

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

Date: Tuesday 28 March 2023

Time: Commenced 3:01 pm

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

Attendees:

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal (via Zoom)
- Nicolas Tucker (NT) – Peabody Metropolitan Coal (via Zoom)
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member (*left at 3.47pm*)
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)

Apologies:

- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member

Absent:

- David Henry - Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC)

Welcome and introductions:

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. LA introduced Nicolas Tucker as Technical Services Manager, while JD has moved into an Approvals role.

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.

Action items from previous meeting:

- LA declared CCC meeting minutes 22 November 2022 were finalised 23 December 2022 and sent to members.

ACTION ITEMS FROM THAT MEETING:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Write to Wollondilly Shire Council requesting alternate delegate Complete <i>22/3/23</i>	CCC/LA
2	Send link to members regarding EPA Review of License Complete – the link was included in the minutes.	SL

- SL provided update to previous action regarding Helensburgh Creek culvert under Parkes Street. Wollongong City Council organised a vacuum truck to clear culvert in early March to allow better flow during rainfall.

Correspondence as per meeting notice sent 14/3/23 with one additional item:

- 14/12/22 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 23/12/22 – Email to members with the finalised minutes, with presentation.
- 14/3/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting, as well as request for any Community Questions.
- 22/3/23 – Letter to Wollondilly Shire Council seeking a replacement delegate for this CCC.
- [27/3/23 - Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.](#)

LA confirmed no community questions had been received prior to CCC meeting.

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

A presentation was provided to the CCC regarding:

- Company and Mine Update
- Extraction Plan Update
- Exploration Lease Plans for 2023
- Longwall Modification
- Camp Creek Update
- 2022 Air Quality.

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

- AH queried the access requirements to A6 area within the Holsworthy military area; SL explained that the access consent has not yet been developed but it is likely access will need to be made through the main entrance at Holsworthy.
- RS enquired about the Platypus in the Camp Creek and Hacking River. SL confirmed that Metropolitan has been assisting UNSW since 2021. The decision to delay the reintroduction in the lower reaches of the Hacking River catchment in 2022 was due to the heavy rainfall events in the first half of the year which severely disrupted aquatic ecology. The high flows wash the macroinvertebrate assemblages away and time is required for them to re-establish before platypuses can be introduced.
- AH queried Metropolitan’s view of recent ABC reporting on the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) report regarding basal shear planes. JD highlighted that the report relied on a selective use of data made publicly available by Metropolitan. SL credited the report with stating that there is no evidence of connective cracking between the surface and mine, which environmental groups have previously been reluctant to concede. JD added that two panels had previously considered the issues raised in the NCC report – the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment and the Woronora Reservoir Strategy.

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- AH discussed the election of Maryanne Stuart as the new local member for Heathcote. SL confirmed that Metropolitan communicates well with both major parties and looks forward to working with Maryanne.
- RS queried if Metropolitan should consider a pamphlet drop in area to promote Metropolitan and provide the community information regarding the mine. SL explained that it is difficult to offer timely information to the community on rapidly developing situations, and the CCC is a better conduit for information in these situations. Pamphlets remain an option, as is speaking to any community groups which might be interested in Metropolitan's operations.
- LA suggested that Metropolitan consider an open day to help provide the community with information concerning the mine highlighting the contributions to community groups, employment, environmental monitoring, regulation, and company performance. RS added Helensburgh is a strong well-informed community. JH agreed that this could be an option when Metropolitan celebrates a future milestone anniversary.

General business:

- AH stated that a grant had been approved by WCC for a path at the Old Mine Surgery building as well as upgrades to the building and grounds.
- SL enquired with AH on the status of the security fence previously installed at the old Helensburgh rail tunnel. AH explained that vandals had repeatedly broken the fence and it had since been removed. Landcare plans to install a new, stronger gate within the tunnel itself.

Meeting closed: 3:54pm with LA thanking all for their attendance.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 July 2023, commencing at 3pm. (AH commented that he may be an apology for this meeting – TBC.)

No Action Items.