



# MOOLARBEN COAL PROJECT

*Stage 2*

## *SECTION 3*

*Stakeholder and  
Community Consultation*



## SECTION 3 – STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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### **3. STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Community consultation for the MCP has been ongoing since the grant of EL 6288 in August 2004 and throughout the compilation of the EA reports for Stage 1 and Stage 2.

##### **3.1.1 Moolarben Coal Exploration Community Consultative Committee**

With the grant of EL 6288 in August 2004, the Minister for Mineral Resources required the establishment of the Moolarben Coal Exploration Community Consultative Committee (MCECCC).

The purpose of the MCECCC was to provide a forum for open discussion between the exploration licence holder, appointed community representatives, relevant government authorities and other interested stakeholders concerning the conduct of exploration drilling and knowledge of the area's geological and environmental composition.

The Minister for Mineral Resources appointed Ms M. MacDonald-Hill as the independent Chairperson, representatives from MCM, four community representatives, and representatives from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the MWRC to the MCECCC. The four community representatives appointed to the MCECCC were Ms J. Imrie and Messieurs M. Swords, K. Mayberry and M. Cox. Moolarben Coal Mines representatives reported the findings of exploration, environmental monitoring and some environmental studies to the MCECCC.

##### **3.1.2 Moolarben Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

The approval for Stage 1 in September 2007 contained a condition requiring the establishment of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the Moolarben Coal Mine. The purpose of this CCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of MCM, the community, Mid Western Regional Council (MWRC) and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the construction and operation of the approved Stage 1, environmental performance and community relations, and to keep the community informed on these matters.

The Director General of Planning appointed Mr Noel O'Brien OAM as the Moolarben Coal Mine CCC Independent Chairperson. The committee consists of nine community representatives, along with representatives from MWRC (Councillor E. Martens OAM) and MCM. The nine community representatives appointed to the Stage 1 Moolarben Coal Mine CCC are Mesdames J. Imrie, H. Swords, A. Riley, V. Tapp, L. Syme and Messieurs M. Swords, K. Mayberry, D. Stokes and K. Williams.

Since the formation of the CCC, four meetings have been held (on 26 June, 28 August, 28 October and 15 December 2008).

#### **3.2 Community Consultation by the Proponent**

Following the grant of EL 6288, MCM introduced a community consultation program, which could be expanded or terminated depending on the results of the exploration program. A comprehensive

community consultation program was implemented for Stage 1 and has been expanded to incorporate Stage 2. The program included the establishment of land access protocols, community information sessions, newspaper notices, newsletters and one-on-one discussions. The community consultation program for Stage 2 is consistent with that implemented during Stage 1 and incorporates the aspects described below.

### 3.2.1 Land Access Protocols

The initial phase of the community consultation program involved the development of appropriate land access protocols to ensure that exploration drilling and environmental studies could be undertaken with the least amount of disruption to the land owners, their families and agricultural enterprises. The protocols included, among other things, a requirement that the proponent provide the land owner with the results of exploration drilling, environmental studies and monitoring. The primary purpose of this protocol was to ensure that the land owner (or occupier) had full knowledge of information derived from their particular land. Agreements between MCM and land owners have been entered into for Stage 2.

### 3.2.2 Community Information Sessions

The second phase of the community consultation program involved the holding of Community Information Sessions at the Ulan Community House. To date, there has been one Community Information Session, held over three days from 23 to 25 July 2008. The Community Information Session involved the display of information obtained in relation to the project as it developed over time, and typically involved one-on-one discussions between interested members of the public and MCP representatives. A total of 45 community members visited the session over the course of the three days.

### 3.2.3 Newspaper Notices

A public notice was placed in the *Mudgee Guardian* by MCM advising of the lodgement of a Major Project Application for Stage 2 on 21 July 2008.

Public notices were also placed in the *Mudgee Guardian* by MCM on 18 and 21 July 2008 inviting residents and interested persons to attend the July 2008 Community Information Session.

### 3.2.4 Newsletters

Six community newsletters have been prepared by MCM. Newsletters to date have covered aspects of Stage 1 and Stage 2. The fifth newsletter introduced the community to Stage 2, including a brief description of the project and the environmental assessment process. Additional newsletters will be distributed to the local community informing them of the progress of each of the stages of the MCP. The newsletters were delivered to residents in the Ulan, Cooks Gap, Moolarben and Bobadeen areas. Copies of the newsletters are contained in **Appendix 2A** of Volume 1.

