

**METROPOLITAN COAL  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday 5 August 2020

**Time:** Commenced 5:03pm

**Location:** Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh and via Zoom

**Attendees:**

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Rae O'Brien (RO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC) (via Zoom)
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) - CCC Member

**Apologies:**

- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member

**Welcome and introductions:**

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting and introduced Ron Zwicker, who was attending the CCC for the first time (via Zoom).

**Declarations of interest:**

- LA declared her position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Director General of Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE) and engaged by Peabody
- LA declared no changes to CCC and shared safety interaction concerning COVID-19 procedures implemented onsite.

**Action items from previous meeting:**

- LA confirmed minutes from April CCC meeting were finalised on 1 May 2020 and Eastern Tributary site inspection will be rescheduled for December 2020 CCC meeting.
- LA confirmed that there was no action items from the previous minutes. No business arising from members.

## **Correspondence:**

- 28/4/20 - Email draft minutes for review.
- 11/5/20 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 20/5/20 – Email from Peabody regarding operational changes at Metropolitan Mine due to COVID 19 implications. This information, forwarded on to members.
- 28/6/20 – Email from RS regarding recent employee layoffs. Email forwarded through to Metropolitan for advice.
- 29/6/20 – Email from SL with response; forwarded on to all members for their information.
- 20/7/20 – Email to members advising that next CCC will proceed as scheduled, with options for participating (either in person or via video-conferencing). Responses received.
- 4/8/20 – Email from Peter Turner with questions for response by Metropolitan at this meeting:

*(i) Could Stephen please indicate the shortest distances between the Metrop extractions and the Coal Cliff and Darkes Forest mines, indicating the relevant Metrop extraction area (e.g. presumably LWs 1 to 18 are closest to DF?)?*

*(ii) Has the pillar extraction area been sealed off?*

*(iii) Just to clarify the reply "Any water from the pillar extraction area is not specifically monitored but is included in the mine water make when it reports to the mine pumping system." - water from the pillar extraction area is then included in the make reported in the ARs?*

*(iv) How much subsidence is there over the pillar extraction area?*

*(v) Are there any areas accumulating water that are not included in the make reported in the ARs? Could details be provided accordingly.*

*(vi) Regarding " Extraction height details are consistent throughout the project area and will vary dependent on seam thickness up to 3.2m. This is included in the Key Mining Parameters (Table 3) in the Extraction Plan Main Text. " Could the company nonetheless please provide the extraction height profiles. [An example provided by South32 for Dendrobium is attached.]*

Questions taken on notice by Metropolitan Mine.

- 4/8/20 – Email to members with the presentation & agenda for this meeting.
- 5/8/20 – Email from KB with possible apology for this meeting, plus to raise an issue in general business regarding noise generated from personnel taking the temperature of staff on the early morning shift.

## **Metropolitan Coal operations update – Stephen Love, Environment & Community Superintendent**

A presentation was provided to the CCC with an update regarding:

- Business Update
- Mining Update
- Eastern Tributary (ET) Remediation
- CWR Management
- Helensburgh Streetscape Masterplan

## **Questions/Comments/Feedback from CCC members in relation to the Presentation:**

- Business Update: RO outlined recent Metropolitan restructure to better meet current demand. Longwall production has been reduced to approximately 80,000 tonnes per month to supply BlueScope. Intention to build business back up post COVID-19 by retaining 2/3 of employees working on a 12 hour / 6-day roster and running CHPP Monday to Wednesday. Underground development achieving mining records since restructure which sets business up for future.
- SL explained current COVID-19 controls at Metropolitan including temperature testing, staggering of shifts to minimize potential COVID-19 exposure and heightened cleaning regime/capability onsite.

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- Mining Update: Lower production of LW 305 now expected to finish in December 2020 with ET TARP to determine final finish position.
- SL outlined ET Remediation being a long process developing management plans, gaining access to ET for remediation starting at ETAK and ETAH, and integrating learnings from ETO remediation. By remediating ETAK and ETAH in 2020 it is anticipated to restore flows to a number of pools.
- SL commented on catchment lock-outs due to rainfall and bushfire and downsizing of PUR set-up to minimise equipment footprint whilst remediating ET.
- SL presented a chart of pool ETO behavior indicating pool levels above the cease to flow levels throughout 2020.
- SL covered CWR update reporting continued minimal trucking and use of rail since November 2019 to transport CWR from site. KB commented that having no trucks on the road was nice.
- SL outlined continuing works to undertake a chailings trial where a biochar-like product is created to improve soil nutrient and moisture holding capacity. Once EPA approval is obtained, a full-scale trial will be conducted on a south coast farm. KB questioned the process from CWR to chailings, SL outlined the process which involves burning the CWR in the absence of oxygen to create a porous matrix.
- SL further indicated that Metropolitan are in consultation with Wollongong City Council (WCC) regarding Helensburgh Landfill and the use of CWR as fill with a feasibility works still in progress.
- SL provided update on Helensburgh Streetscape Masterplan for town centre improvements after recent discussion with WCC. Priority works on Walker St/Parkes St roundabout and nearby crossings expected to commence early 2021. Metropolitan is keen to see plans come to fruition given the Metropolitan Coal road contribution of funds towards the plan. CCC members discussed some of the finer details of the plan including a raised crossing on Parkes Street.
- LR raised ongoing community discussion regarding Woronora Recreation Area closures throughout 2019-2020 and suggestions that this was due to low water levels caused by mining impacts. SL explained that closures were due to several upgrades at the recreation area which included asbestos removal. Further, that Water NSW provides information on its website on the status of the major refurbishment works, water levels, etc. (Action: Details to be provided.) SL also confirmed that while Woronora Reservoir levels were lower than some other nearby reservoirs, people commonly fail to take into account the size of their relevant catchments which largely dictates how rapidly a reservoir will refill after drought.

### General business:

RS raised concern that while CCC members were informed of impending restructure, members were not informed when redundancies occurred. KO highlighted the voluntary process of restructure and SL supported the need to provide ongoing information to CCC members during events such as these.

**Meeting closed:** 5:38pm with LA thanking all members for their attendance and contribution.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 9 December 2020 5pm. Location to be confirmed closer to meeting date.

**Action:** Information from Water NSW website regarding Woronora Recreation Area to be emailed to members. (SL)