

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING No. 59**

**Date:** Tuesday 30th November 2021  
**Time:** 4:04 pm  
**Location:** Via Video and Teleconference  
**Attendance:** Independent Chairperson  
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Dr Julia Imrie (JI)  
Bev Smiles (BS)  
Aleshia Lonsdale (AL)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Steve Archinal (SA)  
Trent Cini (TC)  
Rebecca Shanks (RS)  
Morgan Yeatman (MY)  
Mat Croake (MC) {Minute taker}

Apologies

Cr John O'Neill (JO)  
David Stokes (DS)  
David Lowe (DL)  
Cr Des Kennedy (DK)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)

***Meeting 59 Agenda and Presentation and Meeting 58 Minutes were provided to all meeting attendees.***

## 1. Introduction and Welcome

Lisa Andrews (LA) opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

## 2. Apologies

Cr John O'Neill (JO)  
David Stokes (DS)  
David Lowe (DL)  
Cr Des Kennedy (DK)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)

## 3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

*LA and TC discussed previous actions items being:*

1. *MCO to provide a general update on the EL6288 Nth drilling program*
2. *MCO to confirm the limit of Aluminium for release water*
3. *MCO to investigate their current feral animal control programs in the vicinity of Saddlers Creek*
4. *Yancoal's position on IPCC's call to phase out coal mining by 2030*

TC advised the CCC that actions 1 to 3 will be addressed during the presentation. TC then recommended the CCC members review the 2020 Yancoal Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) Report regarding action item 4. TC further commented on the content of the 2020 ESG Report. TC advised MCO will provide a link to the 2020 ESG Report or provide hard copies if requested by the CCC Members (**Action**). LA asked if the ESG Report is conducted yearly. TC confirmed the ESG Report is a yearly report and will be completed in the first half of 2022. JI clarified the intent of the CCC member's request (Action 4 from CCC 58) is to be answered at a site (MCO) level. In particular, comment on MCO's current approved mine life past the IPCC's timeframe of 2030, whether MCO would consider relinquishing parts of their EL6288 north of The Drip gorge and Goulburn River considering the high sensitivity of this area for groundwater and the community. MCO to provide further comment at CCC 60 (**Action**).

LA confirmed historical groundwater data is available in MCO Annual Reports which are available on MCO's website. TC commented that MCO will provide the CCC members with the requested 2021 groundwater data. JI commented that not all groundwater monitoring data is provided in the annual reports. TC confirmed the annual reports contain the data required to be reported by the relevant groundwater management plan at the time.

*No further actions or business arising from CCC Meeting 58.*

## Correspondence

Correspondence to the CCC since meeting 58 included the following:

- 8/9/21 – Email to CCC members with information from MCO regarding the groundwater data requested by JI
- 15/9/21 – Draft minutes sent to CCC for review (comments received back & incorporated into minutes).
- 22/9/21 – Email from MCO advising of Moolarben's Notification for application for a Site Verification Certificate. This information was forwarded through to CCC members the same day.
- 27/9/21 – Email with finalised minutes sent to CCC members.
- 8/10/21 – Email from Business Mudgee advising of their new representative on this CCC (David Lowe).
- 11/10/21 – Email from DL with his contact details.
- 11/10/21 – Email to DL providing further information and seeking his completion of governance forms.

- 18/11/21 – Email to members with the meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report for this meeting, as well as a request for matters to be included in the IEA.
- 18/11/21 – Email from JI requesting information to be provided for this meeting. Forwarded through to MCO.
- 26/11/21 – Email from JI with questions regarding the proposed Bowden's Silver SSD.
- 29/11/21 – Email to members with the presentation and reminder for this meeting.

### CCC Update Presentation

TC welcomed CCC members and provided an update on COVID-19 management actions.

TC provided an update on the Community Support Program (CSP).

