

Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. W.E.J. Paradice (WP)

Independent Chair

Community Representatives

Tony Lonergan (TL)

Community Representative

Trevor Parkinson (TP)

Community Representative

Jonathan Moore (JM)

Community Representative

Llewellyn Bates (LB)

Community Representative

Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)

De-Anne Douglas (DD)

Deputy Mayor & Councillor - MSC

Theresa Folpp (TF)

Environmental Planning Officer - MSC

Company Representatives

Mick Redman (MR)

General Manager - Operations

Chris Lauritzen (CL)

General Manager - Resource Development

Andrew Raal (AR)

Senior Environmental Advisor

Lisa Richards (LR)

Environment & Community Manager

Richard Ali (RA)

Land & Property Officer

Georgia Cook (GC)

Graduate Environmental Advisor

Thiess Representative

Peter York (PY)

Environment & Community Superintendent

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Purser (SP)

- 1. Welcome;** WP opened the meeting at 10.28 a.m. on return from a Site Tour. WP acknowledged the full complement of CCC members in attendance. Members were provided with a hard copy of today's meeting presentation.
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country;** Led by DD.
- 3. Apologies;** Nil.
- 4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest;** Standing Declaration; WP is remunerated by MACH for Chairing the CCC Meetings, as is SP for preparing the Meeting Minutes. Whilst not deemed to be of Pecuniary Interest, TL declared that he is a member of the Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group (DAMSHEG), WP confirmed this could be recorded as a standing declaration for TL going forward.
- 5. Safety Share;** MR noted the use of hard face hammers can result in projectiles coming off the surface they are being used on. MR confirmed there are better options than using force when something will not go into place and it is safer to work smarter not harder.
- 6. Minutes of the previous Meeting held 18 September 2025;** The Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and are available via the Documents Section on the Company website.
<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/community-consultative-committee/>
- 7. Matters Arising from the previous Minutes;** WP noted a request had been made to send Ngaire Baker a letter of thanks for her contribution to the MACH CCC and to wish Ngaire well in her new role.

Actioned post meeting; WP circulated Ngaire Baker's reply to the letter WP sent on behalf of the CCC, LB thanked WP for attending to this and JM felt the response had been very nice.

8. Chairs Report - Wej Paradise

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest; WP confirmed he had discussions with Jack Turner and Steve O'Donoghue, from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), that had been focussed around determining Pecuniary Interest within the context of the DPHI Guidelines for CCC Meetings.

The key outcomes of this discussion around Pecuniary Interest confirmed that:-

- The CCC Meetings provide a forum for community and stakeholders to obtain information from the proponent and take this back to their various contacts and the associated groups they are involved with.
- Community representatives should advise if they are a member of a Stakeholder group, even if they are not representing that group at the CCC. WP confirmed this had now been resolved for TL.
- The CCC is not a decision making body i.e. has no involvement in financial decisions, awarding of contracts etc., so it would be a rare occurrence that a local member may gain a financial advantage.
- Both Council and the Proponent also have the right to declare any interests.
- The Chair and Minute Taker being remunerated for their services, or in the case of cost recovery, are required to be declared.

WP confirmed that the seven members appointed to the MACH CCC are made up of company, community and stakeholder representatives. DD confirmed that she represents Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) on the MACH CCC and has declared her involvement with the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council (LALC). WP acknowledged that TF is in attendance by invitation, given the support TF is able to provide due to her technical expertise. CCC community representatives no longer need to reside in the LGA or be land owners affected by the project, however they are required to have a reasonable understanding of the project so they are able to represent the community. Appointed members need to be documented in the MACH CCC Terms of Reference (TOR) and this is to be confirmed on an annual basis.

ACTION 1: Current CCC membership to be updated within the TOR and Declaration of Interest forms renewed at the next meeting to be held 12 March 2026

In relation to TL's declared interest of being a member of DAMSHEG and associated legal matters, MR advised MACH's approach will respect that process and consequently the company will need to be more circumspect with communications on that matter. WP acknowledged this feedback and felt that was an appropriate approach by MACH, particularly in relation to dealing with sensitive matters. In relation to the CCC Meetings WP reiterated these are a forum to share information that is available to the community.

MOD 8 Social Impact Assessments; WP confirmed that he had participated in the study interview.

Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS); WP confirmed that he and LR had been in attendance at the HRSTS meeting held in November 2025. WP provided an update on HRSTS operations noting the EPA were seeking feedback in relation to draft emergency dilution arrangements.

