

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

Date: Wednesday 9 December 2020

Time: Commenced 6:03pm after visit to Eastern Tributary Crossing

Location: Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh

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) delegate
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member

Apologies:

- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Alexandra Stengel (AS) – Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC) delegate

Welcome and introductions:

- LA thanked Metropolitan for tour of Eastern Tributary crossing and groundwater wells. Welcomed all members to the meeting and introduced RZ as representative from WCC to his first face to face meeting with the CCC.

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. No changes to previous members' declarations.

Action items from previous meeting:

- LA confirmed minutes from August 2020 CCC meeting were finalised on 31 August 2020 and sent to members.
- LA confirmed that the information from WaterNSW website regarding the Woronora Recreation Area had been emailed to members 7 August 2020.

Correspondence (as sent out on 25/11/20 with the meeting notice – with 3 additional items

- 7/8/20 – Email to members with information about the Woronora Dam Recreation Area closure.
- 14/8/20 – Email to members regarding ELA 5918.
- 20/8/20 – Email to member with the draft minutes for review.
- 24/8/20 – Email to members with responses to questions submitted by PT.
- 31/8/20 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 24/10/20 – Email from Lorraine Rodden resigning from this CCC as she is moving out of the area. Return email to LR thanking her for her service and contribution on the CCC.
- 25/11/20 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting.
- 1/12/20 – Email from Metrop advising of temporary shutdown. Sent to CCC members for their information.
- 7/12/20 – Email from PT requesting information (long wall progress, the current situation with the Chinese market, extension of the mines approval. Also providing comments on the open letter).
- 8/12/20 – Emails from Trish & Alexandra with an apologies for this meeting.

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

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

- Company Update
- Mining Update
- A6 Update
- Resource Regulator Audit
- ET Remediation
- CWR Management
- Community Sponsorships 2020

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

- RO outlined the recent announcement by Peabody to idle Metropolitan for two months during January and February 2021, highlighting that all employees will have access to entitlements such as leave and that all statutory and compliance requirements will be maintained during this period.
- SL explained that the Control Room and Community Information Line will be available during the shutdown period 24/7 and a full time Environment & Community position will be maintained throughout.
- KB asked what the current size of the stockpile is. RO outlined that some coal will be railed during the period leading up to Christmas, but the stockpile is at a manageable size.
- AH asked what is beyond the 8-week shutdown and is CWR currently being exported to Vietnam? RO outlined that the mine plans to restart in March 2021 and CWR exports continue with a secured contract. AH added that the absence of CWR trucking continues to be appreciated within the community.
- Longwall 305 commenced 12 April 2020 and was completed 21 November 2020, standoff of 120m from approved length to ensure minimal subsidence movement at Pool ETAU. Longwall 306 due to commence following idle period in 2021.
- PT asked what the TARP threshold was that triggered a decision to cease mining. JD explained that real-time high-resolution subsidence monitoring is tracking the movement and driving the TARP decision making process.

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- AH asked what the current depth of mining was. JD explained that depth varied between 400-500m
- Metropolitan lodged an Exploration Application ELA5918 in 2020 to prospect for a viable resource that may extend the life of Metropolitan beyond 2032. If approved exploration activities are likely to occur in 2022 and if a viable resource can be defined in depth and highly detailed State Significant Development process will commence.
- PT enquired if Metropolitan has considered using wider panel widths in planning further mine expansion, given the current pursuit of 305m longwalls at Dendrobium mine. JD and SL confirmed that it is too early for such planning.
- Metropolitan has achieved a high level of compliance with requirements of the SMP approval and environmental management plans associated with the management of subsidence impacts surrounding Longwall 23 which was targeted as part of the audit. No non-compliances were identified.
- SL indicated that the audit was a good stress test of Metropolitan's record and report keeping with no gaps or failures.
- ET remediation mobilized in September 2020 to pools ETAK and ETAH. Early signs of PUR rock bar remediation are positive with continued data analysis to confirm over the coming months. Demobilization of remediation equipment is underway ahead of bushfire season, Christmas, and potential weather-related catchment closures. Plans to resume ET remediation in 2021. WaterNSW have indicated that a hazard reduction burn will take place sometime in Autumn 2021 surrounding ET.
- PT asked how many PUR curtains in total will be installed, SL suggested 5 or more depending on pool performance recovery on ET. In total there are 12 pools to be remediated.
- Metropolitan continues to rail CWR in 2020 which represented approximately 18,500 truck journeys through Helensburgh. Currently Metropolitan and EPA are completing approval process to apply CWR chailings material to land in order to conduct field trial. WCC is conducting additional sampling of Metropolitan CWR prior to finalizing Helensburgh Landfill capping design.
- A list of sponsorships was presented to the CCC with highlighted donations to the Helensburgh Men's Shed (Helensburgh Train Station replica sign), Hope Church community pantry, Kai and Saya Sakakibara, and the CWA mental health first aid training.
- SL thanked all CCC members for their active participation in the CCC during a tough year.

General business:

- PT enquired about mine rehabilitation in the event of mine closure. SL clarified that the planned idle period does not change Metropolitan's obligations to complete remediation both in the catchment and the mine site. Outlined Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) administered by the Resources Regulator which provides financial securities associated with mine closures. RCE bonds are in place in the event that a company cannot meet its rehabilitation obligations and covers all mines and quarries in NSW.
- PT asked if recent Chinese actions against Australian coal influenced the decision to idle the mine. RO clarified that Metropolitan does not sell product to China but confirmed that China's actions have impacted international coal prices more broadly.
- AH advised that a memorial, listing those Metropolitan Colliery men who will killed or died from injuries since the mine's opening has been installed next to the Old Mine Surgery. AH thanked Metropolitan for clearing an area around the memorial for landscaping works.
- AH enquired about the old powerhouse building onsite at Metropolitan which was slated for demolition. SL explained that WCC had taken an opposing view of the demolition and has

refused to reconsider. As a result, Metropolitan has been forced to delay the demolition until mine closure. In the meantime, the building is increasingly becoming a safety risk and has been fenced off to avoid injury to workers.

- AH indicated that the local Aboriginal Land Council makes regular claims to Crown Land in Helensburgh which may have implications for Metropolitan in the event of mine closure. SL confirmed that there are a number of stakeholders which will need to be considered when the mine closes.
- AH asked if Metropolitan was contributing to the planned Helensburgh township upgrade. SL confirmed the road contributions previously provided to WCC were to be used in the upgrade, with some works to commence in early 2021.
- SL revisited the request to provide information promptly to the CCC when significant events such as redundancies are announced. Unfortunately during the recent announcement to idle the operation, information provided to the CCC was released to the media before Metropolitan had ensured all employees had been notified, indicating that Metropolitan needed to recalibrate when and how information is provided to the community so that employees receive the information from the company directly rather than through the media
- LA clarified that she had been contacted by the media regarding the impending idling of Metropolitan and was informed that they had received correspondence with her contact details on it. PT clarified that he had forwarded the email to his network.
- SL reported that graffiti had been found on a Metropolitan wall along Parkes Street which was quickly erased, and requested community assistance in reporting any graffiti so that it can be promptly dealt with.

Meeting Schedule for 2021: Following discussions, it was agreed that the meetings would be moved to Tuesdays with the following dates proposed:

- ❖ 20 April
- ❖ 17 August; and
- ❖ 16 November

Commencing at **3pm** on site.

Meeting closed: 6:52pm with LA thanking all members for their contribution throughout 2020 and wishing them all a merry Christmas and better 2021.