

Record of Meeting – Community Consultative Committee

Date	17 th September 2021
Time Start	10:10 am
Time Finish	12:13 pm
Location	Teams – Online due to Covid Restrictions
Minutes	Lesley McLoughlin [LM]

Opening of Meeting	Meeting opened at 10:10 am
	Chair: Wej Paradise [WP]
	Community Consultative Committee Members: 1. Llewellyn Bates [LB], Tim Troon [TT]
	Apologies: 2. Mayor Martin Rush [MR] 3. Ian Webber [IW] 4. Jonathan Moore [JM] 5. Trevor Parkinson [TP] 6. Rod Upton [RU] 7. Sharon Pope [SP]
	Government Department Representatives: Nil
	Muswellbrook Shire Council: Nil
	Mount Pleasant Operation: 1. Ngaire Baker [NB], Lesley McLoughlin [LM], Richard Bailey [RB], Chris Masters [CM], Chris Lauritzen [CL] Megan Martin [MM] Andrew Reid [AR] Sandy Lettice [SL]
	Thiess: Nil
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	WP requested that Members disclose if they have any pecuniary interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [WP] Receives payment to chair the CCC.
Safety Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RB discussed the recent experience with Covid-19 case on the Rail Loop Project. The Rail Loop Project team are working on site,

however, they are separated from the operating mine, CHPP and mining area. These measures are in place to allow everyone to operate separately to limit exposure between work areas. The Covid-19 Positive Case was a contractor working on the Rail Loop Project. The Rail Loop Project had Rapid Antigen Testing in place and that is how the contractor was detected.

Other Covid-19 safety protocols in place include temperature testing for all employees and contractors, visitors also when they are permitted to enter site. MACH Energy also require employees and contractors to undergo a PCR test in the last seven days before visiting site and a written declaration for regular visitors if they live in a Local Government Area that has been determined by NSW Health as a lockdown area.

The contractor who tested Positive was not showing symptoms of Covid prior to arriving on site. Rapid Antigen testing showed a non-negative result. The individual was then asked to travel to the Muswellbrook Covid Testing Clinic to undergo a PCR test. He was instructed by NSW Health and the NSW Police to travel to his place of residence and remain in isolation until the PCR result was available. NSW Health do not recognise Rapid Antigen Testing as a valid result until PCR testing is complete.

Site contact tracing was completed to determine close, secondary close and casual contacts. All close, secondary close and casual contacts left the site for testing and quarantined for the required time. MACH Energy immediately contacted NSW Health, local police, and the Mining Regulator to inform them of the non-negative result. Our on-site data, including QR codes were able to be used to perform contract tracing effectively.

NSW Health put priority on the test as it came from a Rapid Antigen Test. Results were received that afternoon to confirm the individual had tested positive for Covid-19, however, he remained non-symptomatic. MACH Energy isolated close contacts, casual contacts, secondary contacts and a deep clean of all office and waiting areas was carried out.

MACH Energy has a doctor and nurse involved with the Rapid Antigen Testing on site and they were on hand to help and provide relevant advice. Testing carried out by the mining and other industries will assist with understanding where COVID exists in the community.

- Community member asked if Rapid Antigen Testing is carried out every day for all employees and contractors? When results show a false positive and a false negative, are these treated as non-negative until further testing can confirm they are either positive or negative?
- MACH Energy said that Rapid Antigen Testing is carried out on a weekly basis in line with the Rail Loop Project team roster.
- MACH Energy said in relation to the Operations team, Thiess and Sedgman their focus is on employees and contractors coming to site from outside the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA). Rapid Antigen Testing will be carried out on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in line with the commencement of roster cycles.
- The focus will be on employees and contractors from higher risk areas.
- Rapid Antigen Testing will be carried out in an offsite location in the Muswellbrook Light Industrial Area off Thomas Mitchell Drive. Testing will be conducted via a drive through facility whilst drivers remain in their vehicles at all times. This function enables the testing to be carried out in a safe and efficient manner, If the Rapid Antigen Test

	<p>returns a non-negative result, the driver must return to the testing facility and park in the designated PCR testing bay where a nurse will carry out the required test Following the PCR test the driver is instructed to return to their home address immediately and wait for further instructions from NSW Health and the NSW Police. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over coming weeks, the Rail Loop Project team will move their current testing regime from Mount Pleasant to the premises in the Light Industrial Area. • MACH Energy has had various conversations with other local mining companies about how they are managing Rapid Antigen Testing. There can be false positive (non-negative) and false negatives but generally Rapid Antigen Testing has a very high percentage of accuracy. There is still a chance to have the test show a positive result and then the follow up PCR test returns a negative result. • Community member asked if any MACH Energy employees were close contacts? • MACH Energy confirmed that no one in the operations area were close contacts however the construction team were classified as close and casual contacts. All employees and contractors underwent PCR testing, and the Rail Loop Project office and common areas were closed immediately for deep cleaning. • Community member said that MACH Energy should be congratulated for their work in this area and for taking on new systems to prevent and protect employee's, contractors, and the community. The situation could have been worse. • MACH Energy said that they have ensured the right steps are being taken and they are working with other local mining companies to find the best solution for all to remain safe.
<p>2. Previous Minutes</p>	<p>The Minutes from the previous meeting June 25th, 2021, were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved by [LB] seconded by [TT].</p>
<p>3. Matters Arising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>4. Community Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member asked when Wybong Road will re-open to the public? • MACH Energy said the road should be open by the end of September. If there are further unavoidable delays and the September deadline passes, it will open in early October. There has been good progress, other than unavoidable circumstances such as wet weather and Covid-19 which saw some of the workforce in isolation for two weeks. MACH Energy is focused on having the road open as soon as possible. • As per direction from Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) MACH Energy is required to complete a Road Safety Audit before final road sealing and line marking. The road is completely sealed now, with the second level of sealing, line marking and installation of road signs to be completed. • MACH Energy also mentioned that community notifications regarding the closure and opening of

