

Record of Meeting – Community Consultative Committee

Date	14 th December 2023
Time Start	10:00 am
Time Finish	12:15 pm
Location	University of Newcastle Muswellbrook Campus Training Room
Minutes	Meg Bowman [MB], Teena Keast [TK]

Opening of Meeting	Meeting opened at 10am
Attendees	Chair: Wej Paradise [WP]
	Community Consultative Committee Members: Llewellyn Bates [LB] Trevor Parkinson [TP] Jonathan Moore [JM] Theresa Folpp [TF] Tony Lonergan [TL] Tim Troon [TT] – Via phone
1. Apologies	Peter York [PY] Cr Steve Reynolds [SR]
Attendees	Guests: 1. Cate Sims, Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue
	Government Department Representatives: 1. NIL
	Muswellbrook Shire Council: 1. Theresa Folpp [TF]
	Mount Pleasant Operation: Ngairie Baker [NB] Meg Bowman [MB] Mick Redman [MR] Chris Lauritzen [CL] Sandy Lettice [SL] Richard Ali [RA] Andrew Reid [AR]

	<p>Teena Keast [TK] Mariah Lane [ML]</p>
	<p>Thiess: Brodie Morrison [BM] Ashlee Cox [AC]</p>
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	<p>WP requested that Members disclose if they have any pecuniary interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [WP] The chair receives payment from MACH Energy to chair the CCC meeting as per the CCC guidelines. • [JM] is involved with the Wybong RFS. • [TT] has been engaged by MACH Energy to deliver First Aid training.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [NB] The March 2024 CCC meeting to include a site tour at MPO. MIA works to be included. • [WP] will circulate the summary and outcomes of the chairs meeting. • [WP] to discuss presentation slides with Mach Energy. • [AR] to send results to [LB] • [NB] to share the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Community Forum date for 2024 with the CCC when available.
Safety Share	<p>[MR] discussed the details of first lost time injury at the Mount Pleasant Operation.</p> <p>Lessons learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was it the right tool for the job? - Training. - Basic hazard awareness.
2. Previous Minutes	<p>The Minutes from the previous meeting, 7th September 2023 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [TP] questioned the section on Page 3 regarding members residence. [WP] Clarified that members need to live in the impacted area of the project. Community group members can be from a broader range of geographical areas. Mostly to do with the extent of the impact, which is the upper hunter community such as the three LGAs written down. • [TL] Northern link Rd information. [MR] said we will address this in the meeting.
3. Matters Arising	<p>Will be addressed in the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms of reference
Chairman report	<p>Terms of reference was circulated. No objections to the terms of reference [WP] – accepted by the committee.</p> <p>Code of Conduct forms were circulated and need to be signed by committee members and given back to [WP].</p> <p>[WP] attended a chairs meeting in Sydney from DPE, [WP] will circulate the summary and outcomes of the meeting.</p>

	<p>[WP] Key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council representation includes two attendees, councilor, and staff representative. • Proponent maximum of three. • Community & Stakeholder representatives maximum of seven. • Effectiveness of the committee, trying to find out what does that mean. How do we define what is effective? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance to the guidelines • Completion of actions • Matters which affect the performance of the committee. Attendance, community interest.
<p>4. CCC Community Update</p>	<p>[JM] – Noted that it was a shame the CCC could not meet on site today. We look forward to site visits, hope that next year we can continue site visits.</p> <p>[JM] - Wybong Road, visible concreting work undertaken.</p> <p>[MR] – Yes, a range of projects undertaken to close out the Rail 2 Project. Ensure run off runs back to mine catchment. Shaping and seeded disturbed area.</p> <p>[JM] – Height of rehab, have you reached maximum height?</p> <p>[MR] – No we haven't, there are a number of meters to go.</p> <p>[JM] – Slashing was appreciated, it has greened up and it has removed the fire hazard.</p> <p>[MR] – This will be done quarterly.</p> <p>[JM] – Safer for vehicles and community with kangaroos, made the entry to mine site neat and tidy. Appreciated by community.</p> <p>[JM] - Are you mentioning anything about the court case, would like an update.</p> <p>[MR] – CL will update.</p> <p>[TP] – Young man in last newsletter Rams under 9's thanks MACH Energy for your sponsorship of all community groups.</p> <p>[LB] – Testing of the water coming down the gully.</p> <p>[AR] – Sampling regime, spoke to the resident, involved dam engineers, tested upstream and downstream of water. Essentially water quality characteristics are chlorine dominant, different to tailings which is sulfate dominant.</p> <p>[LB] - Would like a copy of the results.</p> <p>[TF] – Is it supposed to be leaking?</p> <p>[AR] – It is not, and if it is we have catchments which will ensure it does not run off site.</p> <p>[LB] – Noticed track work on rail line,</p> <p>[MR] – Track grinding, routine maintenance.</p> <p>[TL] – Transmission tower question. Is it for mobile phone and emergency services?</p> <p>[CL] – Not for mobile phone and emergency services. Only TV</p>

