

# **Record of Meeting – Community Consultative Committee**

Date	20th October 2022	
Time Start	9:55 am	
Time Finish	1:15 pm	
Location	Mount Pleasant Operation – MACH Energy Meeting Room	
Minutes	Lesley McLoughlin [LM]	

Opening of Meeting	Meeting opened at 9:55 am		
	Chair:		
	Wej Paradice [WP]		
	Community Consultative Committee Members:		
	Llewellyn Bates [LB], Trevor Parkinson [TP],		
	Tony Lonergan [TL]		
1. Apologies			
	1. Theresa Folpp [TP]		
	2. Andrew Reid [AR]		
	3. Jonathan Moore [JM]		
	4. Tim Troon [TT]		
	5. Peter York [PY] Guests:		
	1. NIL		
	Government Department Representatives:		
	1. NIL		
	Muswellbrook Shire Council:		
	Sharon Pope [SP]		
	Mount Pleasant Operation:		
	Ngaire Baker [NB], Lesley McLoughlin		
	[LM], Richard Bailey [RB], Chris		
	Lauritzen [CL], Ian Webber [IW], Chris		
	Masters [CM], Richard Ali [RA], Mariah		
	Lane [ML]		
	Thiess:		
	No Attendees		
Declaration of Pecuniary	WP requested that Members disclose if they have any pecuniary interests:		
Interests	[WP] Receives payment to Chair the CCC meeting for the 20.10.22.		



Safety Share	<ul> <li>RB shared the fact that day light savings has commenced, and it can be hard to readjust, be mindful of fatigue. Along with wet weather conditions, drive to conditions.</li> </ul>		
2. Previous Minutes	The Minutes from the previous meeting, <b>June 16th</b> , <b>2022</b> , were accepted as a true record of the meeting.		
3. Matters Arising	SP provided an update of transporting windfarm blades through the Muswellbrook Shire. The proposed route is the Golden Highway, Denman Road, Bengalla Link Road, Wybong Road and through to Dartbrook Road to continue out west.  Multiple requests submitted to the State Government to look at a strategic approach. It would be preferred to not use Bengalla Link Road or Wybong Road as the transport route. Muswellbrook Shire Council advised they will be objecting to all submissions until there is a strategic approach. There will need to be communication within the community that will be impacted. Muswellbrook Shire Council nominated the mines, and landowners as access agreements are required as blades will swing over their fences or for relocating of fencing. Muswellbrook Shire Council also raised safety issues such as Wybong Road with delay in holding up traffic, no room for oncoming traffic to pull to the side. An update to be provided at the next CCC.		
4. CCC Community Update	<ul> <li>SP apologised on behalf of Muswellbrook Shire Council for the delay in filling potholes due to wet weather.</li> <li>TL reiterated his concerns about the growth of Boxthorn on mine owned land. TL acknowledges access problems and weather. TL said the issues has not been dealt with at all. TL expressed the concern regarding St John's-Wort and said it would be appreciated if this could be managed promptly by MACH Energy.</li> <li>LB commented that MACH Energy instantly responds and acts when notified of St John's-Wort on their property.</li> <li>MACH Energy explained two contractors are engaged to manage the weeding and it is a matter of access and wet weather conditions. RA will provide a detailed update in the Land and Property section regarding weed control.</li> <li>Chair requested feedback from the CCC for the Draft CCC Guidelines, including the code of conduct for committee members, chairperson, and a template for a Terms of Reference. Each committee has an opportunity to draft their own terms of reference to align with the specific committee. Deadline to return feedback is 4th November 2022. Chair encourages the committee to review the guidelines, add responses and to make submissions.</li> </ul>		



•	TP wanted to understand if the number of community
	members are going to be reduced and be replaced
	with stakeholders on the CCC? TP expressed that
	stakeholders are not the local community.

- Chair confirmed the CCC community membership is still seven but some of those members can be from stakeholder groups.
- MACH Energy confirmed the guidelines are only a draft to which the CCC can contribute, change, or add suggestions.
- Chair expressed the view that stakeholder's group could be represented on a CCC however they may be better consulted in a different forum..

