


## MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd

ACN 608 495 441

### Authorisation No 459 (1973) Community Consultation Report

Report for the Period 8 April 2024 to 7 April 2025

DETAILS OF AUTHORITY	
Authority Number:	Authorisation No 459 (1973) ("Auth 459")
Original Grant Date:	7 April 1992
Current Expiry Date:	7 April 2025
Location:	Approximately 7km WNW of Muswellbrook
Project Name:	Mount Pleasant Project
Authority Holder:	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 608 495 441) and J.C.D Australia (ACN 002 017 209)
Operator/ Manager:	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd ACN 608 495 441
Reporting Period:	8 April 2024 to 7 April 2025
Date of Report:	30 April 2025

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## 1. Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of community consultation activities undertaken during the period 8 April 2024 to 7 April 2025 (**‘the Reporting Period’**) for Authorisation No 459 (1973) (**‘Auth 459’**).

Because of the proximity of the Mount Pleasant ML Group to Auth 459 and mining activities at the Mount Pleasant Operation, community consultation activities for the ML Group are indivisible from the Mount Pleasant Operation as a whole, including Auth 459. As a result, no separate expenditure for community consultation has been reported for Auth 459.

MACH Energy’s approach to community relations is focused on an early, upfront and on-going commitment to work closely with the local community and key stakeholders. Feedback from locals indicates our ability to efficiently evaluate localised concerns and opportunities is a refreshing change in the community.

In consideration of our community and stakeholders, many of whom don’t have email or computers, regular phone calls were put in place and personally delivering reports and updates from MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation was found to be the most effective means of staying in touch during this time.

During the reporting period the following communication tools and/or channels were used to keep community members and stakeholder informed and involved with the Operation’s progress:

- A 24hr/7day a week Call Centre operation was established from 1 May 2018.
- Community hotline (1800 886 889) with Blasting hotline (1800 931 872) & General Enquiries hotline (1800 931 873) established.
- Face-to-face discussions.
- Phone calls, emails, SMS notifications and letters.
- Community Newsletter, four produced within the reporting period.
- The MACH Energy website Projects Tab is updated regularly with community information and includes Mount Pleasant Operation Project updates.
- Four Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) Committee meetings were held throughout the reporting period.
- Four Community Consultative Committee Meeting (CCC) were held throughout the reporting period.
- Various events throughout 2024, including the site NAIDOC Celebrations.
- Representation on NSW Minerals Council Board and Executive Committee.
- Representation on NSW Minerals Council and Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) Working Groups & Committees (Environment & Community, Communications, HESC Conference) and the External Relations Manager is the current Chairperson on the Joint Economic & Social Development Working Group and the NSW Mining Careers Working Group.
- Sponsorship and attendance at Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Muswellbrook and Singleton) events, including annual Business Awards.
- Requests for community donations and sponsorships for various organisations have increased during the reporting period. These requests were from health, education, sporting and other areas of interest. In excess of \$300,000 was committed to local sponsorships including organisations in Muswellbrook, Kayuga, Aberdeen, Scone, Sandy Hollow, Denman, Singleton, Merriwa and Cassilis. A Sponsorship Committee has now been established and meet quarterly.
- Branded 3m x 3m and 6m x 3m outdoor marquees are available for loan to local community groups for sporting, cultural and community events.
- Information email for employment, community questions and requests [info@machenergy.com.au](mailto:info@machenergy.com.au).

- Suppliers and contractors can register through the Procurement Hub, available on MACH and UHMD websites. This project was undertaken in collaboration with the UHMD and local mining company members. Driven by the Joint Economic & Social Development Working Group.
- 'Expression of Interest' request available to local businesses for various projects.
- Regular engagement with Muswellbrook Emergency Services.
- Ongoing consultation and engagement with Muswellbrook Council including but not limited to regular Voluntary Planning Agreement working group meetings.
- Ongoing consultation and engagement with Upper Hunter Shire Council including but not limited to regular Voluntary Planning Agreement working group meetings.

Engagement and consultation for MACH Energy is focused solely on its own asset, the Mount Pleasant Operation. This report reflects the activities linked to the Operation, as well as any relevant activities specific to Auth 459.

From 8 April 2024 to 7 April 2025 MACH Energy received 55 community complaints. The complaints related to:

- Noise
- Air quality
- Lighting
- Blasting vibration
- Odour

None of these complaints related to Auth 459.