	<p>signal. Surveyed all the signal strengths, only one that is affected by landform is TV signal, MOD 6 is approved now. Next step is to engage with ACMA who are the regulator, they specify signals.</p> <p>[TL] - Who owns the tower?</p> <p>[CL] – We will, will need to find a new owner in perpetuity.</p> <p>[TL] – Assuming there is no compulsion for you to look after the tower.</p> <p>[CL] – It is in the DA conditions of consent to set this up and ACMA will have to give consent for the tower and will have conditions of how the tower is set up.</p> <p>[TL] - It might be a burden to the community.</p> <p>[CL] – It won't be a burden, it will be just like any other tower, it will be maintained just like Rossgole.</p> <p>[TF] – Attended a workshop with Water NSW – business case completed in the next six months will share information on water.</p> <p>[TF] – It was mentioned at the workshop that there needs to be a representative from the mining industry.</p>
<p>5. Mount Pleasant Operation Update</p>	<p>[MR] –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mining sequence continues with operations progressing west. • Mining Infrastructure Area (MIA) upgrade is continuing. Maintenance workshop upgrade 8.5% complete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [JM] – Is this next to existing facility? • [MR] – We will look at it next time we are on site. • CHPP Incremental Expansion is continuing. Commenced in late October 2023 • Christmas shutdown commencing December 22nd. Limited activity around site. • Interim discharge pipeline works completed to enable site discharge to the Hunter River under HRSTS. • Northern Link Road (Dorset Road) detailed design well underway. Stakeholder consultation ongoing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [TL] – questions on specific alignment of road, and Dorset Rd. • [MR] showed on the map, answering [TL] questions. • Range of studies completed. Stakeholder engagement. Had one design review with Muswellbrook Shire Council. • Timeframes: Design should be done in April/May. Procurement stage. 12–16-month construction time. • [JM] – is there a speed limit on the road. (Castlerock Road). • [MR] - Sign will be 80km. • [TL] – Current speed is 100km. • [MR] & [TK] agreed that it is currently 100km but wouldn't drive 100km. • Logues Lane remediation work complete.