#### 5. Mount Pleasant Operation Update

- MACH Energy provided an overview of the Operations activities.
- Chair raised the question regarding water discharge, specifically whether MACH Energy purchased salinity credits as part of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme?
- MACH Energy confirmed they have up to 51 credits which last up to ten years.
- Chair asked how MACH Energy accesses the river is it through private land?
- MACH Energy confirmed discharges will eventually return to Dry Creek which travels through the land holder, south of Wybong Road. The interim diversion scheme goes through land owned by Bengalla and discharges onto land owned by Bengalla. It does go through some council road reserves and cross the Bengalla Link Road.
- Chair then asked if this was a pipeline?
- MACH Energy confirmed the arrangement is a pipeline, pumping water from site discharging into a flow dissipator and rock drain.
- TL asked what the distance was from the area to the discharge point in the Hunter River?
- MACH Energy said it is approximately one kilometre. Bengalla have upsized the drainage line from east of their front gate through to the river, including the culverts under Old Bengalla Road and under the old ARTC rail corridor. Up to four additional pipes were built to make sure the normal flood flow allows for Bengalla's, and MACH Energy's discharge and would have the capacity to do either of those discharges,
- Chair asked if the creek line flows straight into the Hunter River.
- MACH Energy confirmed the unnamed tributary flows into the Hunter River.
- Chair wanted to understand if the flow levels will cause erosion.
- MACH Energy explained the design of the flow corridor has taken into account the flows and potential



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impacts. A flow dissipator and rock lining will be built. A secondary check also takes place to make sure if further reinforcement is required. The volume of discharge is around 64 megalitres a day. Minor compared with existing discharge flow through the gulley line. All in accordance with consent conditions and EPL regulatory requirements.

- LB wanted to clarify the direction of the water from the environmental dam. Does it go back into the fines emplacement and then return into the system?
- MACH Energy explained the water is pumped to the fines emplacement and returns into the mine to be used as dust suppression and in processing at the CHPP.
- LB described hearing diesel pumps audibly well from her property. She was interested to know what machine is producing the sound.
- MACH Energy advised it could be the environmental dam but will confirm and provide further information to LB. MACH confirms a pump is used to transfer water from ED2 back into the FEA.
- MACH Energy explained a new range of heavy mining equipment was being delivered to site. 85% is now delivered and in operation. The last of the additional deliveries will arrive early 2023.
- TL raised the question about whether the route to Dorset Road has been finalised.
- MACH Energy advised that this is not yet finished.
   There are two solutions for Dorset Road upgrade, one to be on Mount Pleasant land or to acquire private land. Decision to be made over the next twelve months.
- MACH Energy explained they are accountable for road repairs starting from Bengalla's entry gate to Mount Pleasant's front gate. Heavy patching to continue, and planning to do a reseal on the whole area to keep water out in the last quarter of 2022 or early 2023. Work planned to repair Wybong Road is planned for November 2022.
- LB raised the question if repair work will affect both sides of the road at the same time.
- MACH Energy explained the road would be closed for a period to enable the repairs to be carried out across the full road width.
- LB reiterated when Wybong Road is closed there is still accessed to go around Bengalla Link Road.

# 6. Applications& Approvals

- Overview of The State Significant Development Application for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project provided.
- TP asked the question of what the probability would be for SSD is to be extended to 2048. If it is usually that long?
- MACH Energy confirmed SSD is around 20-25 years. MACH Energy confirmed we have approval at State level, now going through Federal Government. There have been five modifications to existing consent.



