



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Meeting Minutes

1. PRESENT

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Independent Chairperson: | Lisa Andrews (LA) | Date & Time: | 28/11/2022, 11:13AM |
| Venue: | Mudgee Rugby Clubhouse, Mudgee | Minute Taker: | James Heesterman (JH) |
| Committee Members: | Ian Flood (IF), Bev Smiles (BS), Cr Katie Dicker (KD), Kieren Bennetts (KB) and Rod Pryor (RP). | | |
| Invited Guests/Observers: | None | | |

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Apologies: | Bruce Hughes, Brian McDermott, Cr Des Kennedy and Kim Peach |
| Absent: | Scott Lillis, NPWS representative |

3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews opened the meeting at 11.13am and welcomed attendees to the Mudgee Rugby Clubhouse.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lisa Andrews – Independent Chair approved by Director General of Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E), engaged by Peabody
 James Heesterman – Environmental Advisor, Wilpinjong Coal
 Ian Flood – Manager Project Development & Approvals, Wilpinjong Coal
 Kieren Bennetts – Manager Environment & Community, Wilpinjong Coal
 Bev Smiles – Community Member (Resident)
 Rod Pryor – Community Member (Resident)
 Katie Dicker - MWRC Councillor (alternate for Mayor, Cr Des Kennedy)

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

Review of action items from last meeting:

| ACTION LIST | | | |
|-------------|---|------|--------------|
| Number | Action | Whom | By When |
| 1. | Waste management from demolition program (including asbestos removal) to be addressed at every CCC meeting, and notification placed at Wollar Store when conducting asbestos removal in the Wollar township. | IF | Ongoing |
| 2. | Communicate project modifications to the CCC. | IF | Ongoing |
| 3. | Confirm if the old Bakery and old General Store has fuel tanks in the ground. IF confirmed that the selections of houses to be demolished does not include the old Bakery and General Store, item on hold until such time that these properties are selected. | IF | On hold |
| 4. | Discussing speed limit with MWRC. Sent through to council waiting on response. | LA | Next meeting |
| 5. | Green waste is no longer accepted at Wollar tip - Lisa Andrews to write to MWRC on behalf of the CCC, KD to follow up | KD | Next meeting |
| 6. | Ensure community notification of exploration drilling activities in EL9399 as requested. | IF | Ongoing |
| 7. | Replace the 9V battery in the Wollar Meeting Room fire alarm | IF | Completed |

6. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence as emailed with Meeting Notice on 18/11/22:

- 6/9/22 – Email from IF with the Australia Post contact details. This email forwarded to members on 7/9/22.
- 27/9/22 - Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review.
- 7/10/22 - Email to members with the finalised minutes and presentations.
- 24/10/22 – Email from BS asking if mine had been closed due to rain events and whether sediment dams were coping. Forwarded to Wilpinjong for response.
- 27/10/22 – Email from KB advising that WCPL scaled back operations on Saturday night through to Monday morning, however, continued to wash coal and load trains. All dams held up well, although there is a lot of water on site.
- 3/11/22 – Email from KB advising that EPA has granted an Emergency Water discharge licence to Wilpinjong Coal. This was forwarded to members.
- 4/11/22 – Email to members with the EPL link.
- 4/11/22 – Email from BS to KB with questions regarding the proposed water discharge.
- 4/11/22 – Email from LM with information about road closures and access.
- 4/11/22 – Email to members incorporating questions from BS, response from KB & incorporating information from LM.
- 9/11/22 – Email from BS to KB asking what method is being used to transfer the water from these pits to Wilpinjong Creek?
- 10/11/22 – Email from KB to BS responding to question, advising that each site has a velocity breaker installed at the discharge location (end of pipe) and then water is conveyed via existing drainage paths.
- 18/11/22- Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for the meeting.
- 25/11/22 – Email to members with the reminder and venue for this meeting.
- 28/11/22 Email from LM with the NPWS update (see Attachment 1 on page 10 of these minutes)

7. REPORT BY KIEREN BENNETTS

Presentation Overview

- October 2022 Aerial overview of Wilpinjong Coal
- Environmental Monitoring Overview
 - Attended Noise Monitoring
 - Real-time Noise Monitoring locations
 - Blast Monitoring / Vibration Monitoring
 - Dust Monitoring
 - Surface water and RO Discharge Data
- Operational Downtime
- Environmental Management Plan Updates
- 2022 Exploration Program
- Rehabilitation Update
- Community - Complaints, Donations & Consultation