	<p>[WP] – Back to the discharge points for Hunter River, are they far apart?</p> <p>[MR] – Not too far apart, can see one from the other. Both discharge into a gully that feed to the river.</p> <p>[WP] – What are the monitoring, discharge levels.</p> <p>[AR] – Live system monitoring of discharge.</p>
<p>6. Applications & Approvals</p>	<p>[CL] Optimisation Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine life to 2048 • Mining to Edderton Seam floor • ROM coal production up to approx. 21 Mtpa • Product coal up to approx. 17 Mtpa • Consolidation of mining area • Single integrated waste rock emplacement • Some approved disturbance would be relinquished. • The IPC granted NSW Development Consent under the EP&A Act on 6 September 2022. • Under the new Development Consent MACH is required to develop and submit a range of new environmental management plans and comply with various notification requirements. • MACH will work through these requirements progressively in the coming months. • The IPC's statements regarding the Project and the new Development Consent is available on the IPC website: https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2022/05/mt-pleasant-optimisation-project-ssd-10418 • MACH also requires a further Commonwealth approval for the Project "Action" under the EPBC Act. • The EPBC Act approval process was delayed by a reconsideration request lodged with the Federal Minister. • The Federal Minister has now confirmed the original controlled action and processing of the referral has commenced. • An environmental group has launched a judicial review challenging the Minister's decision. That judicial review confirmed the Minister's decision. The group has now appealed. <p>[JM] – Slow process.</p> <p>[CL] – Keeping our 400 employees in mind, and our shareholders who all rely on the operation for their livelihoods, we are seeking an alternative route via MOD 7. Modification 7 (MOD 7) consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extension of the mine life by six years until the end of 2032, to provide operational certainty. • an increase of the approved ROM coal extraction rate under DA 92/97 to 12 Mtpa from 2025 (due to some identified operational efficiencies); • A refined alignment for the approved Northern Link Road that would be constructed prior to the approved closure of Castlerock Road; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with the community (SIA and ACHA processes) and regulatory agencies has commenced for the Modification. <p>[CL] - MOD 6 transmission tower. Mach Energy have taken on the liability of the tower into old consent with a modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [TL] – have you lodged MOD 7? • [CL] – Will lodge it in March
<p>7. Land Management</p>	<p>[RA] - Priority Weed and Pest Management Programs</p> <p>[RA] – Heading into weed season we didn't think we would get much rain. Looking for St John's wart. Over time we can beat it. Hard to find but what we did find we got onto it early. On offsets and mine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New herbicide being used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [JM] – Commend you for that. From a landholder point of view, it is great to know this is happening. • Ongoing drone weed mapping - feeding into weed management strategy. • We have 6 teams of weed contractors between Muswellbrook, Merriwa, and Cassilis. • Isolated area Mimosa bush (Vachellia farnesiana) • Trialling a new data recording system with weed contractors Spray Teknix - ease of use, automated system that can generate a report plus map. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [RA] – all the teams were finding it hard to record. We now have Spray Teknix. They have an app on their phone, punch in which weeds they will be spray, flow meter on the tanks, records all the information, reports then go to us and then we can see data. <p>Pest Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral Pig Control Programs MPO/ Thiess– trapping/shooting/ baiting programs are continuing across MACH Energy's properties. Targeting reestablishment areas. • 60 pigs removed from St Antoine and 48 pigs from Wahrane. • 250 pigs removed from site. • Spring Wild dog/fox control program successfully completed Mount Pleasant – 39 fox takes. • Fox control program was delivered and just completed across five offset holdings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [JM] and [LB] – the number of pigs being removed is great. • [LB] – Was there any wild dogs? • [RA] – Not this time. Although there have been some wild dogs sighted, three in the course of the year. Coming across from Castlerock rd. LLS are controlling them in Rossgole. • [LB] – We haven't seen a wild dog for a long time. • [TL] – Landholders who are controlling foxes, they have seen a comeback of bandicoots. When all the landholders work together it is a good outcome. • [RA] – Yes, that is our plan. <p>[SL] - Projects and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panel protection fencing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing Projects- Revegetation areas (Gum Ridge), Boundary fences, Riparian fencing (St Antoine & Gum Ridge). • Muswellbrook - pulling down old fencing and renewing paddocks. • 'The Donga' house on St Antoine is currently under renovation. • 'Burnbrae' homestead – concreting underway around the property. <p>Water infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar pumps installed to remediate water issues at Muswellbrook residential properties. • New tanks and troughs installed at St Antone and Gunnedah. <p>Bushfire Fire Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offset Bushfire Management Plan 2023. • Inspections undertaken with local RFS Officers. • Fire trails mapped by drone, and all brushed up. • Water tanks getting upgraded with 65mm Storz connections for fire units. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [TF] – New development consents are saying they need to have those, good to see what it looks like. • [SL] – Great for landholders or fire trucks to fill out quickly. • [JM] – that’s great <p>[WP] – Communities think mines leave the offsets and don’t do anything with them. There is a lot happening on them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [WP] – What’s the budget for doing all that work? • [SL] – A significant amount. • [WP] – continues to circulate that nothing happens on the offset properties. • [SL] – Becoming more obvious when you drove out there, you can see there is a lot happening. There are now more families living back in communities which helps the local schools etc. • [NB] – We engage with the local communities in the areas of our offsets. We assist with sponsorship and attending events. • [WP] – More communication about this. • [JM] – I agree. <p>[CL] – One thing that wasn’t in the presentation was the DA to restore Negoa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [TL] – you have already done so much. • [CL] – Yes, we have done the emergency things, but looking to do more.
<p>8. Environmental Performance</p>	<p>[AR] – On the back of RA presentation, weed and pest management the work that we are doing on our rehab is just as intense. We have a full-time resource for weed and pest management on site.</p> <p>[AR] - COMPLIANCE MONITORING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfall for the month of November was 41.8mm, short of the regional long-term average of 78mm. YTD rainfall is 360mm. • Dozer was operated for 17 minutes during an adverse weather conditions shutdown period on 25 October 2023, in breach of Condition O3.6 of EPL 20850. One non-compliances YTD.

- Four regulatory shutdown periods since September, and several operational shutdowns e.g., high dumps due to wind/hot conditions.
- 16 blasts during the last three months (Sept-Nov).
- EPA continued focus on dust management with three remote observations and one unannounced site inspection involving mining operations and dispatch.
- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Compliance Officers inspected the Mount Pleasant Operation with a focus on topsoil management.
- Dust Mitigation Forum with Muswellbrook Shire Council attended, focusing on dust management and mitigation methods for cumulative impacts.
- Erosion and Sediment Control Audit completed, with only low risk improvements identified.
- National Pollution Inventory (NPI) and National Greenhouse and Energy reports (NGERs) submitted.
- MOD6 approved triggering a review of the Visual Impact Management Plan (VIMP) and Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

[AR] – A variety of civil work taking place on site. Including light vehicle access road resealing, reseal of Logues Lane. foundation work for a new shed and CHPP maintenance.

- [TF] – Going back to the water on [LB] property, are you trying to stop it?
 - [LB] – water stopped three weeks after testing. It was coming out of the dam, and down the gully and into the creek and then into the Hunter Rd. Just interested to know the water quality.
 - [AR] – A natural spring is feeding it.
 - [MR] – Historically there has been a spring through there for eternity.
 - [TF] - It's okay that the water is coming? Continue monitoring to make sure it is okay.
 - [LB] – You know what happens normally on your country. Interested in the quality.
- [TL] – Most recent environmental monitoring report is August, why isn't it more up to date?
 - [AR] – September is up there now. Still awaiting results from various laboratories to collate the data.
- [TL] – Commented on dust.
 - [MR] – Upgrades have been done on the hopper, they occurred in July and August. Two “wing walls” were installed, dust suppression lines were also installed. Out of the pit, we have encountered some self-heating of coal, in the process of treating the material it generates plumes of black dust. It can be very dark in color.
 - [TL] – I think it's coming from the hopper. Its trucks driving around and into the hopper.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [MR] – Next step is 2024 capital program includes the ROM pad area some improved dust suppression units, which will improve emissions from there. • [TL] – you are very close to town, and this is something I hear. • [WP] – Common issue from all mines & CCCs. • [TL] – More so with this operation because it is so close to town. • [MR] – We are close to other mines too, there is a cumulative impact sometimes. <p>[TL] – Why aren't dust shutdowns put on the website? [NB] – This is an option we are investigating.</p>
<p>9. External Relations</p>	<p>[NB] - Stakeholder engagement visits to Blairmore Lane, Kayuga Village and sections of Aberdeen. Further engagement throughout December and January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOD 7 Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Interviews in Muswellbrook, Singleton. • Attended Kayuga RFS sod turning for construction of new facility. • Meetings with Professor Kelvin Kong, Ungooroo and Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) regarding Upper Hunter partnership opportunity. • Attended the opening of the Denman & District Historical Museum, MPO Voluntary Payment Agreement (VPA) funds contributed to this outstanding community facility. <p>Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Intensive Swimming Program – Aberdeen Primary School. • 2023/2024 season – Belltrees Cricket Club, Belmore Bulls, UHDCA • 2023 Scone Basketball • Grounds Rehabilitation – Upper Hunter Motorcycle Club • King of the Ranges, Merriwa Springtime Show, Muswellbrook Cats & more. • End of year school presentation days – Muswellbrook Primary, St James, Aberdeen Public School, Denman Public School, Muswellbrook High School and Kayu Kumpa.
<p>Cate Sims presentation</p>	<p>Overview of the Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in 2011 in response to increasing community concern about the cumulative impacts of mining. • Provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in meaningful and respectful discussions to develop and implement actions to address concerns and amplify the benefits of mining. • The Dialogue's current priorities are focused on environmental, economic, and social development issues. • Website – www.miningdialogue.com.au

<p>10. General Business</p>	<p>[TL] – A community member asked me to ask this question. How is the tailings to topsoil project going? What is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [MR] – This is ongoing, it's using recovered material from tailings, mixed with other things such as cow manure, and testing to see if it works for growth areas. Testing on rehab. Ongoing small scale. • [TL] - Is there an interim report? • [MR] - Not at this stage? <p>WP - Out of pocket expenses that was raised at the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [NB] - 75c per km is the rate. MACH Energy will support this if committee members can provide a logbook. Happy to assist if anyone needs help with this. • [WP] – Could make a standard claim form.
<p>11. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Date: Thursday 14th March 2024 Time: 9.30am (arrive on site for visitor induction and PPE) Site tour commences: 9.45am Meeting Location: Mount Pleasant Operation, 1100 Wybong Road.</p> <p>2024 meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th March • 21st June • 19th September • 12th December
	<p>Meeting closed at 1:30pm</p>

END OF RECORDS