	<p>Wybong Road are advertised on the local AM/FM radio station in Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter. There are newspaper advertisements in the Aberdeen Whisper, The Hunter River Times and a site newsletter delivered to near neighbours. The MSC website and MACH Energy website also contain relevant information about Wybong Road and the Rail Loop Project. MSC approved the Communication Plan prior to work commencing and MSC receive regular updates from MACH Energy regarding community consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member said they thought the road opening may been pushed out due to Covid and the shutdown of some of the Rail Loop Project. • MACH Energy said they hoped it won't be more than a couple of days late if it does go past the September opening date. • Community member said they noticed the Mount Pleasant E and F pits are now visible from town, particularly from the Queen Street area, how is the rehabilitation progressing? • MACH Energy said they have completed the shaping of the bottom of the emplacement area all the way through. The rehabilitated area in the middle requires topsoil and seed, which will take place during the next planting season. The next target will be shaping the higher levels in Pit E and F. Some of the active area that you can see does not have the full volume of waste to be completed. We need to continue to tip out waste to get to the toe line. Once we have reached the final volume, our focus will be to commence to rapidly shape the landform. • The Chair suggested MACH Energy look at the process of rejuvenating the current CCC. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has indicated they will be reviewing the CCC Guidelines. The DPIE process of review which will include the chairs of all CCC's will aim, among other things, to improve the engagement of the community with regards to State Significant Developments (SSD).
<p>5. Mount Pleasant Operation Update - RB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACH Energy provided an update of the Mount Pleasant Operation. • A video was shown including the East and South of the waste and mine development. • MACH Energy confirmed the mining tender arrangement with a new contract signed with Thiess for 4.5 years. Thiess will keep the same team at Mount Pleasant through to 2026 which will line up with MACH Energy's current consent. • The initial phase for the fine's emplacement facility construction is now underway. Activities include setting up small crib area, installation of an ablutions block, office block, removal of vegetation, construction of contour drains and initial works at the

	<p>toe of the emplacement wall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACH Energy expects the fines emplacement area to be active by the end of 2021. The first piece of the drainage works is underneath the fines emplacement facility wall. Larger bulk earth moving tasks will commence at the start of 2022 with completion of the project in October/November 2022. • MACH Energy continues to work with the University of Newcastle on a variety of research projects. We hope to have research students back on site in October with a two-week period planned to continue with the trial of the air quality LIDAR. The Tailings to Topsoil trial is continuing with planting due to be underway in late October or November. • MACH Energy provided a Rail Loop Project update • All bulk earth works are complete. • Working through structural capping. • Ballast installed to be ready for sleepers and rail track. • The Project is on track to complete the signalling required for the ARTC shut in October. • Mid to late November all ballast and rail will be completed as will signalling. • The Wybong Road bridge structure is complete. • The Train Load Out (TLO) Bin structure is complete with the TLO conveyor modules being installed. • Planning and approvals underway for demolition of the current rail infrastructure in readiness to commence demolition early in 2022. • Community member asked about the viaduct noise wall installation. Was the installation made to protect Muswellbrook and prevent the noise going across the flats? • MACH Energy confirmed it is, but also the Muswellbrook Racecourse to the south. This will be like the screen on the Wybong bridge which is for both light and noise. Screening to cover off both impacts • Community member asked how tall is the screen? • MACH Energy estimated above four meters.
<p>6. Applications & Approvals - CL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of The State Significant Development Application for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project was provided. • Community member asked if they could receive a detailed drawing plan showing the Relative Levels (RL) for the fines emplacement wall? The member would like to see the plans with a topographic map and how high the RL's will be. • MACH Energy noted that the fines emplacement facility has been approved and it is not a new element in the SSD Application. The fines emplacement facility is operated by the MACH Energy Operations Team. MACH Energy confirmed that they can provide the information regarding the fines emplacement area dam lifts.