9. Community Feedback

TP thanked WP for his informative report, this had brought TP up to speed on matters and he was happy with that. TP thanked MACH for today's site tour, he had found this to be both informative and impressive.

LB also thanked MACH for today's site tour. LB queried if the status of Wybong Road had changed since allowing the gravel trucks to travel in both directions as she has seen oversized vehicles with escorts travelling along Wybong Road from the intersection of Kayuga Road and Wybong Road to the intersection of Bengalla Road and Wybong Road. LB advised that they are carrying large machinery and she had been placed in a dangerous position when an escort vehicle had not been far enough in front of the oversized vehicle and this caused her to swerve to the side of the road.

MR advised he could look into over size mass transport for LB. MR encouraged members to let MACH know if there are any transport issues, particularly if these were associated with the gravel delivery campaign. MR confirmed that MACH do investigate any transport reports and have controls implemented.

MR noted the next road campaign will be around different speeds for heavy versus normal vehicles, with boards in place to check speed.

Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Update

DD advised a focus area for MSC will be working on major projects that have received funding but have not yet been implemented. Buildings had been demolished and work at Possum Park continues to develop that important space for community. DD had been working with MSC Councillor Louise Dunn on a project in relation to homelessness and domestic violence. This project is focussed on working with all the different services in the area in an effort to come up with some solutions that will be of benefit to this community. DD confirmed that MACH will receive an invitation to an event being held on 20 January 2026 at Tarinpa, to be renamed by the Aboriginal Community as part of a joint project with MSC and the LALC. DD noted the story of Wanaruah land will be unveiled and there will be local artists in attendance.

10.Environmental Performance

Reporting Period; September, October, November 2025

Rainfall during the reporting period had been below average. 2025 rainfall for the period January to end of November was 741.8mm which was approximately 200mm above the long term average.

LR detailed two non-notifiable environmental incidents along with MACH's investigations and undertakings in response. Blast vibration results were well below criteria. Noise monitoring had been within criteria. Dam monitoring and inspections had identified no issues.

Department of Planning Approvals; MACH detailed the updated management plans that had been submitted to the DPHI for approval.

Biodiversity Credits; LR advised that it was positive to note that all Staged 1 Biodiversity Credits had been retired for Staged 1a, 1b and 1c.

Rehabilitation

- The rehabilitation target for 2025 is 26 hectares with 15.7 hectares of rehabilitation completed YTD.
- Northern Rock Drains had been completed.
- Rock placement was completed in C10 drain and excavation had commenced in C11 Rock Drain.
- Topsoil placement and bulk shaping in stage 27 was continuing (11.8 hectares).
This area along the edge of Wybong Road had been identified during today's site tour with members.

Environmental Monitoring

- Two additional blast monitors had been installed to the north of the project, in preparation for mining to progress further in that direction.
- An additional blast monitor had been installed on the crest of the Mine Water Dam (MWD).
- APF-4 (northern meteorological and dust monitoring station) was being relocated due to proximity of construction activities and for future mining expansion to the north.

TL had noted a bit of a dust cloud where MACH had been dumping into the hopper during the previous day and queried if the water machine was on. MR advised he could look into that confirming the spray bars on aprons should have been in operation. MR acknowledged that when tipping coal into a bin there can be some dust generated. MR confirmed that the ROM sprays are similar to large irrigators, there are four in total and MACH are able to run two at a time. LR noted MACH had completed a few days of shutdowns during the October and November period due to dust.

Indigenous Salvage undertaken in 2025; There had been three campaigns undertaken, all previously identified heritage sites to the north west of the mining area were salvaged. Eight additional sites were identified during the salvage operations and were also salvaged. All artefacts are documented and properly stored in MACH's Keeping Place, a well sealed container, that is located at the old Ascot Farm on Kayuga Road.

11.Applications and Approvals

WP welcomed CL to the meeting and advised there had been a discussion prior to CL's arrival around Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests and the approach being taken is to consider this as an open meeting for consultation and communication to the CCC. Should any matters be deemed confidential those should be kept with the proponent. CL believes that declaring interests is of importance, MACH have prided themselves in having very open meetings where they share a large amount of information with members and would like to continue to do so.

CL presented the project update, noting the effects and impacts created by challenges to mine approvals. CL advised that following the NSW Court of Appeal decision, MACH Energy had been granted leave to Appeal to the High Court, a process that will take some time to work through. In the meantime, MACH Energy will continue to operate in alignment with existing approvals and conditions and will explore all options to provide long-term continuity and certainty for its staff, contractors, customers and the community. Modification 8 to DA 92/97 was to be submitted in 2025. TL asked what approval MACH was operating under, SSD 10418 or DA 92/97, and CL responded both.

On departing the meeting, CL wished members a good Christmas and said that he hoped to see everyone again in the new year.

12.Mount Pleasant Operation Update

The mining sequence had continued with operations progressing west. MR provided MACH's 2025 forecast volumes for total material movement (TMM), Mt. ROM coal and Mt. product coal. The next stage of expansion (16.5 Mtpa) was in the early stages of construction with commissioning anticipated for August 2026.

JM noted the slide photograph of the product stockpile pad bulk earthworks. MACH confirmed that will be where product coal is to be situated, with an underground retrieval system in place to take this to rail - anticipated for commissioning in early August 2026.

Tailings Storage Facility Embankment Raise Project

- Earth-fill placement had commenced over the completed southern side blanket drain.
- Blanket drain placement had commenced on the northern side.

MACH presented pictures of the stockpile to embankment compacted fill layers and southern side embankment earth fill layers to identify the thickness of what the lift will look like as it is coming out of the ground. MACH presented the schedule of works for the Tailings Storage Facilities (Ditchfield) from project approval to practical completion over the period January 2025 to October 2026. MR noted that the Stage 2 embankment rise was anticipated to reach Stage 1 level in May 2026.

Northern Infrastructure Works Project

Northern Link Road (NLR)

- Cut-to-fill operations continued, with material hauled from Cut 2 to both Fill 2 and Fill 3.
- Completion of box culvert installation for Culvert 3200, 3250, 3300.
- There had been regular Council inspections.

MACH presented the schedule of works for NLR Project from project approval to practical completion over the period June 2025 to August 2026. Tie in works of the new road alignment into Castle Rock Road was anticipated to commence late March, early April 2026. MACH flagged that there will be a period when the eastern end of Castle Rock will be closed, MACH are working with Council to manage that appropriately. There will also need to be a transfer of land ownership in association with this project.

Water Infrastructure

MACH detailed the water management infrastructure that will be required prior to operations moving north of Castlerock Road, along with light vehicle access roads. MACH confirmed that today's tour had included viewing Sediment Dam 5. MACH had a few shut downs in adverse conditions and noted that construction areas are treated in the same manner as mining operations. It was anticipated that construction activity would be wrapped up around September 2026.

TL queried if MACH had planned to continue fencing to Dawson road, MACH responded this will continue south of Castle Rock Road in front of Sediment Dam 5. In response to a query from WP, MR confirmed that all the dams are linked and designed for life of mine.

MR detailed the Christmas period work arrangements acknowledging that some staff like to take time off whereas others may want to work. MR provided an overview on the level of crews, operations and planned restarts after Christmas.

13.Land Management

Priority Weed Control Programs

Land and Property - Muswellbrook; St John's Wart Program, African Boxthorn Program, general ag and environmental weeds. RA confirmed that St John's Wart both on site and in the Muswellbrook area is the highest priority weed. Areas where St John's Wart had been previously treated with a Grazon Herbicide mix had worked well, however this weed has been seen in new areas. RA felt the spread may be attributed to kangaroos given that wind and other vectors would not have taken it that far. RA advised MACH had got onto this weed control with good contractors in place. MACH has a good relationship with the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority and had taken a member on a tour to show what MACH had achieved, this had resulted in positive feedback. RA noted as a result of their method using mechanical mulching with spray, the only plant that tends to come back are seedlings i.e. baby box thorn and MACH are able to get on top of those via a herbicide application. MACH had presented their innovative mulching / spraying method at a Field Day held by Local Lands Services.

Vertebrate pest control programs

Spring Fox/Wild Dog programme; Mount Pleasant Operations and Offsets.

Feral Pig programme; Mount Pleasant Operations and Offsets.

RA noted there will be a continued focus on feral pigs since that had been brought to MACH's attention by LB, RA noted that Sandy Creek seems to be a favourable area for pigs to travel on. LB thanked MACH for this undertaking and JM felt there had been some good results.

Species of National Significance; These include the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Greater-long-eared Bat and Spotted-Tail Quoll. There was a general discussion about Quolls, feedback from some older folk had indicated that there were more Quolls around now than when they were younger and RA felt this may be attributed to the management of their competitors. It was generally noted that Quolls may be more likely to be located in the Barrington area. RA hopes that MACH will see positive responses to Quoll sightings.

