

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 43**

Date: Tuesday 5th December 2017
Time: 4:06pm
Location: Moolarben Coal Open Cut Administration Board Room, Ulan
Attendance: Independent Chairperson
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Aleisha Lonsdale (AL)
Andrew Palmer (AP)
Bev Smiles (BS)
David Stokes (DS)
Cr (Mayor) Des Kennedy (DK)
Helen Ungaro (HU)
Julia Imrie (JI)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Steve Archinal (SA)
Graham Chase (GC)
Mathew Croake (MCR)
Michelle Cavanagh (MCA)
Trent Cini (TC)

Apologies

Councillor O'Neil (Mid-Western Regional Council)
Councillor Cavalier (Mid-Western Regional Council)

A hard copy of the Agenda and Meeting 43 Presentation was provided to all meeting attendees.

1. Introduction and Welcome

Lisa Andrews (LA) confirmed she is engaged by Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) to chair the CCC meeting.

2. Apologies

Councillor O'Neil and Councillor Cavalier (Mid-Western Regional Council).

3. Business Arising from Finalised Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of Meeting 42.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence to the CCC since meeting 42 included the following:

- 20/9/17 – Draft minutes sent to CCC members from LA for review/comment, however, resent on 30/9/17 with an extended time frame due to a technical difficulty. Comments received back from BS & JI.
- 17/10/17 – Finalised minutes sent from LA to CCC members.
- 18/10/17 – Email from Mid-Western Regional Council advising that on 20th September 2017 it resolved to appoint Cr Paul Cavalier and Cr John O’Neill as Council’s representatives on the CCC until the end of August 2018. Both Councilors are on the CCC email distribution list.
- 18/10/17 – Acknowledgement email back to MWRC from LA.
- 9/11/17 – Email/Letter from Subsidence Advisory NSW, advising of the changes to the mine subsidence compensation system.
- 10/11/17 – Mine Subsidence Compensation information forwarded from LA to CCC members
- 11/11/17 – Email from BS to LA advising that MOD 14 was on exhibition & requesting a hard copy of the EA for the Mudgee District Environment Group.
- 11/11/17 – Email to CCC members from LA with Modification information and advising that the closing date for submissions is 7/12/17.
- 13/11/17 – Email from JI to LA regarding water issues associated with the MOD.
- 29/11/17 – Email form DS to LA with his completed Declaration of Interest forms
- 5/12/17 - Email from MWRC to LA advising that Mayor Des Kennedy would be representing the Council at Meeting 43.

LA moved the Correspondence. AP seconded the Correspondence.

5. CCC Update Presentation

GC provided an update on community, the opening of the Coal Services Moolarben Mines Rescue Station and Moolarben Underground, an operational update, exploration, environmental monitoring, complaints, rehabilitation, an Underground Project update and an employment update.

JI questioned the nature of works being carried out between Bobadeen Creek and the Ulan Road. TC advised trees were being planted on the offset property.

BS questioned where the noise complaints were coming from. GC advised the complaints were primarily coming from the Cooks Gap region.

BS requested a copy of the area of disturbance compared to the areas of rehabilitation. GC confirmed that the disturbance and rehabilitation areas would be provided in the Annual Review.

Meeting 43 Action – Include a slide in the Annual Review presentation on rehabilitation.

BS questioned when the Underground operation would start extraction. GC confirmed that extraction commenced with the start of the longwall with ongoing commissioning.

BS questioned when the Underground would be fully operational. GC confirmed early 2018.

BS questioned whether additional trains associated with the proposed Modification would occur immediately following approval. GC advised the ramp up in train numbers would be progressive.

JI asked what was the current water make and take in Underground One and what month groundwater increased to 65L/s advised in the June CCC meeting. GC advised the increase was experienced progressively and the volumes would be reported in the Annual Review.

Jl questioned the groundwater model inputs. GC advised that MCO completes a groundwater model, monitors groundwater levels, reviews the model, and re-validates the model.

