MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 47

Date: Tuesday 27th November 2018
Time: 4:13pm
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)
Cr John O’Neil (Mid Western Regional Council)
David Stokes (DS)
Helen Ungaro (HU)
Julia Imrie (JI)

Moolarben Coal Operations
Steve Archinal (SA)
Graham Chase (GC)
Trent Cini (TC)
Michelle Frankham (MF)

Apologies
Cr Des Kennedy – Mayor (Mid Western Regional Council)

A hard copy of the Agenda and Meeting 47 Presentation was provided to all meeting attendees.

A site tour was undertaken by all CCC members from 3pm – 4.10pm.
1. **Introduction and Welcome**

Lisa Andrews (LA) opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees to the Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) CCC and thanked GC and team for organising the site tour.

2. **Apologies**

Cr Des Kennedy – Mayor (Mid Western Regional Council).

3. **Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes**

**Meeting 46 Action 1** - *Update community complaints graph to include number of complainants, and the last quarter’s results. Complete*

**Meeting 46 Action 2** – *MCO to provide total surface water storage volume to next meeting.*

GC advised the CCC that currently approximately 900 Megalitres was stored at Moolarben Coal Operations including in mine water and sediment water dams.

**Correspondence (emailed with meeting notice 19/11/18 with one additional item)**

Correspondence to the CCC since meeting 46 included the following:

- 16/9/18 – Draft minutes from 11/9/18 CCC sent to members for review/comment.
- 25/9/18 – Finalised minutes sent to CCC members with Annual Review link.
- 1/10/18 – Email from Bev Smiles requesting information on the train derailment.
- 2/10/18 – Email to members with advice from Moolarben Coal that matter was under investigation.
- 3/10/18 – Email to members regarding the Moolarben Rd closure.
- 19/11/18 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting with the Correspondence Report.
- 26/11/18 – Email to members reminding of Meeting 47 and cancellation of end of year dinner due to low RSVP numbers.

**CCC Update Presentation**

GC provided an update on the Community Support Program (CSP). GC noted there will be a revised approach for the MCO CSP in 2019. GC advised that information will be circulated to the CCC when the new guidelines are released.

GC provided an operational update. BS asked about the number of tonnes extracted from the Open Cut in 2018. GC advised just under 13 million tonnes will be extracted from Open Cut 4 and Open Cut 2 in 2018, separate to the additional Underground coal tonnes.

GC provided a drilling and exploration update.

TC provided an update on environmental monitoring including water quality.

TC provided an update on air quality, noise monitoring and community complaints. BS asked whether the complaints in 2018 had been less on previous years because MCO had purchased complainants’ properties. GC advised that the complainants had not significantly changed and that operational areas have progressed south.
TC provided an update on rehabilitation and biodiversity offsets management. JI asked about the success of the Spiny Rush weed control program? TC advised a combination of chemical and mechanical removal had been used for weed control. The mechanical removal areas had also been mulched. TS advised that good control results had been achieved, with the next focus on the response post rainfall event to follow-up germination. TC advised there had been a significant improvement in Spiny Rush control due to the implemented measures.

BS asked what the total area of Moolarben-held Biodiversity offsets were. GC advised approximately 7,000 ha. BS asked whether most offsets are left to natural regeneration or if plantings are required. TC discussed the different management zones, with Management Zone One comprising remnant vegetation and do not require planting and Management Zone Two areas including natural regeneration and plantings. TC advised of approximately 2,500 trees and seed plantings in 2018. GC explained that Biodiversity Offsets are tied to three federal approvals of varying ages. BS asked the success rate of plantings. TC advised a success rate of 75% is targeted. TC advised monitoring has suggested the offset performance is heading in the right direction. BS asked whether maintenance focused on endangered communities. TC advised maintenance is required on a combination of communities.

BS asked whether offsets are included in a conservation arrangements. GC advised that some offset properties have been transferred to the National Parks estate and some offset properties will covenants on the title. BS asked whether a Conservation Bond has been arranged. GC confirmed a Conservation Bond is in place.

GC provided an employment and recruitment update. DS asked whether trainees are locally sourced. SA confirmed all labour is endeavoured to be locally sourced. DS made reference to employees heading back to the Hunter Valley after working their swing. SA confirmed that some employees do return to the Hunter Valley for family commitments.

GS provided an update on the Open Cut Optimisation Modification. GC advised that the status on the Department of Planning and Environment (eg ‘More Information Required’, does not necessarily reflect outstanding requests. GC advised that MCO does not have any requests for information from DPE. JI asked when MCO expects the Modification assessment report to be released by DPE. GC advised no timeframe has been confirmed by DPE.

GC provided requested groundwater levels to CCC members. GC advised no extraction from Northern Borefields had been undertaken since the previous CCC meeting. JI asked about the drilling near her property gate on Saddlers Creek Road with GC advising that the bore casing is being removed and of a Vibrating Wire Piezometer (VWP) being installed. JI enquired how changes to groundwater water quality in PZ105 would be monitored. GC advised that PZ105C will remain open and the others decommissioned.

JI noted that groundwater levels for PZ105 and PZ179 dropped below the trigger. GC confirmed investigations have been conducted in accordance with the Groundwater Management Plan including specialist input. GC advised that climatic influences had contributed to levels. MCO will continue to monitor the water levels. JI commented PZ105C groundwater levels sit above the river water level and potentially interact with the river.

JI requested that the closed portions of Moolarben Road are marked as a ‘No Through Road’. GC advised that Council have planned to install the signs at both ends of the road. DS noted that signs have been put up on the Wollar end.

