



Moolarben Coal Mines – Community Consultative Committee Meeting 2

Date: 28 August 2008

Time: 5.00-7.00pm

Location: 16 Robinson Street, Ulan

Attendees: Noel O'Brien OAM (Independent Chairperson)
Ian Callow (Moolarben Coal Mines)
Edwina White (Moolarben Coal Mines)
Vicky Tapp (Community Member)
Ken Mayberry (Community Member)
Julia Imrie (Community Member)
Malcom Swords (Community Member)
Helen Swords (Community Member)
Annette Riley (Community Member)
David Stokes (Community Member)

Apologies: Esme Martens (Mid Western Regional Council – Councillor)
Allan Wells (Wells Environmental Services)

Guests: David McMahon

Meeting Items

1. Noel O'Brien OAM opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees at 5.05pm
 - a. Apologies noted
 - b. Items arising from the previous minutes
 - i. Julia Imrie raised the issue of the minute taking
 - ii. Julia Imrie raised the issue of the CCC's role in Stage 2
 - iii. These were noted. Noel O'Brien noted that the minutes were a point of conjecture but maintained that the minutes should only record the recommendations arrived by consensus or otherwise
2. Ian Callow was invited to provide an update regarding commencement of activities. Points noted
 - Construction to commence 3rd quarter of this year – October/November
 - Production needs to coincide with the new Port commissioning in 2010
 - Construction includes the detailed design phase
 - Newspaper articles have suggested that the Moolarben Coal Project may be hold for more than 6 months. These are only stories and not entirely factual

- Appeal court handed down decision and Orders associated with the decision are yet to be handed down, the Moolarben Mining Leases are still valid
 - Ian Callow – Approved Management Plans will be provided to the CCC
 - Noel O’Brien reiterated – the CCC will not have access to privileged information
2. Edwina White/Ian Callow provided update on the progress of the intersections
- Works currently being undertaken on the intersection between Ulan-Cassilis Road and Ulan-Wollar Road
 - Detailed designs for other intersections as required by the Project Approval have been designed in accordance with the Project Approval requirements
 - Road works cannot be completed until September as Hotmix not available until weather warms up
3. Edwina White provided update on the progress of the Management Plans and Approval requirements. All the Management Plans and Monitoring Programs have been developed in consultation with the relevant Government Departments. Five documents have been lodged with the Department of Planning awaiting approval, five documents are currently being finalized for submission to the Department of Planning, one document has been approved by the Department of Planning. As documents are approved, they will be posted onto the Moolarben website and provided to the CCC.
- Environment Protection Licence was presented.
 - Edwina White - water licence applications for production bores had been lodged with the DWE and that they will be assessed appropriately under the Part 5 of the Water Act 1912
4. Annette Riley presented matters regarding the Ulan Public School
- Annette Riley reported that within the School community, there are concerns about the likelihood of the school relocation including where, what are the possible locations, can the school community please be consulted, what are the interim measures if the construction period goes bad;
 - The Statement of Commitments states that if the Department of Education and Training would like to relocate the school, Moolarben would contribute to the reasonable cost of doing so. The other option is noise amelioration. It was noted that Moolarben will be installing a noise monitor to measure the levels of noise at the school
 - Noel O’Brien summed up by saying that amelioration of the school is a first option. The biggest risk is if the school is moved, we may lose it
 - Ian Callow stated that temporary relocation of the school could be an option that Moolarben would consider in consultation with DET and the Ulan Public School
 - **Noise**
 - Edwina White talked about noise monitoring, noise levels and frequencies.
 - MCM to organise a noise level meter to demonstrate different noise levels
 - Ian Callow stated that the Open Cut Examiner would be responsible for the activities carried out in the pit. If the noise levels are too high, Moolarben would operate in accordance with its Noise Management Plans. Actions may necessitate a cessation of activities
 - **Loss of Groundwater**
 - Request that MCM explain the Approval Condition "*suitable compensation or compensatory measures to the owners of any privately owned land whose water supply is adversely affected by the project.*"
 - MCM stated they would replace any loss of groundwater caused by the Moolarben project and this would be done through negotiation with each affected party
 - **Vegetation**
 - Enquiry on progress regarding: Transfer of vegetation clearing Offset - 130 hectares of the White Box Yellow Box Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland to DECC (required by Oct 2008 under the EPBC Act).

- MCM is still in the final stages of negotiating the Offset package regarding Endangered Ecological Community with the relevant Government Authority

5. Edwina White presented a summary of Community Complaints

- Edwina stated that there had been two community complaints.
- The first complaint was made to the EPA hotline – DECC called MCM to report the complaint of a “rotten potato smell coming from one of the piezometers”. Landholder suspected methane was escaping from a piezometer near their front property gate. The capped piezometer was monitored on the same day of the complaint and inspections were undertaken the following two days and are undertaken monthly. No such odours have been or were detected. Septic system thought to be the cause. DECC was satisfied with the responses. The complainant (Julia Imrie from Goulburn River Stone Cottages) regards the issue can only be resolved by an expert investigation and there remains a potential risk.
- The second complaint was about incorrect details on a recent Newsletter issued by Moolarben. There was an objection to the personal contact numbers of CCC members being included on the Moolarben Newsletter with a direction to contact CCC members “*should you wish to discuss any issue associated with the project*”. A name was also misspelt and incorrect phone number listed. Newsletter was withdrawn on request of the complainant.
- Noel O’Brien asked the question how did CCC members want their details circulated
- Julia Imrie requested that her personal contact details are not posted on any MCM material or website.

6. Other Matters

- Edwina White to contact Mr Clifford Wall regarding monitoring
- Noel O’Brien has spoken with DoP on the matter including members of the indigenous community participating and joining the CCC and is comfortable with potential of these new members. This matter to be followed up.
- David Stokes mentioned that he had not been included on the Agenda. Edwina White stated that this would be amended
- The Stage 2 Major Project Application has been lodged and the Environmental Assessment will be forwarded to the DoP in the near future for the adequacy review. The Planning Focus was held in November of last year with Government Departments.
- The approval of Stage 2 would enable a mining complex that would include Stage 1 as an integrated project
- Julia Imrie requested that the expenses arising out of attending CCC meetings should be reimbursed by Moolarben.
- Ian Callow said he would take this on notice
- Next meeting date was not determined. A suggested date would be circulated at least 21 days prior. The meeting would be around late October.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm