

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 64**

Date: Tuesday 7th March 2023
Time: 1:04 pm
Location: Moolarben Coal Open Cut Administration Board Room, Ulan
Attendance: Independent Chairperson
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Dr Julia Imrie (JI)
Aleshia Lonsdale (AL)
Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Brian Wesley (BW)
Trent Cini (TC)
Kieran Stephenson-Banks (SB)
Morgan Yeatman (MY)
Clarine Fourie (CF) {Minute taker}

Apologies

David Lowe (DL)
Bev Smiles (BS)
Rebecca Shanks (RS)
David Stokes (DS)
Helen Ungaro (HU)
Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate

Meeting 64 Agenda and Presentation and Meeting 63 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).

LA advised there are no changes to the declarations by the CCC members. TC introduced Kieran Stephenson-Banks and informed LA that updated declarations will be provided (**Action 1**).

2. Apologies

David Lowe (DL)

Bev Smiles (BS)

Rebecca Shanks (RS)

David Stokes (DS)

Helen Ungaro (HU)

Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate

3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 14 December 2022.

TC informed the members that the previous action items will be addressed during the presentation.

Actions from Meeting 63:

1. Check website for response to submissions for proposed UG 2 Modification [Complete](#)
2. Confirm stygofauna sampling locations for OC3 extension project [Complete](#)
3. Provide an electronic copy of community newsletter to CCC members [Complete](#)

Correspondence as sent with the Meeting Notice on 20/02/23:

- 7/12/22 – Email to members with draft minutes for review. Comments received.
- 14/12/22 – Email to members with final minutes.
- 23/12/22 – Email from MCO with the EPA'S approval of a further variation to the MCO Environmental Protection Licence. Forwarded on to members the same day.
- 19/1/23 – Email from TC advising that the emergency water discharge has ceased. This information was forwarded through to members on 21/1/23.
- 29/1/23 – Email from BS with request for MLA information. Forwarded through to MCO for response.
- 30/1/23 – Email from MCO with requested MLA information. Forwarded through to members on 1/2/23.
- 20/2/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC.
- 03/03/23 – Email to members reminding them of the meeting.
- 05/03/23 – Email from JI with a list of questions for the meeting.

CCC Update Presentation

TC welcomed CCC members and provided an update on the 2022 Community Support Program (CSP) and Community Events since the last meeting.

TC provided an operations update including the progress of the installation of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) monitors. JI asked where the GNSS monitors were located in relation to UG4 longwalls (LW). TC stated that they are within the footprint of the LW and situated dependent on various factors such as tree cover.

TC provided a response to JI's provided questions, including provision of the request monitoring data (post meeting), an update on the progress of the GNSS monitors, update on the installation of groundwater monitoring bores above UG4, update on the installation of SW22. JI asked about the installation of monitoring bores PZ-E and PZ-F. TC advised that the bores will be located on MCO land in the northern section of UG4.

JI queried the position of the new bores for monitoring the hydraulic gradient of groundwater and Goulburn River alluvium, stating these are necessary to quantify loss of river baseflow. TC replied that the new monitoring sites would support the quantification of baseflow loss due to UG4, which would continue to be determined using the groundwater model (or other appropriate method determined in consultation with the DPE and the IAPUM).

JI asked about groundwater make from the UG operations and how this extraction rate compares to modelling predictions. TC advised that average underground dewatering since last meeting has been approximately 25 Megalitres per day, this includes recirculation from the water stored in open cut pits, water supply and groundwater inflows.

TC provided an update on exploration.

MY provided an update on environmental monitoring.

MY advised the monitoring results for discharge water were generally consistent and in compliance. LA asked why there is a gap in the data. TC replied that the gaps are when MCO are not discharging due to the WTP upgrade.

MY provided an update on the emergency discharge results. JI queried whether any water quality limits were set by the EPA for the emergency discharge. MY confirmed that no limits were set. JI queried why there is no electrical conductivity (EC) results. TC replied that EC was not required to be monitored under the Environmental Protection License for discharge points LDP53 and LDP54. TC stated that EC was generally within the range of 1500 to 2550.

MY provided an update on surface water results. JI asked about the increase in the Goulburn River monitoring locations. TC replied that the additional sites, SW22, SW23 and SW24 were new monitoring points of which SW22 is upstream and SW23 and SW24 were downstream.

MY provided an update on air quality with current levels reflective of climatic conditions.

MY advised all noise monitoring was completed and compliant with the relevant approved noise management plan.

MY provided an update on complaints. JI queried whether the noise complaints were from Ridge Road area. TC replied that the noise complaints were generally from the Ridge Road / Cooks Gap area.

TC provided a rehabilitation and offset management update. JI asked if there has been much natural regrowth at the Dun Dun offset. TC replied that there has been a significant amount of natural regrowth on most of our offsets with Dun Dun in particular seeing good results. JI asked if identification is conducted on the native regrowth. TC stated that as part of the monitoring program transects are used to monitor regrowth within the offsets. JI questioned if we have any issues with kangaroos impacting plantings. TC replied that there are a few kangaroos which impact our plants. LA asked how it is deterred. TC stated that in areas where it has been observed to have higher grazing impacts a deterrent has been used with varying results (**Action 2**).

TC provided an update on the modification.

TC provided an update on the Open Cut 3 Extension Project. TC addressed Action 2 from the last meeting regarding stygofauna. TC stated that 10 GW bores were monitored during the process, of which 8 are in the project area. TC stated that MCO currently aims to have the responses to submissions submitted around mid-year. The CCC will be informed when it has been completed.

Jl queried the location of the bores tested for stygofauna and commented that in her opinion additional sites that were outside the current mine disturbance area including sampling from the surrounding springs, should also have been tested. TC replied that experts were engaged to identify, investigate, and assess the stygofauna monitoring in the area.

TC provided an update on the extension project.

TC provided an employment update. Jl asked how many employees MCO were still looking for. BW stated that MCO were looking for around 80. BW advised that the number of trainees at MCO has increased.

4. General Business

Jl asked TC to confirm when the Annual Report is expected. TC confirmed the due date to the department is the 31st of March 2023.

Jl discussed a fire ignited by lightning in the national park, between her property and MCO operations during January. Jl stated that RFS access to the fire was limited by locked gates and the response of MCO to the RFS was less than expected and made it difficult to respond quickly. BW stated that from his knowledge there was communication between the MCO and the RFS regarding the fire and that MCO were monitoring it at the time. TC advised Jl that MCO will take on board Jl's information.

5. **Next Meeting:** 6th June 2023, on site at 1:00pm. Subsequent 2023 meetings would be 5th September and 5th December.

Meeting closed at 1:56pm with LA thanking members for their attendance.

Action Items:

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Declaration form – Kieran to LA	MCO
2	Provide CCC Members further information regarding the deterrent trialed in offset plantings	MCO