	<p>ACTION: AR to provide CCC member a map of the Fines Emplacement facility showing the relevant RL's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member asked if the fines emplacement area construction team are already onsite and who are they? • MACH Energy explained that there is a small team on site, and they have been completing construction work in and around the operations side for some time. There is a contractor onsite with a few pieces of equipment working on clearing the area. The major works contract is yet to be awarded; this is expected to be confirmed by the end of September. • The intention is for the construction team to follow the site guidelines for Rapid Antigen Testing and isolating from other areas of site. Site COVID-19 controls will be implemented for all contractors working on the Project. • Community member asked what current Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) is in place for the Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)? • MACH Energy said the MSC VPA is broken up into a series of contributions. The community contribution is currently \$604,079 PA. Road and maintenance costs of \$277,863 PA and environmental officer \$24,169 PA. There is a commitment to engage four apprentices a year for the life of the mine, which can be fulfilled by Thiess and Sedgman. Payments escalate by CPI every year. There is a MSC committee which determines where the money for the community contribution should be spent. A MACH Energy representative attends these meetings with a member of the Mount Pleasant CCC. • Community member mentioned the VPA funds have benefited our community and have resulted in some great community outcomes. • MACH Energy supports the VPA process and do their best to ensure the funds are directed appropriately to support local community initiatives. • MACH Energy explained that the Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) requested a VPA in their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submission in relation to the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project. Whilst there was no obligation on MACH Energy to agree to give the UHSC a VPA, MACH Energy engaged with UHSC and agreed to their requested contributions provided that the Optimisation Project is favourably determined. MACH Energy also agreed to the proposed contribution because it was nominated to benefit the community of Aberdeen in particular.
<p>7. Land Management - SL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview provided on various land management and off set property items. • Community member asked if the Audit for the Natural Native Pasture Regeneration is independent and a requirement under the Commonwealth Legislation? • MACH Energy confirmed that regular audits are a requirement under the Offset Management Plan, and we do have an independent person to complete the audits. • Community member asked is it a species check or density? • MACH Energy explained that the main objective is to re-establish the Box Gum woodland, which is an endangered vegetation community which has been lost over the years, particularly in farming areas. A copy of the Offset Management Plan is available on the MACH Energy website.

<p>8. Environment - AR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview provided on key aspects of environment including, air quality, blasting, noise, and operational activities. • Community member asked the independent Air Quality report, is that available on the website, where is it located? • MACH Energy confirmed it is distributed to the stakeholders, Bengalla & Mount Arthur, along with the neighbours that raised the concern. The Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DPIE) manage the Independent Air Quality Review completely, MACH Energy provided monitoring data and rental of equipment. DPIE engaged an independent consultant agreed to by all parties who performed the work. The Department of Planning would be the owners of this report. • Community member asked if the report would be available online? • MACH Energy mentioned it is not published, it's confidential as it mentioned the concerning neighbours and their personal address. • Community member asked how often do you fly the drone for the weed mapping? • MACH Energy described the system and Company providing the service, which began as a trial through Dendra. The trial was successful and now looking at on an annual basis. Fly new and other areas across the mine site. • Community member asked regarding weed monitoring, would it be a season approach to look at different weeds in different times. Does it have the capability to identify the vegetations automatically or a human interpretation? • MACH Energy confirmed an ecologist was on site for ground truthing. The software can identify the weed, the algorithm is then checked and confirmed by an ecologist within the group. The algorithm identifies the type of plant, if we are looking for tree species or other flora in our seed mix, to confirm if we are achieving the density that we are after for those species. • Community member said it could be used for a wide variety of applications. • Community member is really interested in the technology being used now. Fantastic initiative.
<p>9. External Relations & Community - NB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of External Relations and Community Engagement. • Community member asked in relation to the Rail Loop Project, if there will be any bigger wide loads coming in? • MACH Energy explained that most of the larger items have already arrived. There might be some deliveries, however, you will not see the size and amount like the past few months. • ACTION: MACH Energy to check the delivery schedule and if anything, major is scheduled they will provide the information to the community member ASAP. • Community member explained they had a meeting earlier this week, discussing MSC developing a plan for a transport corridor. New England has been identified as a renewable energy hub for wind turbine farms. The issue is transporting of the wind turbine blades. Muswellbrook was looking at a transport route that would go around the town using the Bengalla Link Road and along Wybong Road to Kayuga Road. Would this idea have a significant impact on the roads because of the significant number of wide loads being transported for the Rail Loop Project? Is MACH Energy aware of this matter and has there been discussions with

	<p>MSC on the impact of traffic flow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MACH Energy confirmed that they are aware of the issue and have engaged in conversations with MSC. MACH is working with MSC to come to a suitable solution.
10. General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NIL
11. Next Meeting	<p>Date: Friday 3rd December 2021</p> <p>Time: Arrive on site 9:30am (Visitor Induction & COVID temperature check)</p> <p>(The Committee will be advised if they are required to undergo Rapid Antigen Testing prior to arrival on site)</p> <p>Please note: The meeting on site will proceed pending COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Location: Thiess Training Room, Mount Pleasant Operation.</p> <p>9.45am - Tour of the Fines Emplacement Facility & Mine Rehabilitation</p> <p>11.30am – Meeting and lunch provided at Mount Pleasant. 1.30pm</p>
12. Close	Meeting closed at 12:13pm