JI commented that bore levels are continuing to drop, most noticeably in PZ179 just to the north east of UG1. GC advised MCO is aware of the trend at PZ105. JI asked about water levels in the newly installed bores, PZ192 and 193. GC advised these bores, though closer to the mine, had not seen the same movement. JI asked whether the groundwater levels had been referred to MCO’s groundwater modeller. GC confirmed and advised that the process outlined in the Groundwater Management Plan is followed, including input from specialists. JI expressed her opinion that the decreasing groundwater levels are connected with mine dewatering at UG1.
4. **General Business**

Cr O’Neil extended a thank you to MCO for the site visit. Cr O’Neil made reference to MCO’s rehabilitation success. Cr O’Neil asked how MCO benchmarks the rehabilitation in relation to what is expected from regulators. TC discussed rehabilitation completion criteria and that the rehabilitation is trending towards the criteria. BS asked how climatic influences affect timeframes for rehabilitation. General discussion of rehabilitation timeframes of 10 to 15 years and that climatic influences balance themselves out over the period and that nearby analogue sites are used to inform performance and season changes. TC explained that the rehabilitation approach considers seasonal conditions.

BS asked on behalf of a community member whether MCO had a breach in relation to a stockpile. GC explained that the stockpile referenced is a stockpile of material at the CHPP to be used in final landform shaping. DPE considered the stockpile was not generally in accordance with the Environmental Assessment. GC advised that the stockpile has been considered in the Open Cut Optimisation Modification.

BS asked whether EL6288 had been renewed. GC advised the renewal application is still with DRG for processing.

BS asked whether MCO sources gravel from Bylong Quarry for blast stemming material, referencing a comment made by a community member on the number of gravel trucks from the area. **Meeting 47 Action 1: MCO to advise whether gravel from Bylong Quarry is provided to MCO.**

BS made reference to a press release suggesting that China is not importing coal until the end of 2018 and asked how that affects the MCO business. SA advised that no impact was expected in MCO operations. General discussion of purchasers, noting Korea, Japan and China with China being the largest purchaser.

5. **Meeting Schedule for 2019**

MCO CCC Meeting Dates were confirmed for 12 March, 4 June, 10 September, and 26 November 2019.

LA thanked everyone for their contribution to the CCC in 2018 and wished members a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

6. **Next Meeting:** 12th March 2019 – 4:00pm.

*Meeting Closed at 4:58pm.*

**Action Items:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Send revised MCO CSP guidelines to CCC when available</td>
<td>GC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MCO to advise whether gravel from Bylong Quarry is provided to MCO.</td>
<td>GC</td>
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Community Support Program

Community Support Events last quarter:

- Watershed Landcare Green Day (10th Anniversary)
- M3 Maths Challenge
- Gulgong Bowling Tournament
- Sculptures in the Garden
- Gulgong Gold and Mining Festival
- Rylstone Street Feast

Total of $95,000 in Community Contributions in 2018
Upcoming Events and Initiatives

2018
- Rotary Christmas Carols
- Lions Club Christmas Twilight Markets
- Ulan School Kitchen Garden Learning Program
- Mudgee Playgroup Outdoor Upgrade
- Lue Public School Bus / Carport
- Moolarben Spirit Awards

2019
- 2019 Max Potential Program
- Survivor Lifeskills Program
- Gulgong Show 2019
Operational Update

- Open cut operations in OC2 & OC4.
- Landform shaping and topsoiling in OC2
- Longwall 102 Continues.
- UG development continues.
Exploration Update

- Resource delineation continued in OC4 & OC3.
- Resource delineation continued in UG2.
- Rehabilitation and monitoring activities have continued during the period.
Environmental Monitoring

- Monitoring network
  - Water;
  - Air Quality;
  - Blasting;
  - Noise;
  - Meteorology.
Water Quality - pH

[Graph showing pH levels for different water sources from November 2017 to December 2018]
Water Quality - EC

![Graph showing water quality EC levels for different months and locations.](image_url)
Water Quality - TSS
# Air Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>October 2017 PM10 Annual Average (µg/m³)</th>
<th>October 2018 PM10 Annual Average (µg/m³)</th>
<th>Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria (µg/m³)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ulan School</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulan Road</td>
<td>-*</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulan-Wollar Rd</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>30.0</td>
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*Insufficient data available to calculate 2017 rolling annual average. Unit installed August 2017

Noise Monitoring

- All monthly & quarterly attended noise monitoring within criteria.
- Continued implementation of:
  - Planning controls - scheduling
  - Engineering controls - attenuation
  - Operational controls - bunds/screens
  - Real-time monitoring triggers
  - Real-time response protocols
Community Complaints

MCO Complaints YTD

- Noise
- Blasting (V/O)
- Other

MCO Complaints QTD

- Noise
- Blasting (V/O)
- Other
Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation maintenance works are continuing.
- Landform shaping and topsoiling in OC2.
Biodiversity Offset Management

- Targeted weed control programs continued across BOA’s
- Spring Monitoring has now been complete for 2018
- Boundary fencing on Nori is currently underway
Employment Update

Traineeships
- Currently 16 OC, 15 UG and 2 Complex

Apprentices
- Currently 6 Underground & 13 Open Cut

General
- 9 Apprentices and 4 – 8 Trainees to start in January
Open Cut Optimisation Modification Update

Current Status

- Preparation of EA
- Lodgement of Modification Application and EA to DPE
- DPE places EA on Public Exhibition
- Public and Agencies review and provide submissions to DPE
- Preparation of Responses to Submissions
- DPE Assessment
- Determination by Independent Planning Commission (formerly the “PAC”)

- MCO and technical experts
- DPE
- Public Agencies
- MCO and technical experts
- DPE
- IPC
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CCC FOR 2018.

ON BEHALF OF MOOLARBEN WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR