

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

**Date:** 17/04/2019

**Time:** Commenced – 5:33pm

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

**Attendees:**

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Suzanne Cryle (SC) - Peabody Australia
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Lorraine Rodden (LR) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member

**Apologies:**

- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Nina Kent (NK) - Wollongong City Council
- Andy Hyslop (AHy) - Peabody Australia

**Absent:**

- Brad Staggs (BS) - Wollondilly Shire Council

**Welcome and introductions:**

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting.

**Declarations of interest:**

- LA declared her position as Independent Chairperson for the CCC approved by the Secretary, Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) and engaged by Peabody.

**Action items from previous meeting:**

Traffic management plan updated and provided to CCC on 22 January 2019 with no comment received.

**Correspondence (as sent out on 4/4/19 with the meeting notice – [with three additional items](#))**

- 22/12/18 - Email draft minutes for review.
  - 5/1/19 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
  - 18/1/19 - Email to members asking if they are interested in attending a forum Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer regarding the Independent Expert Panel's proposed consultation with the community regarding Mining in the Catchment.
  - 22/1/19 – Email to members with the proposed revised Traffic Management Plan for comment from CCC members.
  - 23/1/19 – Email to members chasing up response for Catchment Panel meeting and changing quality to quantity!!!!
  - [5/3/19 – Report from IC to Peabody regarding attendance at the Catchment Panel Meeting.](#)
  - 4/4/19 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda and Correspondence Report for this meeting.
  - [6/4/19 – Email to members with the Longwall 304 Extraction Plan.](#)
  - [15/4/19 – Email sent to members with a reminder for this meeting.](#)
- 
- *LA discussed the positive input of AH and RC attending the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment (IEPMC) meeting and the importance of the CCC.*

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

A presentation was provided to the CCC regarding Metropolitan's:

- Elevated gas level incident 21 March 2019
- Extraction Plan update and modification to longwalls 303-304
- Annual Review submission and summary of compliance – Noise management, Eastern Tributary and air quality
- Coal wash reject (CWR) management in 2018
- Gas Drainage Plant construction and commissioning
- IEPMC initial report
- School visit to Metropolitan Coal

JD and SL explained the gas level event which occurred underground at Metropolitan indicating which gases were involved, the response, ventilation and the related coal seams. The incident was reported to the Resources Regulator link:

<https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/regulation>

- RS commented that he would have appreciated some commentary on the event to the CCC from Metropolitan. JD and SL confirmed this can be done in the event of future incidents, and media coverage of incident had been relatively accurate.

## METROPOLITAN COAL

- JD explained the technical information for reentering the mine, the history of gas level events. KB suggested the implementation of improved communication to workers, who were turning up for their shifts and being turned away at the entrance to the site, causing noise and traffic issues.

JD and SL explained the background and approval status of current and future longwall lengths including the modifications to extraction plans 303-304 and shortening of the panels at the southern end to protect Eastern Tributary.

- Metropolitan will continue to consult with the IEPMC and DP&E to develop future mine layout.

SL explained the Metropolitan noise management and non-compliances with respect to the 2018 Annual Review.

SL explained non-compliances surrounding Eastern Tributary where grouting remediation is commencing in early May 2019.

- SC enquired about grouting procedure and design. SL clarified the grout curtain design was a smaller scale of what has been achieved on Waratah Rivulet.

SL explained air quality and the relationship between PM10 and bushfires in the Helensburgh region during 2018.

SL outlined CWR management in 2018, the backfilling of 'fines' underground and the recent trial of railing of CWR offsite.

- Metropolitan has seen ~20% of CWR emplaced underground via emplacement plant in 2018.

SL explained the benefits of the newly constructed Gas Drainage Plant (GDP) and the non-usable nature of CO<sub>2</sub>.

- JD reiterated that CO<sub>2</sub> is not a gas of concern and extracted gas is not usable as a power source. JD explained the transition of gases to the west of Metropolitan.
- RS enquired how the gas contents is modeled (explained by JD).

SL outlined the water model comparisons to Dendrobium mine in the recent IEPMC Interim Report highlighting that Metropolitan has no connective cracking and clarified recommendations from the IEPMC.

- JD and SL provided examples where IEPMC recommendations were already in place at Metropolitan (peer review of Extraction Plans, ISO standards for risk assessments)
- LA commented on the cost of additional peer reviews and responses. JD confirmed it has added considerable expense to process

SL highlighted a recent visit from Lucas Heights High School with a focus on encouraging young women to join science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

### **General business:**

KB enquired of potential ways to improve the noise mitigation at Metropolitan, SL confirmed Metropolitan is currently in discussions with DP&E regarding potential revisions of noise levels to act as new baseline for further noise mitigation in future.



**METROPOLITAN COAL**

SC advised CCC that media stories concerning Metropolitan could be sent to members with any relevant information.

SL thanked AH and RS for attending the IEPMC meeting representing Metropolitan CCC.

CCC members discussed the start time for CCC meetings. LR motioned to return CCC meeting times to 5pm, seconded by KB.

**Meeting closed:** 6:30pm with LA thanking all for their attendance and contribution.

**Next meeting:**

10 July 2019 at 5:00pm