Projects and Infrastructure; MACH provided an update on the Invernisk Homestead refurbishment. RA noted this to be a good old homestead that MACH hope to restore for a family. DD expressed her interest in seeing Invernisk when works had been completed and RA anticipated the Homestead would be ready to occupy mid 2026. There had been storm damaged infrastructure on houses, hay sheds and pump sheds, JM noted that winds had been very strong across the whole district.

Land and Property - Offsets

Revegetation Program & Planting Program

- St Antoine
- Blackrock
- "Warrawoona" Gunnedah
- 240 hectares; white box grassy woodland.
- Seed sourced Local provenance and propagated in the nursery.

MACH Agri; Key activities included continuing to run cattle and produce fodder. RA noted that 1,000 bales of mainly oats and lucerne hay had been produced. The livestock venture had also been going well with yards built at Broomfield and Pastime. LB and JM commended MACH on the big numbers that MACH Agri had achieved.

14.External Relations

Stakeholder Engagement - Sponsorship & Community

- Ongoing stakeholder engagement with local neighbours and businesses including residents in Kayuga, Aberdeen and Muswellbrook.
- Community Update flyers for the Northern Link Road works distributed to near neighbours (September and November). MR asked if the flyers contained enough information in them and TL responded yes.
- The General Manager Operations and team members attended Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce meetings each month.
- MACH representatives attended local sporting matches and community events.
- School tours conducted through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. LR noted that MACH added some more diverse staff here i.e. Geologists and the Environmental Team, to provide a snippet of other roles in mining.
- MACH Energy hosted site visits for the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Muswellbrook Shire Council, proving an overview of current operations.
- Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) Committee Meeting held in September. MACH's requirement for the ACDF ceases at year end however MACH has committed to continue to support the ACDF with the same amount of funding through to end of the project.
- Blackroo Community Event - Legends and Loved Ones Dinner held at Hunter Warbirds, Scone.
- NSW Parliamentary Dinner was held at Parliament House, Sydney, with MACH representatives and guests attending.
- MOD 8 Social Impact Assessments took place in October with key stakeholders engaged. LR noted a number of CCC members had provided feedback and this had been a good opportunity to hear thoughts from community and to understand their point of view.
- Singleton Infrastructure and Industry Luncheon was held in November with representatives attending.
- Mount Pleasant Operation recognised International Men's Day with a morning tea.
- October Community Newsletter distributed into the Community in November.
- MACH representatives attended the Muswellbrook High School Business Breakfast.

Sponsorships September to November 2025

- Aberdeen & Scone Lions Club
- Aberdeen Public School Presentations
- Australian Coal Preparation Society
- Belltrees Cricket Club
- Dan Repacholi's Big Shave
- Denman Public School Presentations
- Kayuga Rural Fire Service Santa Lolly Run
- Merriwa Cricket Club
- Merriwa Meals on Wheels
- Merriwa Touch Football
- Merton Living - Denman
- Murrurundi Bushmans Carnival
- Muswellbrook Fire and Rescue Santa Lolly Run
- Muswellbrook High School Presentations
- Muswellbrook Junior Cricket Club
- Muswellbrook Public School
- Muswellbrook Public School Presentations
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Scone Public School P&C
- Scone Public School Beef Bonanza
- Scone Rotary
- S James Primary School Presentations

MACH provided an overview of additional support that had been provided to; Box Rallies - raising funds for Cancer Charity, Cassilis School - donation of livestock panels and playground equipment, also the Beef Bonanza event run by SL - MACH donated a steer. JM felt the Beef Bonanza was well worth supporting. MACH Energy's sponsorship program has provided support to 91 organisations this year so far.

Complaints per Month By Type; LR provided an overview of complaints during the reporting period and detailed the distribution of complainants. LR noted that a primary complainant was located in a zone that has acquisition rights.

15. General Business

With the year end approaching, MR thanked members for their interactions throughout the year, noting it had been a good opportunity for MACH to share detail about their operations. MR wished all a safe and prosperous Christmas.

DD extended an invitation for members to attend the Blackroo Christmas Day lunch to be held at Muswellbrook's Senior Citizens and advised people are also very welcome to go along to help, particularly those that may be alone on the day. DD spoke highly of the Muswellbrook community who step up year after year to assist with the Christmas lunch and also wrapping and delivery of gifts.

WP echoed MR's sentiments wishing all the very best for Christmas and the New year and asked all to stay safe at this busy time of the year. WP thanked members for their attendance and involvement over the year. WP closed the meeting at 12.00 noon and MACH provided lunch and refreshments for attendees.

16. Proposed Meeting Dates

12 March 2026 | 11 June 2026 | 17 September 2026 | 10 December 2026