MACH Energy understands and values the input offered from the local community. Principles, expectations and targets for recruiting people from the local community; people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and/or women being 10% combined, have been included within contracts developed for scopes of work at site. During the reporting period, the average is 24%.

## 2. Community Consultation

Table 1 (below) summarises the community consultation undertaken during the reporting period, in accordance with Appendix 2 of the *Exploration Code of Practice: Community Consultation*.

**Table 1 – Particulars of community consultation undertaken in the reporting period.**

Stakeholder details	Consultation details (Time, Location, Objectives)	Method of recording consultation	Reasons/objectives for consultation and matters discussed	Comments in relation to exploration activity	Responses or actions to address concern(s)	Outcome of consultation	Assessment of how well objectives were met	Has activity been altered in response?	Community Consultation Strategy Assessment
Local community including Muswellbrook, Kayuga, Aberdeen and surrounds.	<b>Dates:</b> Various. <b>Type of consultation:</b> Various. Please refer to page 9 of this report. <b>Objectives:</b> ensure community is informed and up to date with operations at Mount Pleasant	Community Hotline, 1:1 consultation, Neighbour visits; attendance at local meetings and events, emails, etc. Recorded in Consultation Manager.	Ongoing operations undertaken at Mount Pleasant.	Not applicable.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.	Ongoing communication with the local community.	Objectives met – Community kept up to date with ongoing operations.	Not required.	Community Consultation Strategy and Plan objectives have been met.
CCC held on various dates between April 2024 and April 2025. Please refer to page 9 of this report.  Objectives: ensure community is informed and up to date with operations at Mount Pleasant		Any actions arising from CCC meetings are captured in the meeting minutes which are available on the MACH Energy website.	Various. Please refer to page 8 of this report.	Not applicable.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.	During the reporting period CCC meetings provided members with project updates as well as focussed update sessions on environmental monitoring information, community interaction and the Mount Pleasant Annual Report.	Objectives met – CCC members up to date on status of operations.	Not required.	Community Consultation Strategy and Plan objectives have been met.

April 16, 2025

Stakeholder details	Consultation details (Time, Location, Objectives)	Method of recording consultation	Reasons/objectives for consultation and matters discussed	Comments in relation to exploration activity	Responses or actions to address concern(s)	Outcome of consultation	Assessment of how well objectives were met	Has activity been altered in response?	Community Consultation Strategy Assessment
Members of Aboriginal Community Development Fund Committee ("ACDF").	Meetings held on various dates between April 2024 and April 2025. Please refer to page 9 of this report. <b>Objectives:</b> to discuss allocation of funds in the Local Government Areas of Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter.	ACDF Minutes	Commitment as part of Native Title Agreement. Please refer to page 10 of this report.	Not applicable.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.	Funds allocated towards ACDF Partnership Agreements under the pillars of Health, Education, Business and Culture.	Objectives met – allocation of funds achieved.	Not required.	Community Consultation Strategy and Plan objectives have been met.
Nearby landholders.	1:1 discussions with near-neighbours occur on a regular basis. <b>Objectives:</b> Ensure landholders are up to date with status of operations, and acquisition of properties.	Phone calls, emails, text messages etc. Recorded in Consultation Manager.	General updates about the Operation, including status and timing. Land management activities, property acquisition, enquiries about on lease activities.	Not applicable.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.	Correspondence sent to those who qualify for mitigation and acquisition to ensure all parties are aware of their rights. On-going acquisition discussions with property owners identified within the Development Consent.	Objectives met – landholders kept up to date with ongoing operations, ongoing discussions re acquisition of property.	Not required.	Community Consultation Strategy and Plan objectives have been met.

April 16, 2025

## 3. Government Consultation

Table 2 (below) summarises the government consultation undertaken during the reporting period, in accordance with Appendix 2 of the *Exploration Code of Practice: Community Consultation*.

