

**METROPOLITAN COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 21 September 2021 (postponed from 17 August 2021)

Held: Virtually via email

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown of Greater Sydney, the Illawarra & Central Coast districts, this meeting was conducted remotely via email. The presentation was emailed to all CCC members on the 21 September 2021. Members were requested to review the document and provide any questions/comments within 7 days. After that time, this information was collated by LA and forwarded through to the company for its response. The answers were incorporated into these minutes as a record of the outcome of the engagement process. The subject presentation forms as an attachment to these minutes.*

Attendees:

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jim Middleton (JM) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)
- Patricia Gauci (PG) CCC Member
- Alexandra Stengel (AS) – Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC)

Apologies: Nil

Welcome and introductions:

- The meeting was technically opened by LA, when the project presentation was emailed to all members Tuesday 28 September 2021.

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 that the CCC meeting minutes of 11 May 2021 were finalised on 31 May 2021 and sent to members. No arising business.

Correspondence Report:

- 19/5/21 – Email to DPIE with chair’s CCC annual report for 2020-21.
- 20/5/21 – Email to member with the draft minutes for review.
- 31/5/21 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 19/6/21 – Email to members advising that the Metropolitan Annual Review 2020 has been approved and is available on the
- 26/7/21 – Email from PT requesting Appendices to the AR. This request was sent through to Metropolitan for action.
- 27/7/21 – Email to members with the fileshare link to access Appendices A to N.
- 3/8/21 - Email to members regarding the CCC on 17/8/21. (Responses received.)
- 6/8/21 – Email to members advising that the CCC for 17/8/21 will be postponed and moved to September 2021 (depending on COVID restrictions).
- 19/8/21 – Email from PT requesting GHG emissions information. This was forwarded on to Metropolitan for action and response.
- 23/8/21 – Email to PT with requested maps. Further information to follow.
- 27/8/21 – Email from SL with additional information and data. This information was forwarded through to PT.
- 31/8/21 – Email to all CCC members with the combined information regarding PT’s GHG emissions request.
- 31/8/21 – Email from PT requesting information on the transect bores. This request forwarded through to Metropolitan on 1/9/21 for its action.
- 3/9/21 – Email from PT with queries on the mine progress and plans. This request was forwarded through the SL the same day for response.
- 6/9/21 – Email from SL with the response to PT’s two requests. This information was forwarded through to all members.
- 20/9/21 – Email from PT requesting bore, sensor and LW information. This requested was forwarded to SL for action.
- 28/9/21 – Email to CCC with presentation, inviting members to participate in the engagement process via email.
- 29/9/21 – Email to PT with groundwater information.

Metropolitan Coal operations update – Stephen Love, Environment & Community Superintendent and Kane Organ, Environment & Community Coordinator

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

- Business & Mining update
- Underground workforce EA negotiations
- COVID-19 Management Update
- Metropolitan Independent Environment Audit
- Recent CWR Trucking
- Eastern Tributary Remediation.

Business & Mining Update

- Longwall 306 commenced 15 June 2021, expected completion April 2022
- Longwall currently under body of Woronora Reservoir
- Supply to Bluescope Steelworks remains business priority
- Coal prices have improved markedly in Q3
- Metropolitan has commenced preparation of an Extraction Plan for Longwalls 308-310; planned submission to DPIE in Q1 2022.

Enterprise Agreement Negotiations

- Ongoing negotiations between Metropolitan and CFMEU regarding the site Enterprise Agreement for the underground workforce
- As part of these negotiations the CFMEU has given formal notice to Metropolitan of planned industrial action including work stoppages
- Negotiations to finalise the EA continue.

COVID-19 Management Team

- Metropolitan continues to monitor COVID-19 status in Illawarra
- Currently at TARP Level 2
 - Previously outlined controls continue (staggered shift starts, use of masks on transports, extra cleaning etc)
 - Employees encouraged to work from home if able
 - Non-essential works have been postponed
 - Dedicated contractors limited to Metropolitan mine site only to minimise risk of transmission across industry
 - Peabody strongly encouraging employees and contractors across entire company to get vaccinated

Metropolitan Independent Environmental Audit 2018-2020

- IEA completed 8 May 2021 and response to recommendations submitted to DPIE 18 June 2021
- High level of compliance across various approvals and licenses maintained
- Most non-compliances known and currently being addressed (ie noise mitigation, Eastern Tributary remediation, site dam desilting)
- Some minor non-compliances identified including details collated on Complaints Register
- The IEA Report and Metropolitan's Response is available on the Metropolitan website.

Metropolitan IEA 2018-2020 Summary of Compliance – See Slide 7 in Presentation

Recent Truck Movements from Metropolitan

- Community may have noticed a recent three day trucking campaign from site
- This was to transport some fine CWR material unsuitable for loading in rail wagons to Port Kembla Coal Terminal
- This campaign has now been completed.