Wilpinjong Coal - Current Aerial October 2022

- Map presented

Environmental Monitoring Overview

- Attended Noise Monitoring Locations – Map of locations provided.
- Attended Noise Monitoring 25-26 August 2022- Summary of results displayed.
- Attended Noise Monitoring - WCPL Audible 25-26 August 2022 - Map presented.
- Attended Noise Monitoring - Machinery in Operation 25-26 August - Table provided.
- Attended Noise Monitoring - Summary of Compliance 25-26 August 2022.
- Attended Noise Monitoring 19-20 September 2022- Summary of results displayed on table.
- Attended Noise Monitoring - WCPL Audible 19-20 September 2022- Map presented
- Attend Noise Monitoring - Machinery in Operation 19-20 September 2022.
- Attended Noise Monitoring - Summary of Compliance 19-20 September 2022.
- (BS) Is the term ‘mining continuum’ describing low frequency noise? (KB) Yes, that is correct. (BS) Is it accepted that the mine noise continuum is below all thresholds? (KB) Yes, it is presented in the monthly attended noise monitoring report. (BS) What is shown in the report has not been made clear enough. (KB) Will investigate alternative ways to present the information in the report and presentations.
- (RP) What is the overall mine noise exceedance limit? (IF) 35dB.
- (KD) What is the local continuum? (IF) Local noise within the immediate range of the monitoring site.
- Attended Noise Monitoring 11 October 2022- Summary of results displayed on table
- Attended Noise Monitoring - WCPL Audible 11 October 2022- Map presented
- Attend Noise Monitoring - Machinery in Operation 11 October 2022
- Attended Noise Monitoring - Summary of Compliance 11 October 2022

Current Real Time Noise Monitoring Locations

- Map presented

Blast & Vibration Monitoring - August to October 2022

- Blast/ Vibration Monitoring August - October 2022 - Overpressure Monitoring Results
- Blast/ Vibration Monitoring August - October 2022 - Vibration Monitoring Results
- (RP) Which pit was the blast which exceeded the 95% overpressure threshold shot from? (IF) Pit 7 on Saturday 24th September 2022.

Air Quality- Monitoring Locations

- Air Quality Depositional Dust – 12-month monitoring trends end October 2022
- High Volume Air Sampler - 12-month monitoring trends end October 2022
- TEOM Locations (map presented)
- TEOM - 12-month monitoring trends end of October 2022.

Surface Water and Discharge Monitoring- Summery November 2021

- Surface Water and Discharge Monitoring – Summary August 2022
- Monthly Discharge Data – August 2022
- Surface Water and Discharge Monitoring – Summary September 2022
- Monthly Discharge Data – September 2022
- Surface Water and Discharge Monitoring – Summary October 2022
- Monthly Discharge Data – October 2022
- Monthly Discharge Data – November MTD 2022
- Emergency Water Discharge including water quality analysis & discharge locations
- Emergency Water Discharge – EPA Comments
- (BS) Was the RO Plant limit not hit after the increase in discharge limit to 6.5ML/day? (IF) The intent of the limit increase was to allow the plant to run at full capacity which is still below 6.5ML/day.
- (RP) What is the volume limit under the emergency water discharge licence? (KB) 71ML/day. (RP) How long will the emergency discharge licence be active for? (KB) November 25th at 5:00PM is when the licence ceased. As a disclosure, we will be writing to the EPA to discuss future discharge plans. (RP) Is one of four landholders unable to cross the Goulburn River due to the recent flooding events.
- (BS) Will the modelling of the water balance require a rework? (KB) We will take the recent climate events into consideration in the next water balance update.
- (BS) Is there a process whereby WCPL investigate alternative methods of water management? (KB) Yes, we are currently undertaking a water management review.
- (IF) Completed rehabilitation will allow captured water to directly drain offsite.
- (RP) Will the RO Plant discharge limit be increased further? (KB) This is one of the options being investigated.
- (KB) A camera has been set up but is not yet operational at O'Brien's Crossing on the Goulburn River to provide critical information on the road crossing. (BS) A head's up that the camera was going to be installed would have been appreciated. (KB) Acknowledged BS' comment and noted that it was to be discussed in this CCC meeting. KB willing to share data from the camera with members of the CCC if relevant.