**Table 2 – Particulars of government consultation undertaken in the reporting period.**

Stakeholder details	Consultation details (Date, Time, Location and Objectives)	Method of recording consultation and collection of feedback	Reasons/objectives for consultation and matters discussed	Comments in relation to exploration activity (if applicable)	Responses to issues raised or actions taken to address concern(s) or complaint(s)	Outcome of consultation	Assessment of how well objectives were met	Has activity been altered in response?	Assessment against Community Consultation Strategy (and Plan if applicable)
Local Government – Muswellbrook Shire Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council.	Various in person discussions and engagement. <b>Objectives:</b> ensure community is informed and up to date with operations at Mount Pleasant	No record keeping as in person discussions.	General updates relating to Mount Pleasant, project status and timing. Community development and funding opportunities, discussions relating to rehabilitation.	Not applicable.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.	Ongoing communication with the local community.	Objectives met – Community kept up to date with ongoing operations.	Not required.	Community Consultation Strategy and Plan objectives have been met.

## 4. Consultation Methods, Reasons/Objectives for Consultation and Matters Discussed

Members of the community are encouraged to contact MACH Energy through methods commonly used in the community. During the reporting period, communication avenues in place to support the Mount Pleasant Operation included:

- Community Hotline (1800 886 889) information is advertised in The Hunter River Times bi-weekly newspaper, The Aberdeen Whisper (with distribution throughout the Upper Hunter Valley), MACH Energy's quarterly Community & Employee Newsletters, Hotline Number magnets, community notifications and on the Home Page of the MACH Energy web site and on the Contact Us form.
- Information email address – [info@machenergy.com.au](mailto:info@machenergy.com.au).
- Data and studies about the Operation are available on the MACH Energy website or upon request and included during discussions with the Community Consultation Committee and the Aboriginal Community Development Fund ("ACDF"). Monthly updates and environmental results are also uploaded to the MACH Energy web site.

MACH Energy regularly attends meetings and speaks at functions hosted by:

- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- Singleton Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Service Groups, CWA, Rotary, Lions and Apex & Community organisations including schools and Church Groups.
- Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (co-ordinated by the NSW Minerals Council).
- Muswellbrook Shire Council.
- Upper Hunter Shire Council.

Project and mining operation updates are well-received due to the continuing and growing interest that the Operation attracts from those who support mining or recognise the injection of confidence that the Operation has provided.

### 4.1 Community Consultative Committee

MACH Energy meets with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) regularly each year. The five-member Committee includes near-neighbours and broader members of the local community. Independent Chair Dr William "Wej" Paradise AM continues to facilitate the discussions.

The CCC has met on the following occasions during the reporting period:

- 21 June 2024.
- 19 September 2024.
- 12 December 2024.
- 13 March 2025

Discussions from these meetings related to:

- Mining operation updates, including CHPP.
- The condition and maintenance of Wybong Road following extensive road works.
- Current status of approvals - Management Plans and supporting environmental documents.
- SSD and Social Impact Assessment.
- Land management activities, interest in off-set properties.



- Environmental activities including monitoring results for rainfall, air quality and blasting etc.
- Employment and supplier opportunities.
- The Committee participates in a site tour when required.
- Property fencing, general repairs and action taken regarding weeds.
- Toe line progress, visual bund and rehabilitation.
- Text Messages to be sent advising CCC near neighbours, Muswellbrook Shire Council and Chamber of Commerce executive of blasting times and dust shutdown activity. Details are now available on a “ticker” (advertising slider) on the MACH Energy website.
- External relations activities, social licence to operate, community interaction, sponsorship and stakeholder engagement.
- Complaints detail.

MACH Energy invites a range of its team members to present updates to the committee as direct contact enhances the two-way communication between both parties. Localised factors are explored in more detail and where possible, factored into studies conducted by MACH Energy. Minutes for the meetings managed by MACH Energy are available on <https://machenergy.com.au/mount-pleasant/documentation/>.

## 4.2 Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) Committee

The Fund was amongst the community benefits identified in 2005 as part of a Native Title Agreement with the Wonnarua People, as represented by Victor Perry. MACH Energy welcomed the opportunity this provides for making a meaningful contribution to the sustainability and well-being of Aboriginal communities in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Established in 2006, the ACDF had a starting fund of \$500,000, which is indexed against CPI each year. Since that time, the Fund has invested more than \$4M into projects that benefit Upper Hunter Valley Aboriginal communities. Funds not allocated at the end of each calendar year are transferred to a Future Fund which will also be used in the future to benefit the communities.

Seven local Aboriginal community members and an Independent Chair make-up the committee that is responsible for assessing and allocating funds in the local government areas of Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter. The Fund seeks to support partnerships that target issues, needs and opportunities which are priorities in areas such as health; housing, economic development; cultural and community development and education. Five new committee members were welcomed in March 2025.