Condition 3 of Schedule 4 of the Stage 1 Project Approval required MCM to prepare and distribute in consultation with NSW Health and to the satisfaction of the Director General a brochure to advise land owners and tenants of the possible health and amenity impacts associated with exposure to particulate matter. A copy of the approved and distributed brochure is included within **Appendix 2B** of Volume 1.

### 3.2.5 One-on-one Discussions

Representatives of MCM have held one-on-one discussions with land owners and occupiers of land located within and outside EL 6288 to explain the project and potential impacts that might arise from the project proceeding.

### 3.2.6 Issues Raised by the Public during Consultation

The MCP has resulted in some members of the public expressing concern in relation to potential issues, and opposition to the project. Other members of the public have expressed support for the project. The issues that have been captured as a result of the community consultation program are summarised below:

- Issues of concern include the overall impact of the MCP and impacts on or resulting from noise, dust, groundwater, creeks and river systems, traffic and road quality, visuals and lighting, vibration, Aboriginal heritage, clearing of native vegetation, rehabilitation, proximity to residences, land acquisition, property values, rail movements, global warming, general quality of life, and cumulative impacts.
- Issues of support for the MCP include direct and indirect employment opportunities, cultural and recreational improvements to the district, investment in the local area and in Mudgee, property acquisitions, and road improvements.

## 3.3 Future Community Consultation

Moolarben Coal Mines will continue with Land Access Protocols, Community Information Sessions, newspaper notices, newsletters and one-on-one discussions during and after the public exhibition of the Major Project Application and EA report for Stage 2 (this document), and on commencement of the construction and operation of the project. Ongoing consultation will also occur with representatives of the Ulan and Wilpinjong coal mines.

### 3.3.1 Website and 1800 Telephone Line

Prior to the commencement of the public exhibition of the EA report, the proponent established and broadly advertised a dedicated website ([www.moolarbencoal.com.au](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au)) and a 1800 telephone line (1800 556 484) to enable residents of the district, interested persons and key community groups to contact representatives of the MCP to discuss issues or aspects associated with the project.

## 3.4 Consultation with Government Authorities by the Proponent

A meeting was convened by the DoP for Stage 2 on 28 November 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to undertake a site inspection of potential mining areas, provide information regarding the project and allow government authorities the opportunity to identify potential issues.

Representatives from the following government organisations and authorities attended the site inspection:

- Department of Planning.
- Department of Environment and Climate Change.

- Department of Primary Industries.
- Department of Water and Energy.

Since the site inspection, general consultation in the form of discussions and presentations has been undertaken with officers of the above government agencies by representatives of MCM to enable a better understanding of issues.

Since the lodgement of the Major Project Application and PEA, the DG of the DoP has reviewed the Major Project Application and PEA report and issued DGRs for Stage 2. Ongoing consultation with government organisations and authorities will continue to ensure that all stakeholders better understand the project and statutory requirements.

The proponent's Major Project Application, the DGRs and other key documents associated with the project are available on the DoP website ([http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/major\\_projects.asp](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/major_projects.asp)), which will be updated as the assessment process progresses.

### 3.5 Public Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment

The EA report will be publicly exhibited by the DoP for a period of at least 30 days. Members of the public and interested persons are invited to make written submissions on any aspect of the project.

If you wish to make a submission on the EA report for Stage 2 and the modification of Stage 1, the submission should include the following information:

- Your name and address.
- The Moolarben Coal Project Stage 2 and Modification of the Stage 1 Project Approval.
- Major Project Number 08\_0135 and 05\_0117 MOD 3.
- A statement on whether you support or object to the proposal.
- The reasons why you support or object to the proposal.

Your submission must reach the DoP by the specified date in the public notice and be addressed to:

Major Development Assessments  
Department of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Under section 75H of the EP&A Act, the DG is required to send copies of submissions or a report of the issues raised in those submissions to the proponent, other parties and any other authorities the DG considers appropriate, but the names and addresses would be withheld.

If you have any enquiries, you may contact the DoP by phone or fax:

Phone: 1300 305 695

Fax: (02) 9228 6466

The EA report is available for viewing at the offices of the DoP and MWRC. A digital copy on CD-ROM is available free of charge from the DoP or on MCM's website: [www.moolarbencoal.com.au](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au).



### **3.6 Post-Approval Consultation**

Following approval for the project, MCM will continue consultation with land owners and the community during construction and mining operations.

A telephone hotline (1800 556 484), website ([www.moolarbencoal.com.au](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au)), newsletter and complaints register has been established and will continue for the life of the project.

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