BS questioned the connection between Open Cut 1 void and the Underground 1 water. GC confirmed that the water from Open Cut 1 void moves through to the Underground operation; and that water transfer to and from the location.

Jl expressed her concerns regarding the MCO Groundwater Model including assumptions made and differences with Ulan's model.

An update was provided on the Open Cut Optimisation Modification.

BS noted that the CCC was not advised of the Modification lodgement and request that the CCC be advised in future. GC explained that DP&E provided a list of stakeholders which the Modification must be provided to, which did not include the CCC and apologised for the oversight. GC committed to notifying the CCC of Modification lodgement dates in future.

Meeting 43 Action 2 – Advise CCC Chairperson once MCO receives notification from DP&E that a Modification has been referred to the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

BS questioned how the haul road between Open Cut 2 and 3 would interact with Moolarben Creek. GC advised that the Creek would run under the haul road through culverts.

BS questioned whether MCO water is currently treated. GC advised that it is not and that MCO has not released water offsite in recent years.

GC advised that rehabilitation in OC2 is proposed to change from a final land use of agriculture, to a final land use of native forest/woodland with the Modification. BS questioned whether MCO intends to use the rehabilitation as offsets. GC advised that the majority of offset requirements are met by the Gilgal property and residual offsets requirements may be met alternative offset mechanisms which may include rehabilitation. BS questioned why the final land use had changed. GC advised that the change had come about following discussions with the Department of Resources and Geosciences in order to improve the final land use outcome.

Jl questioned whether a void would remain in Open Cut 3. GC advised that the modification did not include any change to the final void.

6. General Business

BS noted that the CCC would appreciate a copy of the Spring Newsletter and would appreciate a copy of future Newsletters.

A hardcopy of the Spring 2017 Newsletter was subsequently provided to all members of the CCC.

DS raised a community concern that trees were being planted in proximity to Ulan-Cassilis Road on the Bobadeen property and whether the trees could be planted greater than 500m from the road to discourage Kangaroos from crossing the Ulan Road. GC advised that the majority of the property includes regeneration for biodiversity offset purposes and that this would be consistent with Ulan road immediately to the south which has vegetation adjacent to road on both sides.

Meeting 43 Action 3 – GC to provide map of offset areas to LA.

Jl inquired about the Spring and Seeps survey referred to in the 2016 Annual Review and for CCC to be provided with the report. GC confirmed the Springs and Seeps report would be provided in the 2017 Annual Review. Jl noted she believed that the original Springs and Seeps studies did not identify all springs and seeps and GDEs in the area, including in Munghorn Gap near Open Cut 3.

Jl referred to her surface water complaint lodged to MCO and UCML and the source of surface water turbidity flowing under Ulan road following recent rainfall, and commented there was a significant delay of up to 20 hours between the rain event and turbidity in the Goulburn River. GC noted that some exposed areas were present near the old airstrip and that the paddocks had been heavily grazed by kangaroos recently during the dry winter.

Jl asked whether MCO tested mine water for organic pollutants such as TPH, BTEX and phenols which are reported to be present in Permian Coal Measures.

Jl advised that Google Maps directs visitors to Goulburn River Stone Cottages through Moolarben Coal private property and requested the MCO also contact Google Maps to rectify the map error which places the public at risk.

7. Proposed 2018 CCC Meetings

The following dates were proposed for the 2018 CCC meetings, commencing at 4pm.

- Tuesday 13 March;
- Tuesday 12 June;
- Tuesday 11 September; and
- Tuesday 27 November

8. Next Meeting: 13th March 2017 – 4:00pm.

Meeting closed at 5:05pm with LA thanking all CCC members for their contribution and commitment throughout 2017. She wished all members a happy festive season and safe new year.

Action Items

Item	Action	By Whom
1	Include a slide in the Annual Review presentation on rehabilitation	GC
2	Advise CCC Chairperson when modification is referred to PAC	GC
3	Map of offset area to be distributed to CCC members	GC/LA
4	Moolarben Coal to contact Google Maps to support Jl's representations regarding incorrect road directions (passing through Moolarben mine site)	GC/Jl