TC provided the operational update including an update on the Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS). TC advised the CCC members that an extension of time has been granted for the submission of the IWQS to provide sufficient time for consultation with the New South Wales Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MCO intend to provide the IWQS to the EPA in the coming weeks for consultation in accordance with the project approval.

JI confirmed with TC the submission timeframe for the IWQS has been extended to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2022. TC advised that there is no requirement for the CCC members to provide input or comment on the IWQS prior to submission. JI requested to view the IWQS before submission to the DPIE. TC advised the submission process for the IWQS to the DPIE is consistent with the requirements in MCO's project approval. LA confirmed the submission process with the CCC. JI expressed her concerns with the submission process, where qualified members of the community do not get the opportunity to review the data and comment on the report before changes are approved which was noted.

JI asked if the Underground four (UG4) extraction plan has been submitted. TC advised it had not been submitted, however it has been provided for consultation with relevant government agencies and is expected to be finalised in early 2022. JI asked what departments will be involved in the consultation process. TC provided a summary of the consultation process consistent with MCO project approval requirements.

BS asked if the UG4 extraction plan will be a public document. TC confirmed the extraction plan will be a public document and will be on MCO's website once approved. TC provided general comments on current mine progress.

TC provided an exploration update. BS wished to confirm the number of drill holes nominated in the minutes from CCC meeting 58. TC confirmed that 12 sites had been completed in total in the north of EL6288. MCO to provide the total number of drilling programs in EL6288 (**Action**). BS asked what the exploration drilling is finding. TC advised the drilling results are consistent with the MCO geological model and coal is present. JI asked if MCO is capturing groundwater information from the drilling program. TC advised MCO were capturing groundwater information and two sites had been converted for groundwater monitoring, these sites will be considered for inclusion in future groundwater management plans.

JI asked if MCO has received results from the aeromagnetic survey conducted earlier in 2021. TC advised the results are still being processed. JI asked if the results from the survey will be released to the public. TC advised that the results will not likely be released to the public as they are commercial in nature. BS asked if the CCC can receive a copy of the results if the results are made public, JI seconded this request. TC advised that MCO would confirm the availability of the aeromagnetic survey results and provide feedback to the CCC (**Action**).

BS enquired if the drilling in EL7073 is to inform the proposed OC3 extension. TC confirmed that drilling is being undertaken to better define the resource for the OC3 extension.

MY provided an update on environmental monitoring. BS asked how much water MCO is currently releasing. TC advised treated release water ranged from 8 to 10 megalitres/day. TC provided an update on the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) upgrades to be undertaken in 2022. BS asked if the WTP upgrade is required to release 15 megalitres/day. TC advised the WTP upgrades are a result of operational needs. BS asked if MCO water storages are

copied with the recent weather events. TC advised MCO's water storages currently have adequate capacity to cope with current weather events. JI asked if MCO sediment dams have overflowed. TC advised that during the recent events MCO's sediment dams were not discharging.

JI asked as to the methodology (timing, frequency and location) of sampling for the treated water being released. TC advised the sample frequency is described in the Surface Water Management Plan. JI asked if the grab sample method is used. TC confirmed that grab samples are used for weekly and monthly sampling. JI asked if the data points shown in the metals graph are a monthly average. TC confirmed each data point is a single sampling event.

TC addressed CCC question Action item two - confirming the release limit for treated water including aluminium are described in table 22 of the Surface Water Management Plan.

JI requested the name of creeks where the monitoring points are located be shown on the graph for context. TC confirmed MCO will update the surface water graphs to include creek names for the next CCC meeting (**Action**). A general discussion was held between BS and TC describing the surface water monitoring locations.

BS asked if MCO are monitoring for low frequency noise. TC confirmed noise monitoring methods and compliance limits are described in the Noise Management Plan and MCO's projects approvals. BS commented the Noise Policy for Industry measures low frequency noise in dB(Z) not dB(A). TC provided context on how the Noise Policy for Industry is applied and committed to provide further information on the Noise Policy for Industry and the Moolarben Noise monitoring program (**Action**).