Operational Downtime

- Lost time- approx. 1485hrs digger, loader, and dozer hours – 3rd September to 22nd November 2022
- Presented:
 - Lost time by location
 - Lost time by event
 - Lost time by pit

Environmental Management Plans Update

- Site Environmental Management Plans – Status as on 27th November 2022
- (BS) Are these updates triggered by the WEP? (KB) No, these management plans updates are triggered following the development of the 2021 Annual Review.

Rehabilitation 2022

- Investigating alternative seeding options including aerial application (due to wet conditions)
- 44ha rehabilitation target – Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP)
- 100ha rework of existing rehabilitation to final Biometric Vegetation Types (BVT).

Community

- 19 complaints received between 3rd September & 27th November 2022
- 5 individual complainants
- 14 complaints from Mogo Road and 5 complaints from Ringwood Road
- 18 complaints were regarding noise and 1 was regarding blasting.
- All complaints in the reporting period were investigated, with WCPL remaining compliant on all occasions
- Donation priority areas as per WCPL's Social Impact Management Plan: environmental, health care, community development, arts & culture, youth services, education, and diversity.
- Donations should be submitted via: WilpinjongCommunityEvents@peabodyenergy.com, iflood@peabodyenergy.com or kbennetts@peabodyenergy.com
- Applications need to address the following: event / location details, dates / longevity details, importance of funding clearly outlined, how Wilpinjong / Peabody will be recognized for the sponsorship / donation / support.

Community Donations/ Sponsorship/ Support Since May 2022

| Purpose | Amount | Category |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| Art Unlimited - 2023 Hanging Art Prize | \$3,000 | Arts & Culture |
| Australian Stock Horse (ASH) – Central Tablelands Branch Show | \$1,500 | Community Development |
| Combined Churches of Mudgee - Community Christmas lunch | \$3,000 | Diversity |
| Gulgong RSL - Gulgong Gold Nugget Business Awards | \$3,500 | Community Development |
| Max Potential - 2023 Mudgee Max Potential program | \$4,790 | Youth Services/Education |
| Tunes on the Turf - 2022 Tunes on the Turf Music Festival | \$3,000 | Community Development |
| TOTAL | \$18,790 | |

Opening of Mudgee RDA Ride-Ability Hub – Wednesday 30 November 2022

'HAVE A CHAT" 2022 Details

- 1st Thursday of every month between 1:30pm and 4:30pm at the Wollar Store
- Community Complaints Hotline 1300 606 625

8. REPORT BY IAN FLOOD

Presentation overview

- WEP
- EL 9399
- Property Management

WEP – Rehabilitation Strategy

- Revised Rehabilitation Strategy
- Addressed further questions from DPIE Water review
- Awaiting approval
- Map of proposed conceptual landform provided
- (BS) When will operations relating to the extraction of coal cease? (IF) Without future approvals, approximately 2028 – 2029.

MLA 616

- Covers ~70 ha in NW corner – yellow polygon on map presented
- Last required Mining Lease for WEP approval area
- Awaiting assessment decision

EL 9399

- EL 9399 - drill program
 - Commenced drilling on 19th September
 - Completed 6 drill holes to date
 - Significantly behind on drill schedule
 - Wet weather/site access
 - Only 1 rig in operation not 2 as scheduled
 - Looking at options to commence with 2nd rig early 2023 – pending rig availability
 - Working on next APO for the remaining approx. 160 holes
 - All sites pegged and pre-drill photos captured
- (BS) Will infrastructure be realigned based on future approvals? (IF) Yes, we are currently in the process of creating a project description which will likely include relocation or realignment of infrastructure
- Baseline studies
 - BSAL soil testing commenced
 - Aquatic ecology conducted
 - Biodiversity assessments commenced
 - Assessment process to continue concurrently with exploration

Property Management – Feral Animal Control

- Working with LLS on an aerial shooting program – delayed until early 2023
- A map of the potential coverage area was presented

Property Management – Demolition

- 5 houses identified – as per the SIMP (2 Bedes Lane, 3 Fitzgerald Street, 9 Price Street, 17 Barigan Street, 19 Barigan Street)
- Asbestos removal commenced in July
- Process repeated from previous years;
 - Licensed asbestos contractor
 - Licensed hygienist to monitor
 - Inert waste in pit

- Recommencing demolition activities this week
- (BS) What maintenance is being carried out on occupied houses in the village? (IF) All occupied dwellings are maintained to the mandatory conditions set by the real estate agent.