The committee met on the following dates during the reporting period:

- 13 June 2024
- 3 October 2024
- 13 January 2025
- 17 March 2025

The committee considered the following issues during the reporting period:

- The fourth ACDF Cultural Spectacular was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the Muswellbrook Showground. The Cultural Spectacular was a very successful family friendly celebration of culture, community and coming together featuring live entertainment and a variety of cultural experiences. More than 5,000 visitors attended.

Partnership Agreements were sent to:

- Clontarf – School Program,
- Blackroo – New Beginnings Program,
- Ungooroo – Specialist Medical Services,
- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council – Aboriginal Trainee,
- Blackrock – Empowerment through training,
- Singleton Council – NAIDOC Celebrations,
- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council – NAIDOC Celebrations,
- Wonnarua Wayila – NAIDOC Celebrations,

Comments in relation to exploration activity

- No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.

## **5. Summary and nature of complaints received, and responses to issues raised or actions taken to address concern(s) or complaint(s)**

From 8 April 2024 to 7 April 2025 MACH Energy received 55 community complaints. The complaints related to:

- Noise
- Air quality
- Other
- Blasting/Vibration

None of these complaints related to Auth 459.

The community hotline (1800 886 889) is available 24hrs/7 days a week. The details are widely advertised via a number of channels from newspaper advertising to handing out details on a business card and fridge magnet. Details are also included on the website. The hotline number is included within all communication material released to the community. Complaint calls are logged within an electronic database.

During the reporting period MACH Energy provided a number of avenues for community members to register enquiries or complaints, including the Community Hotline and standard communication tools (e.g. letters and email).

Calls to the Community Hotline are managed in accordance with a service standard, as outlined in Table 3 below. MACH Energy is committed to responding to calls at all hours.

**Table 3 – Community Hotline response time targets**

Category	Response time	Resolution time
Complaints – hotline calls available seven days a week 24 hours a day.	Initiate investigation upon receipt of complaint. This includes contacting Mining Contractor Thiess Environment Superintendent who will immediately contact the Mine OCE to ascertain working conditions and location.	As soon as practicable
Complaints – mobile phone face-to-face, emails and written complaints	Within 24 hours of receiving the complaint (within business hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide an update to the complainant about the actions undertaken or being taken to investigate the matter,</li> <li>update the electronic database with details of the complaint and actions.</li> </ul>	
General enquiries	Response to the initial contact is provided within two business days.	Five business days
Written enquiries	Response to the initial contact is provided within seven business days.	Seven business days

## 6. Outcomes of consultation

Details of the outcomes of consultation undertaken during the reporting period is summarised in Table 4 below.

MACH Energy has been warmly welcomed by the local community and continues to achieve positive outcomes due the overarching 'can do' approach being embraced by the locals. Particular highlights in the community include:

- Personal and timely responses being provided to requests for feedback, with a positive response from the community.
- First contractor at site was a new local Aboriginal business that has since trebled their work force.
- The ACDF is now managed by the local committee members; very little input is provided by MACH Energy and the committee has openly commended MACH Energy for adopting this approach. It has provided members of the local community the opportunity to make decisions about local issues and opportunities.
- St Heliers Correctional Centre current and former inmates have been provided employment at the Operation through the relationship formed with the first contractor at site. The Managing Director of this contractor has an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander only employment policy allowing him to develop his business according to market demands.