Eastern Tributary Remediation

- Due to ongoing COVID risk, Metropolitan has postponed stream remediation works to early 2022 in consultation with WaterNSW, DPIE and the Resources Regulator
- Works to recommence at Pool ETAK before moving downstream
- In meantime Metropolitan has completed an update to the Stream Remediation Plan to give greater flexibility in PUR injection locations to target shallow cracking
- Currently completing flora/fauna and Aboriginal heritage surveys ahead of temporary access track cutting to downstream remediation sites (ETAL & ETAQ)

Pool ETAH – pool resilience improved since remediation (see Slide 10 for graph)
ETAJ/ETAJ/ETAK – continued variability in pool level (see Slide 11 for graph)

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

- KB advised that she was okay with the information presented by the proponent. Further that of course discussion around these things is always helpful for as greater understanding. KB was looking forward to catching up in person and the next CCC and had nothing further to add.
- AH had no queries.
- Question from PT: *“I would be interested to know when 306 passed under the reservoir, and what enabled the considerable progress given the prior expectation of November?”*
Response: It’s unclear where PT gathered that the longwall would pass under the reservoir in November. A review of the previous couple of CCC minutes and presentations do not appear to reference November in this regard – in fact the mining forecast figure in the May 2021 presentation (also published in the Metropolitan Coal 2020 Annual Review) shows the longwall passing under the reservoir in August and September, as has now occurred. As shown in the figure provided in the presentation for this CCC meeting, the longwall’s recent progress is consistent with previous rates.

General business

- A number of requests were received from PT since the last CCC, seeking information on transect bores, sensor/piezometer elevation, mining progress and extraction plans. These requests were forwarded to Metropolitan for response and the information provided to PT. (Captured in correspondence.) **Action:** Moving forward and to assist Metropolitan in being able to manage resources and responses in a timely and coordinated manner, requests for information/data should be lodged 2 weeks prior to the CCC for inclusion in the minutes and for the benefit of advice/explanation for CCC members.
- AH submitted an enquiry to Metropolitan via the chair regarding a statement that had been made on social media. AH stated in the email that he was *particularly interested in how noise is recorded, further that it was his understanding that a data logger is being used. If so, then both noise and dust monitoring is not point in time like a car’s speedometer, but over time like a car’s odometer*

FACEBOOK POST:

"If there any thing like the audio samples they take to show there not making to much noise that they take from the empty block next to my house there inaccuracies will be overwhelming. They shut down all machinery the mine goes quite for 30 minutes guy comes takes his audio clip showing its quite he leaves and all the machinery starts back up. Dust samples would be taken when work is at a minimum for the day and right after the water spray system has been turned on for an hr when it should be on all the time."

Response from Metropolitan: The short answer is AH is correct – all of Metropolitan’s air quality monitoring is 24/7, so more like an odometer than a speedometer. The network of 10 depositional dust gauges are in place at all times, with sample bottles swapped out monthly for analysis, while the TEOM takes instantaneous measurements of PM10 on a constant basis. As the CCC members should recall, Metropolitan present the results of both of these monitoring programs to the CCC each year, and they are freely available in its Annual Review documents on the website. Helensburgh’s air quality consistently rates as ‘very good’ under the EPA’s criteria, outside of bushfire and hazard reduction burn events.

With regards to the attended noise monitoring, noise specialists monitor at four locations around the mine site during three intervals (day, evening and night) over two days each quarter. Metropolitan actually aim to undertake this monitoring during active operations (particularly operation of the CHPP) as much as possible, though shutdowns are sometimes unavoidable (unplanned shutdowns for repairs, extended shutdowns during longwall moves etc). A quick check of Metropolitan’s records indicate that since September 2010, of the 45 rounds of quarterly noise monitoring that have been undertaken to date, the CHPP was noted to not be operating during part or all of the monitoring round on just 8 occasions. Given the CHPP typically does not run on maintenance days, during longwall moves and on weekends, some monitoring representative of these periods is of value.

In addition to the quarterly attended noise monitoring, Metropolitan also employs a permanent 24/7 noise logger, which is programmed to flag noise events above a threshold value that may require investigation and mitigation. While the vast majority of these flagged events are not mine-related (dogs barking, birds, fruit bats, cicadas, house parties, storms, wind etc), any that are or could be from Metropolitan are investigated by staff, and actions put in place to mitigate or eliminate the noise where necessary.

It should be highlighted again that all of this information is freely available on the project website. The Air Quality Management Plan and Noise Management Plan outline the mitigation in place to minimise Metropolitan’s impacts and outline how it monitors their effectiveness. The results of these monitoring programs are reported in each year’s Annual Review.

<https://www.peabodyenergy.com/Operations/Australia-Mining/New-South-Wales-Mining/Metropolitan-Mine/Approvals,-Plans-Reports>

Meeting closed: 1 October 2021 when the draft minutes were emailed to CCC members for review.

Next meeting: Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 3pm, to be confirmed (subject to current government restrictions and health orders).

Action Item:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	CCC members to submit requests for data/information 2 weeks prior to the CCC for response at the meeting.	All (Ongoing)