Property Management – Regional Projects

- Wollar Solar
 - Working through potential water supply agreement with WCPL
 - No further advancements
- Energy Co
 - Commenced field work for geo tech and environmental assessments
 - Progressing interface agreements

WCPL- RFS Participation

- Thankfully, no activity since last meeting
- Repairing Wandoona fill point – flood damage
- (BS) Have plans been made to prevent grass fires this summer? (IF) It is up to the leasees to manage, however access easements are being planned in conjunction with NPWS and Crown.
- (BS) It would be good to know that the leasees are actively managing and preparing for grass fires.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- (LA) Discussions have commenced regarding the recruitment of an independent minute taker for future CCC meetings.
- (BS) Is there any indication of a time frame for government grants to fix the roads in the local area? (KD) The RMS are currently using MWRC as their road repair contractor. No time frame has been suggested at this stage.
- (IF) WCPL is currently scoping up a repair of the Ulan-Wollar Rd Cumbo Creek crossing in conjunction with MWRC.
- (KB) Thanked all participants of the CCC for their efforts during the year, it is appreciated by WCPL.

Meeting Closed:

1:32PM with LA thanking all for their attendance and contribution throughout 2022. Wishing members a happy and safe festive season. Attendees were then invited back to the Oriental Hotel for lunch.

Meeting Schedule for 2023:

It was agreed to continue with the same meeting schedule for 2023; 1pm at the Wollar meeting room

- Monday 6th March
- Monday 5th June
- Monday 4th September
- Monday 4th December

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| 5. | Green waste is no longer accepted at Wollar tip - Lisa Andrews to write to MWRC on behalf of the CCC, KD to follow up | KD | Next meeting |
| 6. | Ensure community notification of exploration drilling activities in EL9399 as requested. | IF | Ongoing |
| 7. | Consult Global Acoustics in investigating clearer methods of presenting recorded levels and application of modifying factors. | KB | Next meeting |
| 8. | Share relevant data from the camera mounted at O'Brien's Crossing with BS / interested community members as requested | KB | Ongoing |

ATTACHMENT 1: UPDATE FROM NPWS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Menke** <Lisa.Menke@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Date: Tue, Nov 29, 2022 at 8:46 AM

Subject: RE: Meeting venue for Monday.

To: Lisa Andrews <lisaandrews.ic@gmail.com>

Cc: Grant Purcell <Grant.Purcell@environment.nsw.gov.au>, Joshua Cam <Joshua.Cam@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Hi Lisa

Apologies there was no NPWS representative at the meeting yesterday. I hope all went well. Here's an update re NPWS matters that you can circulate to the group or append to the minutes :

1. Goulburn River NP camping areas accessed via Mogo road are currently closed due to the causeway damage at Wollar Creek. Mid Western Regional Council have reinstated access for residents only along Mogo road via the causeway, hence the closure of the visitor areas. Its unlikely the campgrounds will open before the end of the Christmas School holidays. The gate at the park boundary will remain closed and locked until public access via Mogo road is enabled by MWRC. The RFS have keys to the camping areas in the event of a fire.
2. Rob Smith has taken up a role as Pest Management Officer at Katoomba. I'll be recruiting a new Ranger in January 2023. Neighbours or mine staff should contact me or Grant Purcell (Team Leader Ranger) regarding Goulburn River NP issues.
3. Grant Purcell (Team Leader Rangers) can be contacted via grant.purcell@environment.nsw.gov.au or 63709021.
4. NPWS are conducting an aerial shooting program targeting feral pigs in the Goulburn River on NPWS estate between Big River and Wollara Downs and between O'Briens Crossing and Merriwa river next week. The park is closed during this period.
5. The NPWS summer weed control program GRNP is commencing and will be targeting weeds in the riparian corridor including willows, green cestrum, tree of heaven, blackberry and prickly pear.

6. The Premier has issued the 2023 State Election - Caretaker Conventions ahead of the State election set for 25 March 2023. As a general rule, no significant new decisions or initiatives, appointments, or contractual undertakings should be made during the **caretaker period**, which begins on Friday 3 March 2023 and continues until either the election result is clear (if the current Government is returned) or the new Premier is commissioned to form Government (if there is a change of Government). Routine government business will continue as usual during the caretaker period.

I hope you and your family and a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

Regards



Lisa Menke

Manager, Mudgee Area
Blue Mountains Branch

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service [W nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

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