**Table 4 – Outcomes of Consultation**

Consultation activities	Overview and Outcomes	On-going actions
Local government engagement (Muswellbrook Shire Council; Upper Hunter Shire Council)	Update on project status and future development plans.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.
	On-going engagement through various forums with a focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Mount Pleasant updates, including project status and timing.</li> <li>Community development and funding support opportunities including the Voluntary Planning Agreement.</li> <li>Early engagement and discussion about principles linked to rehabilitation options.</li> </ul>	On-going input to roads strategy studies.
		No actions beyond on-going project updates and general engagement as appropriate.
Near-neighbour engagement	1:1 discussions with near-neighbours occur on a regular basis and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General updates about the Operation, including status and timing.</li> <li>Timely letter drops advising of changes to day to day activities.</li> <li>Land management activities, including requests for specific actions (such as weed control or vegetation trimming), consultation and input to Mount Pleasant's fire management activities.</li> <li>Property acquisition, both for properties identified within the Mount Pleasant Project development consent, as well as other owners seeking information about acquisition opportunities.</li> <li>Enquiries about on-lease activities, such as leasing of properties for grazing and native seed harvesting.</li> </ul>	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459
		On-going acquisition discussions with property owners identified within the Development Consent.
		Correspondence sent to those who qualify for mitigation and acquisition to ensure all parties are aware of their rights.
CCC meetings	CCC meetings are conducted four times each year, with additional meetings if required.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.
	During the reporting period CCC meetings provided members with project updates as well as focussed update sessions on environmental monitoring information, community interaction and the Mount Pleasant Annual Report.	Any actions arising from CCC meetings are captured in the meeting minutes which are available on the MACH Energy website.
Business community (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry)	Sponsorship of the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry Business Awards, Making Muswellbrook initiative. Attendance at monthly breakfast meetings On-going general project updates. These engagements provide confidence for the Operation's future and encourages locals to become involved.	No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.
General community	On-going communication using range of tools including notification for near-neighbours and broader community, Community Hotline, email <a href="mailto:info@machenergy.com.au">info@machenergy.com.au</a>	Contact details.
		No specific actions required relating to Auth 459.
		On-going communication activities to support Mount Pleasant Operation.

## 7. Assessment of how well objectives were met

Community Consultation was met positively. Consultation undertaken during the reporting period has allowed ongoing use of land for activities and maintenance of relationships with landholders and the local community.

## 8. Were activities altered in response?

Activities were not required to be altered.

## 9. Assessment against Community Consultation Strategy and Plan

Activities undertaken during the reporting period have met the requirements of MACH Energy's Community Consultation Strategy and Plan.

## 10. Future Consultation

MACH Energy intends to continue engaging with the local community and its stakeholders. An overview of some of the key activities planned for the next reporting period are outlined in the following table.

**Table 5 – Proposed Future Consultation**

Stakeholder	Future consultation
CCC meetings 2025	The first meeting for 2025 was held on the 13 <sup>th</sup> March. Further meetings are scheduled for June, September, December. MACH Energy is always open to the option of conducting additional meetings. New Guidelines were introduced for CCC's by the NSW Government.
ACDF Meetings 2025	The first meeting for 2025 was held on the 17 <sup>th</sup> March. Further meetings to be scheduled in June, October and January.
Local government engagement (Muswellbrook Shire Council & Upper Hunter Shire Council)	Both local government and MACH Energy realise the value obtained from keeping key decision involved with the Operation's development. Initial discussions include design principles relating to rehabilitation of the mine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-to-one meetings.</li> <li>• Engagement with staff members on specific matters such as roads, land management, VPA and community initiatives.</li> <li>• Preliminary discussion about road strategy studies and planning.</li> <li>• Support for an involvement in Council-led projects as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Near neighbour engagement	On-going updates from MACH Energy's technical personnel in response to issues or opportunities to involve those impacted by the Operation.
	As appropriate, engagement of near neighbours in land management planning and activities.
	On-going discussions regarding property acquisition, where properties are identified in the Mount Pleasant Project Development Consent, and acquisition is requested by the landholder.

Broader community	Maintenance of communication avenues, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-going advertising in local media, including on line, print and radio.</li><li>• Maintenance of contact points, including website, free-call Community Hotline etc.</li></ul>
Business community engagement	On-going participation in Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Membership and attendance at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue meetings.
Engagement with schools	Continue working with school children, primary and high schools and local TAFE leaders to promote education and discuss possible opportunities to influence curriculum or extra-curricular activities. Three local school tours organised through the upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and attendance at NSW Mining Careers Expo in Singleton and Newcastle.

## 11. Community Consultation Strategy

In order to maintain effective consultation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with the relevant Conditions of Title and the Mining Act 1992, community consultation is (to the extent practicable) conducted in accordance with the Community Consultation Strategy prepared and maintained by holder of the Authority in relation to Exploration Activities.

The Community Consultation Strategy is reviewed in conjunction with the Annual Community Consultation Report to ensure that the objectives set out in the Community Consultation Strategy are appropriate to the exploration activity and stakeholders concerned.

Following completion of this review process, the Community Consultation Strategy is amended as appropriate in order to maintain effective community consultation.