad - We are seeking approval to increase the ROM coal storage on the ROM pad.
Rock Crusher - Approval is required to operate the rock crusher at the proposed processing volumes.
Administration – There are other minor modifications to the approval sought.
- Land Management:
Offset Land - The offset land is required to enable disturbance of land for mining. BMC has approximately 6000 hectares of offset land under management.
Rehabilitation – There is an annual target for rehabilitation at the mine. BMC reports each year rehabilitation in the Annual Review. This includes the installation of high density woody vegetation (HDWV) of the faces of the overburden placement area facing Muswellbrook and Denman Road. We are currently installing HDWV on a staged basis annually using tube stock and direct seeding. [SP] Are you finding a difference between the tube stock and the seeding? [CW] It varies, for example, there is a variation in the quality of the soil. In terms of HDWV installation Zone 6 and Zone 4 are complete. There is a program to complete the remaining zones over four years. For 2021 the target is 61 hectares.
- Baiting and Weed Control:
Baiting - Bengalla is implementing a dog baiting program and a pig baiting program. The program occurs over three weeks at 25 locations with the baits replenished weekly. There has been 21 baits takes to date.
Weed Control - Weed Control has focused on box thorn and galenia.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review for February 2021, March 2021, and April 2021 (the Reporting Period).

- Air Quality:
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's short term (24-hour) PM₁₀ criteria (50 µg/m³), 2 elevated results were recorded during the Reporting Period being:
 - 60.5 µg/m³ at PM10-1 on 15 April 2021. Bengalla increment estimated to be 37.8 µg/m³;
 - 53 µg/m³ at PM10-4 on 27 April 2021. Bengalla increment estimated to be 8.4 µg/m³;
 - [GM] For Bengalla there is 2 ways we react in the mine. We are monitoring Bengalla 24/7. We observe weather apps. We check the weather everyday and are looking days in advance. We have listed in our operational plans dumps we can dump to for certain wind speeds. The triggers require a reaction. There are days we shut down when the wind speed is below the trigger for example when the wind speed is 1.6m/sec. The pit is also shut down due to visual assessment of dust. [SP] If there is an ability in the medium term to be able to put some real time information on the website that would be beneficial.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual PM₁₀ criteria (25 µg/m³) averaging period (calendar year):
 - PM10-1 read 25.7 µg/m³.
 - PM10-1 annual average excluding extraordinary events 21.9 µg/m³.
 - PM10-3 read 26.5 µg/m³.
 - PM10-3 annual average excluding extraordinary events 23.8 µg/m³; and
 - PM10-4 read 32.0 µg/m³;
 - PM10-4 monitor reading after excluding extraordinary events and the nearest private receptor (169) was 23.2 µg/m³.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual Total Suspended Particulates criteria (90 µg/m³) averaging period (calendar year):
 - HV6 read 96.5 µg/m³.
 - HV6 annual average TSP excluding extraordinary events was 87.7 µg/m³.
 - Pursuant to Bengalla's annual Total Deposited Dust annual criteria (4 g/m²/m) averaging period (calendar year):
 - D20 read 4.5 g/m²/m.

- D20 Bengalla estimated contribution 0.3 g/m²/m.
- Pursuant to Bengalla's annual Particulate matter <2.5 µg criteria (8 µg/m³) averaging period (calendar year):
 - The DPIE "Muswellbrook" monitor read 9.3 µg/m³.
- Noise Management:
 - For the Reporting Period Bengalla complied with all noise criteria at compliance monitoring locations.
- Blast Monitoring:
 - For the Reporting Period Bengalla was compliant with the blast criteria.
- Water Usage:
 - Rainfall was above the long-term average for February and March and below average for April.
 - Rainfall for February= 106.5mm, March 155.5mm and April 10.5mm
 - During the reporting period BMC discharged 136 ML of water over March 20, 21, 22 and 23. Bengalla Mine discharge commencing 20 March 2021 (38ML) resulted in one grab sample above the TSS criteria (120mg/L) 276 mg/L. That grab sample was reported to the regulators. The expert concluded for this discharge the risk of material harm was more likely trivial. Bengalla Mine discharge commencing 23 March 2021 (21 ML) resulted in one grab sample above the TSS criteria (120mg/L) 3060mg/L. After inspection the discharge was ceased. That grab sample TSS was reported to the regulators. The expert concluded for this discharge the actual risk was low and most probably trivial. [SP] When you do those notifications, the EPA can understand the notification but there will be a lot of people that don't have a lot of understanding. You might need to put in brackets that water is discharging and in brackets in commas, this is not heavy metals etc. The concern was is it going to contaminate the water we are pulling out of the river. [CW] Confirmed that there the risk was trivial regarding the water discharge.
 - BMC has extracted 554 megalitres of water in the 2020/2021 water year (as at 1 May 2021).
- Progressive Rehabilitation:
 - During 2020 BMC completed 15.3 Ha of new HDWV rehabilitation and 5.7 Ha of new pasture rehabilitation. There was 56.6 Ha of HDWV installed over existing rehabilitated areas. A total 77.6 Ha of rehabilitation was completed.
- Complaints:
 - During the Reporting Period 20 complaints were received, the majority regarding blasting
- Environmental incidents: 0

8. COMMUNITY REPORT

Community slides presented including a summary of the community partnerships and community events. Events and sponsorships over the last quarter include Scone Bucking Bulls, 48th Muswellbrook Art Prize, Upper Hunter Show, Schools Beef Cattle Day. Muswellbrook Race Club Charity Golf Day, Group 21 Rugby League, Muswellbrook Netball Association, engineering Vacation Students onsite, Aberdeen Junior Rugby League, Easter Family Fun Day, Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, Scone Charity Rodeo, Polly Farmer Foundation, Hunter Life Education, UHMD School Mines Tours, Upper Hunter Veterans Golf Association Week of Championships.

9. CCC NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Continue with articles on Bengalla and the community. Content of next CCC meeting, ideas for consideration - bushfire season preparation, 22 week plan (video), reject cells and how they are managed, Hitachi big data and Opguard/Safemine.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th August 2021 at 3.00pm

Meeting closed at 5:25pm

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation slides

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 134 – Wednesday 26th May 2021

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTION BY
1	Send out draft agenda to CCC members to enable vote on the proposed changes at the next meeting.	FH
2	Ask CCC members for feedback on the February minutes.	FH
3	Provide a response to the potholes on Bengalla Road that require maintenance.	CH
4	Present the Modification 5 presentation to MO and JM.	CW
5	Provide a progress update regarding provision of real time information of equipment operating at Bengalla and actions taken on our website	CH
6	Blasting - Bengalla to be aware of wind direction when blasting when wind from the south east or north west.	GM