

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 67**

Date: Tuesday, 28th November 2023
Time: 1:05 pm
Location: Moolarben Coal Open Cut Administration Board Room, Ulan
Attendance: Independent Chairperson
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

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

Moolarben Coal Operations

Brian Wesley (BW)
Trent Cini (TC)
Rebecca Shanks (RS)
Emily Scanlon (ES) *{Minute taker}*

Apologies

David Lowe (DL)
Helen Ungaro (HU)
Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)
David Stokes (DS)
Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate

Meeting 67 Agenda and Presentation 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).

LA advised there are no changes to the declarations by the CCC members.

2. Apologies

David Lowe (DL)

Helen Ungaro (HU)

David Stokes (DS)

Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)

Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate

3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 22 September 2023.

TC informed the members that the previous action items not already closed out would be addressed during the presentation.

Actions from Meeting 66:

1. MCO to provide bi-annual, groundwater quality results for standpipe bores to JI - *Complete*
2. MCO to provide blast information in the next CCC meeting - *Complete*
3. LA to provide the CCC Annual Report to the CCC - *Complete*
4. Provide the revised CCC documents for review, including information on alternative representatives - *Complete*

Correspondence as sent with the Meeting Notice on 13/11/23 with two additional items:

- 12/9/23 – Email to members with draft minutes for review as well as revised CCC guidelines documents.
- 22/9/23 - Email to members with final minutes as well as the draft Terms of Reference.
- 31/10/23 – Email from JI requesting further information from the IAPUM report and recommendations for MCC UG4 Extraction Plan. Forwarded to MCO for action.
- 6/11/23 – Email from MCO with responses to JI's questions. Forwarded to JI 7/11/23.
- 13/11/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC.
- 21/11/23 – Email from JI requesting water data. Forwarded to TC the same day.
- 24/11/23 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting.

LA reminded the CCC that the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms must be signed by each member annually and this could be completed at the next meeting. TC advised MCO will provide these documents at the next meeting (**Action 1**). LA advised the Terms of Reference is ready to be finalised if there are no further questions or comments from the CCC (**Action 2**).

CCC Update Presentation

RS welcomed CCC members and provided an update on the 2023 Community Support Program (CSP) and Community Events since the last meeting.

RS provided an operations update for the opencut. JI asked for clarification on the location of the recommencing OC1 operations. TC advised the location and the expected timeframe for the operations.

RS provided an operational update for the underground. JI queried if the ongoing and completed piezometers had final code names. TC advised the naming is confirmed once drilling is completed and provided the naming for the complete piezometers. JI referred to the Independent Panel for Underground Mining recommendation in their UG4 report for piezometer installation to be completed before mining in Longwall 404 commences to allow or further advice on environmental protection TC clarified that this was not the case. TC provided a copy of the groundwater data JI had requested (Meeting #66, Action 1), maps and a status update to the CCC to detail the process and inform the status. JI emphasised the importance of having sufficient time to collect and assess data and information in order to make proactive decisions and inform a trigger action response plan. JI asked if the final geological analysis and updated groundwater technical report required in the conditions and end of panel monitoring reports for UG4 were accessible. TC advised the revised groundwater technical report would be available once approved by the DPE. BS queried when data will be collected from the new piezometers. TC advised data collection starts shortly after installation is complete, however the monitoring bore generally requires time to settle. JI queried the depths of the new piezometers in the north. TC advised the monitoring bores will target the required strata however, the depths are confirmed during installation.

BS queried the timeframe for each longwall to be completed. BW provided an estimate of two longwall panels per year. BS queried if enough data has been collected to start Longwall 404. TC reiterated the findings of the Independent Expert Panel for Underground Mining during the assessment of the Extraction Plan regarding Longwall 404, and advised the CCC generally the information being collected will be used to support the extraction plan for Longwalls 409-414.

RS provided an update on exploration. BS queried what period the presentation was referring to. TC advised that the presentation includes a summary of the last quarter and provides insight into the next quarter.

RS provided an update on environmental monitoring. JI queried if the stop in discharge was due to less groundwater being extracted or if more water was being reused on-site. TC advised that the operation of the WTP is conducted in accordance with operational requirements and provided an update on the current underground make of approximately 11ML including recirculation, water supply, and inflows.

RS provided an update on surface water quality. JI asked if the rise in pH was attributed to Ulan discharge. TC advised there is not necessarily a correlation to discharge, and climatic conditions would also be contributing.

RS provided an update on air quality and blast results (Meeting #66, Action 2). BS queried the limits for blasting. TC explained the limits for ground vibration and blast overpressure. TC advised the Annual Review provides further information regarding blast data in relation to the limits. BS asked if blast complaints are more frequent during specific weather conditions. LA queried if blast have been investigated following a compliant and found to be compliant. TC advised that is correct.

RS provided an update on noise monitoring and community complaints.

RS provided an update on rehabilitation including the aerial seeding program in OC2. BS queried what seed mix was used. TC advised the mix included box gum woodland species. TC explained the aerial seeding process further. BS asked if the hectares seeded in OC2 could be provided in the next CCC meeting (Action 3).

RS provided an update on the biodiversity offset areas including the impacts from the recent bush fires. BS asked how many hectares were affected. RS advised the exact areas have not been confirmed, although impacts of up to 50% across some offsets have been estimated. BS asked what MCO will be doing post bushfire. RS advised once the areas are safe, ecologists complete a post-fire assessment and provide recommendations. TC advised infrastructure is also repaired.

TC provided an update on the UG2 modification. BS asked what further information the DPE requested. TC advised key issues were generally regarding biodiversity and offsetting. BS asked the timeframe on the DPE Assessment Report. TC advised that MCO are hopeful for it to be made available prior to Christmas.

TC provided an update on the OC3 extension project. TC informed the CCC the Amended Project and Submissions Report is planned for submission during December. JI asked if the CCC could be informed at submission (Action 4).

RS provided an employment update.

4. General Business

LA asked if there were any general business from members.

BS queried if MCO anticipate discharging anytime soon given the expected rainfall. TC advised MCO will continue to operate the water treatment plant in accordance with the site management requirements, however it's unlikely that MCO will require water release. BS asked if MCO could advise the CCC when discharge recommences (Action 5). TC advised MCO will provide an update to the CCC through LA.

BS queried how MCO manages fires on and near MCO land. BW advised of the Incident Management Team's process which includes high involvement with the Rural Fire Service (RFS). BW advised MCO have some firefighting equipment that is also used for on-site emergency services. TC added the MCO Emergency Response Team (ERT) were able to assist the RFS with the recent fires. BW advised MCO also provided their drone to capture an aerial view of the fires to assist the emergency services.

JI asked what MCO do to minimise the fire risk associated with coal stockpiles during bush fires when winds are high. TC advised MCO are able to utilise a water spraying system across the coal stockpiles.

LA presented the CCC meeting schedule for 2024. JI asked if the meeting time could be moved to 2pm. The CCC agreed.

5. **Next Meeting:** 5th March 2024, on site at 2:00 pm. Subsequent 2024 meetings proposed for 4th June, 3rd September and 26th November.

Meeting closed at 2:06 pm with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation throughout the year, wishing all a happy festive season. TC also thanked members for their 2023 participation and provided members with Christmas hampers in appreciation of their contributions to the CCC during 2023 on behalf of MCO.

Action Items:

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms at next meeting	MCO
2	Terms of Reference to be finalised	LA
3	Provide the hectares seeded as part of rehabilitation in OC2 at next meeting	MCO
4	Advise CCC on submission of the Amended OC3 Extension Project report	MCO
5	Advise CCC when discharge recommences	MCO