MY provided an update on complaints. BS asked if the complaints 'other' are lighting complaints. BS asked if MCO have consulted with the complainants. TC confirmed MCO has contacted each complainant and management actions to reduce light impacts continue to be undertaken.

MC provided a rehabilitation and offset management update. TC addressed CCC meeting 58 action item 3 - describing the feral animal control actions taken to date in the Saddlers Creek Road area. TC advised the CCC that MCO will continue to monitor feral animals in the area and will implement control programs where required. BS asked if the recent Local Land Services (LLS) aerial shooting program included land owned by MCO. TC confirmed MCO were a participant in the aerial shooting program.

JI mentioned the regional abundance of St Johns Wort present and asked if MCO are treating it on Biodiversity Offset Areas. TC confirmed MCO are controlling weeds across their Biodiversity Offset Areas and are adjusting the programs to suit weather conditions and recent planting programs. BS asked if the St Johns Wort Beetle is used as a control method. TC advised the beetle has previously been used in the area and MCO would investigate its possible future release in the area in conjunction with the LLS (**Action**).

TC provided information on the proposed Underground 2 Modification and informed the CCC members that MCO had submitted the modification and it would be on public exhibition from the end of the week (I have do not recall this date being provided in the meeting? Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.) LA enquired about the advertising time period, with TC advising that it was likely to be 14 days.

TC provided an update on the Open Cut 3 Extension Project. JI commented on the freshwater springs present in and/or adjacent to the project area. TC advised the Environmental Impact Assessment will include all groundwater aspects for the project.

BS asked for clarification on the volume of coal to be extracted from the extension area. TC advised the project proposes to extract up to 9 million tonnes per annum of ROM coal. BS asked if the volume of coal extracted in Open Cut 1 and Open Cut 2 were consistent with the project approval predictions. MCO to provide a response at CCC meeting 60 (**Action**).

TC provided an employment update.

#### 4. General Business

TC addressed the CCC questions regarding the transfer of water from MCO to the Bowdens Silver Project. JI stated she has been informed the indicative pipeline has just been withdrawn from the proposed Bowdens Silver Project.

JI asked for the daily water make. TC informed the CCC that pumping from the underground operations are approximately 135 litres per second (approximately 12 ML/day), this includes inflows, MCO supply water and recirculation from open cut operations.

BS asked how the sediment dams are being managed considering the large volume of rain in November 2021. TC advised that water captured with sediment dams is pumped into the MCO water management system. TC also briefly discussed the current site water stocks.

BS asked if the upgrade to the WTP is a result of increased water from underground operations. TC advised the construction of the WTP has been staged, and the current upgrades are in line with the current approvals. SA advised the WTP upgrade is scheduled to be completed by October 2022.

BS commented on the current level of the Goulburn River and the impacts of all three mines releasing water at the same time.

BS commented on the recent train movements and queried if there had been an impact or rail due to weather at MCO, SA informed the CCC members that train movements from MCO had been impacted by a variety of outside influences including weather.

5. **Next Meeting:** 8th March 2022

6. **2022 Proposed CCC meeting dates:** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Meeting closed at 5:29pm with LA thanking attendees for their participation.

#### **Action Items:**

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide a link to the 2020 ESG Report to the CCC.	MCO
2	Provide an update to the CCC regarding consideration of relinquishing parts of MCO's EL's.	MCO
3	MCO to provide the total number of drilling programs in EL6288 north.	MCO
4	MCO to confirm the availability of the aeromagnetic survey results to the CCC.	MCO
5	Revise surface water monitoring graphs to include creek names.	MCO
6	MCO to provide further information on the Noise Policy for Industry and the Moolarben Noise monitoring program.	MCO
7	MCO to investigate possible future release of St Johns Wort Biocontrol in the area in conjunction with the LLS.	MCO
8	MCO to confirm the volume of coal extracted from OC1 and OC2 were consistent with the project approval predictions.	MCO