



WAMBO COAL PTY LTD
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Location: Wambo Coal – Lakes Room

Date: 12 December 2017

ATTENDEES:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Ron Fenwick (RF)	Community member
Janet Fenwick (JF)	Community member
Dave Thelander (DT)	Community member
Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)	Singleton Council representative
Albert Scheepers (AS)	Wambo Coal – General Manager
Steve Peart (SP)	Wambo Coal – Environment and Community Manager
Merri Bartlett (MB)	Wambo Coal – Environmental Advisor
Trish Searle (TS)	Wambo Coal – Assistant to GM (minute secretary)

OPENING:

The meeting commenced at 9:08am

LA welcomed committee members. LA declared that she has been approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) and is engaged by Peabody to chair the meeting.

LA distributed an attendance sheet and asked the CCC to note any changes to their contact details on the sheet. LA advised that the minutes for the previous meeting were finalised on 22 August 2017.

APOLOGIES: Steve Schmidt & Shane Gee.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Action items:

1. LA enquired whether the CCC Representative Board had been installed. SP advised that the board has not yet been finalised.
2. SP confirmed that Wambo's 2016 Annual Review document has been distributed to the CCC plus a copy of the 2015 review to RF as requested.
3. SP stated that he has clarified the protocols with the complaints line personnel.
4. Item A
North East Tailings Dam capping and subsidence: SP advised that he is still working on this, so it will be included in the presentation at the next CCC meeting.
Item B
SP confirmed that he received information on the impact of the change from the Mine Subsidence Board to a Mine Subsidence Committee and forwarded it to the CCC members.

Other business arising

RF queried whether the Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) had been revised and enquired about the fire trail and access to boreholes on private land in the latest BMP. SP advised that he had a copy of the draft document to provide to RF after the meeting. SP confirmed that the document shows the fire trail and clearly shows the sections Wambo Coal is responsible for. The document has also been provided to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) at Bulga.

CORRESPONDENCE IN & OUT:

- 15/8/17 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 8 August meeting for review
- 22/8/17 – Email to members with the finalised minutes from 8 August meeting as well as the electronic version of the presentation from that CCC
- 24/7/17 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting
- 9/11/17 – Email/Letter from Subsidence Advisory NSW, advising of the changes to the mine subsidence compensation system
- 10/11/17 – this information was forwarded on to CCC members

Moved that correspondence be accepted by LA, seconded by RF.

PRESENTATION

SP presented a general update on:

- Current operations
 - Overview
 - Longwall 14 (LW14) South Bates pit
 - Montrose Pit and Montrose East
 - Roses Pit
- Rehabilitation progress
- Compliance summary - 2017
- Performance criteria summary - 2017
- Independent Environmental Audit
 - SP provided details on the audit and outlined the preliminary findings
- Approvals
 - Mod 17
 - 2018 Mining Operations Plan

GENERAL BUSINESS

DT and neighbouring properties have ongoing mine-related impacts. DT asked about dust suppression and commented on elevated noise levels, especially between 11pm and 1am. SP said that the OCEs and Supervisors are required to constantly assess dust levels and noise (noise levels are monitored via real time monitoring).

Water carts are utilised and when necessary, mining operations are stopped if it is considered either dust or noise are likely to exceed compliance levels.

The topsoil currently being stripped is very fine, 'talc-like' soil that is challenging to manage.

There was some general discussion about the role of gypsum in Wambo's rehabilitation which is used to improve the topsoil.

DT raised the issue of blasting on 21 November 2017. DT had video footage of blast fume taken from a neighbouring property and communicated that the fume cloud migrated over the Redmanvale Rd area. SP had not been made aware of the potential migration of the fume cloud towards Redmanvale Rd. SP committed to investigating the outcomes of the blast.

DT then asked about blasting methods and monitoring so SP explained the methods of vibration monitoring via geophone monitors (which measure ground vibration) and microphones (which measure air over pressure). Monitoring stations monitor both ground and air pressure at the same location.

DT had noticed two periods of vibration on 21 November 2017. AS explained the particular shot was unable to be blasted for two weeks (due to weather) therefore two shots in tandem, with a total of three shots were fired.

AS offered to show DT the blast record, or the opportunity for DT to view the video of the blast with the Drill and Blast Engineer and the Drill and Blast Superintendent.

DT raised concerns over the very high aluminium content of surface water identified at some properties on Redmanvale Road. Horses are sick and blood tests show high aluminium levels. DT sought an understanding of whether airborne dust can contribute and if Wambo's water testing includes aluminium levels. SP advised that is a naturally occurring element in all soils. Wambo does not routinely test for aluminium. SP will investigate potential sources of high aluminium levels.

DT expressed frustration with the EPA reporting line. He has left messages but his calls are not returned.

SP advised that the Air Quality Management Plan has been approved and offered to go through key aspects of the plan at the next CCC. The discussion returned to dust. SP sketched to show how dust monitoring stations are positioned based on prevailing winds to measure a particular mine's contribution to overall levels. SP went on to explain the types of air samplers used in all the Hunter Valley including the latest live real time dust monitoring used by Wambo Coal. DT commented on previous correspondence (over four years ago) from Wambo Coal which stated that dust on his property was caused by his horses.

Noise monitoring locations were discussed. SP advised that a logger was temporarily installed at a neighbouring property however results showed that DT's property is the most appropriate for accurate monitoring of noise levels in the community.

SP summarised the scope and findings of a recent Independent Environmental Audit. The audit report will be provided to CCC members after the Department of Planning has reviewed and accepted the report.

GA raised that in mid-2018 the Mines Department will remove the need to go through the current MOP process. SP explained that the updated MOP process will be less onerous and will allow for more flexibility while still working within consent conditions. SP advised that as part of the process the Division of Resources and Geoscience (DRG) will set up a public web portal to provide the community with a snapshot of where any mine is up to with rehabilitation.

JF asked for clarification of the Mod 17 plan (shown in the presentation) mining lease and development consent boundaries. It was agreed that the colours were confusing. SP clarified all the boundaries on the map to members. RF commented that escarpment protection zones are not on the plan. RF asked about impacts on the Wollomi National Park. SP advised that Wambo Coal will not have an impact on the National Park and takes this responsibility very seriously. SP provided drone footage to show how Wambo is utilising drone technology to survey and monitor the escarpment.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2018

The committee members expressed their agreement to hold three meetings in 2018 on the following dates (with additional, extraordinary meetings to be scheduled if required).

- Tuesday 10 April, 2018
- Tuesday 7 August, 2018; and
- Tuesday 11 December.

All to commence at 9:00am in Wambo's conference room.

LA thanked the CCC for their contributions during the year and wished them well for the festive season.

The meeting closed at 11:15am.

ACTION ITEMS

1. CCC members board to be put on the noticeboard in the Jerry's Plains hall
2. SP will investigate potential sources of high aluminium levels identified in surface water at some properties on Redmanvale Road
3. CCC members will be provided with the Independent Environmental Audit report following DP&E's review and acceptance of report
4. Agenda items for April meeting:
 - a. North East Tailings Dam capping and Mine Subsidence
 - b. Outline Air Quality Management Plan.