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	TL asked MACH Energy if Castlerock Road will be restored.	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy confirmed it will not. Dorset Road will be the upgraded route.</li> </ul>	
7. Land Management	<ul> <li>Overview provided on various land management and off set properties.</li> <li>TP queried the graph regarding total number of animals to be culled is already completed or yet to be done.</li> <li>MACH Energy confirmed the graph is the total of culled animals within</li> </ul>	
	MACH Energy country and the rest of the area not on MACH Energy land.	
	<ul> <li>Chair raised the question if the drone also tracks the areas covered.</li> <li>MACH Energy confirmed the drone is capable of tracking. The drone</li> </ul>	
	can capture how many litres being used and the GPS tracks, which is also provided to MACH Energy as a report.	
	<ul> <li>TL queried if the drone could identify the weed on it's on or is it the operator.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy confirmed it is the operator. The operator is close to the location of weeds and can see from a distance. The drone does not yet identify the weeds, but with technology it won't be long till this is possible in the future.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>TL expressed the concern of Prickly acacia which is mainly around crops to MACH Energy.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy have resourced a contractor to complete an inspection of weeds and to work through report.</li> </ul>	
8. Environment	<ul> <li>Overview provided on all aspects of environment including, air quality management, blasting, noise, and operational activities.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>TL raised the question if the rehabilitation requirements are found on the MACH Energy website.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy advised this information is on the <u>MACH website</u> and can be found on the new Government GIS mapping portal website.</li> </ul>	
	SP raised the question if data is added to MACH Energy website.	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy confirmed they use their own mine site portal which MACH is accountable to the regulators. There is also the public website which use the same GIS information.</li> </ul>	
	TL asked if this is also on the MACH Energy website.	
	MACH Energy confirmed it is on their website in a PDF in a plan. A      "three years forward plan" as per the new "Rehab Reforms" Guidelines.	
	<ul> <li>Chair raised the question regarding the rehab landform. If it has been affected by the rainfall.</li> </ul>	
	MACH Energy confirmed yes it has been affected in some areas by the rainfall which may require maintenance under the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) and liaison with the landform design engineering specialist. The gully erosion is in the approximate location of the rock lined drainage structures which will extend up the rehabilitation area.	
	<ul> <li>Chair asked if the University of Newcastle Project flumes collect water and real time measurements.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy confirmed the research plot has real-time measurements.</li> <li>The equipment is being commissioned. The objective is to "ground truth" assumptions around erosion and erosivity of the landform model.</li> </ul>	
	TL asked where this flume is located.	
	<ul> <li>MACH Energy provided the location on the map displayed in the presentation.</li> </ul>	



	Mount Pleasant Operation
	<ul> <li>TL commented of the erosion on the Eastern side of Kayuga Road.</li> <li>MACH Energy explained more drains will be installed in this area.</li> <li>SP asked if the additional real time noise monitoring undertaken by MACH identifies the rail and specified trains.</li> <li>MACH Energy confirmed that operator attended monitoring was undertaken during construction and commissioning of the rail project with the no additional noise impacts measured to those expected outside of the Modification 4 EIS Noise Study. The MPO has not received any complaints regarding rail activity. MACH Energy also highlighted that a real-time monitor exists closer to the rail spur so if there ever were to be a complaint that noise recordings from the monitor could be accessed at any time remotely.</li> </ul>
9. External Relations	Community Engagement & Sponsorship  Overview of Community Engagement, Monthly Complaints & Sponsorship.
10.General Business	<ul> <li>MACH Energy advised the CCC about the 2022 Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Community Forum to be held in Muswellbrook on 16<sup>th</sup> November, free to attend. Information sheet provided.</li> <li>MACH Energy read out an email on behalf of CCC Member – Tim Troon. The email expressed the constant changes of CCC meeting date and request future meetings to be held on the scheduled dates for community representatives to attend. TT also stated if some continuity isn't found he will have to reassess his position on the Committee.</li> <li>Chair responded to the request and agreed to stick to the dates as best as they can, acknowledging the last change was due to the death of Queen Elizabeth 2 and the gazetted public holiday.</li> </ul>
11. Next Meeting	Date: Thursday 15th December 2022 Time: 9.30am - Arrive on Site for login and PPE Board Bus: 9.45am Site tour commences: 10.00am - Rehabilitation, Fines Emplacement Facility and Mining Operation. Meeting Location: Thiess Board Room, Mount Pleasant Operation.
	Meeting closed at 12:15pm

**END OF RECORDS**