

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

Theresa Folpp (TF)

Environmental Planning Officer

Company Representatives

Mick Redman (MR)

General Manager - Operations

Andrew Raal (AR)

Senior Environmental Advisor

Lisa Richards (LR)

Environment & Community Manager

Richard Ali (RA)

Land & Property Officer

Sandy Lettuce (SL)

Land & Property Officer

Thiess Representatives

Peter York (PY)

Environment & Community Superintendent

Ashley Cox (AC)

Environmental Graduate

Apologies

Chris Lauritzen (CL)

General Manager - Resource Development

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Purser (SP)

1. Welcome

WP opened the meeting at 10.05 a.m. welcoming all. LR, AR and AC were introduced as first time attendees to the MACH CCC. LR, AR and AC provided an overview of their work history and connections to the local area. LR and AR stated they were pleased to have the opportunity to meet the group. Members were provided with a hard copy of today's meeting presentation.

2. Acknowledgement of Country; Led by DD.

3. Apologies; Advised and recorded.

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.

5. Safety Share; MR provided detail of a mining related event that had occurred overseas where a Tradesman had utilised a product inappropriately resulting in injury. MR noted the importance for everyone to understand the tools and materials that are being utilised both at work and at home to ensure they are used correctly and safely.

6. Minutes of the previous Meeting held 12 December 2024; 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

LR confirmed that MACH will provide TP with a hard copy of the Meeting Minutes going forward.

8. Chairs Report - Wej Paradise

WP advised that Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) have elected Cr Dee-Anne Douglas as Council's representative and Cr Darryl Marshall as the alternate to the MACH Energy Mt Pleasant Mine Community Consultative Committee.

DD commended TF for her ongoing contributions to the regional CCC's in her role as MSC's Environmental Planning Officer. DD noted the importance of having MSC Councillors at the CCC Meetings as representatives of the community. Attending the CCC Meetings also allows Councillors to feed back information about mining operations.

Note- As per the NSW Department of Planning CCC Guidelines "The Chairperson may invite non-committee members to attend meetings as observers or to give advice." The Chairperson has provided such an invitation to TF to attend the MachEnergy - Mt Pleasant Operations CCC as an observer/advisor to Muswellbrook Shire Council.

9. Community Feedback

TL was interested to hear about the results of the excavation at Kayuga School and if anything significant had been found. TL noted there had been a Church beside the School. MR confirmed the first phase of the survey at Kayuga School had been completed and that MACH will provide an update on the survey at today's meeting.

It was acknowledged that at the December CCC Meeting TL had advised of a Diary containing historical information and MACH confirmed that they remained interested to see if TL could assist them to obtain a copy. MACH felt this would enable them to potentially capture some of the historical details from the diary and noted it might also assist with locating items.

TP noted there were four community/stakeholder representatives in attendance and queried if the group could advocate for additional members. WP confirmed that the MACH CCC could look to recruit more members via the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) CCC Guidelines process. MR advised that MACH would confirm their three company representatives to be updated in the CCC documentation. WP noted that he would talk to LR out of session to see if there may be other community members that could be recruited to the MACH CCC.

TP advised he would like to introduce himself, TP has been a long standing resident of Muswellbrook and has had past involvement in the mining industry. TP volunteers for the Blackroo Community, Calvary Muswellbrook, along with two Nursing Homes located at Denman. DD acknowledged TP as a valued volunteer at Blackroo and provided details of TP's contributions at Christmas time and at the monthly Disco events that are held for people with disabilities. TP noted that he enjoys this volunteer work and also to walk around the town connecting with the community.

DD advised that there had been good representation from community at the MSC Meeting held on 12 March 2025, Council had been travelling well and showing concern for the Shire. MSC are trying to get the Muswellbrook population up permanently and DD noted that there needs to be homes for people to stay in the area.

JM said he was very impressed with the slashing that had been conducted by MACH along Wybong Road, stating that had been much appreciated.

LB was interested to learn detail on MACH's Agricultural Company and RA confirmed that he would present details at today's meeting and would be happy to answer any questions from LB then.

TF advised that MSC Staff were meeting with Energy Companies on a regular basis regarding transport routes out to the west and the north. TF felt there had been a good point raised about temporary accommodation as this will be a requirement for the Renewable Energy Workforce.

There was a continued discussion around the transport routes for projects in the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and associated matters in relation to road ownership. MR acknowledged there is some complexity in relation to obligations around roads i.e. maintenance. The CCC shared their perspectives in relation to transport routes for oversize loads required for Renewable Energy projects i.e. blades etc. Members felt that building a Muswellbrook Bypass would be the best solution with regard to the New England REZ. DD offered to share the map for the New England REZ and WP suggested that be circulated with the Meeting Minutes.

TF asked if MACH had plans to shape and rehabilitate the area that faces Kayuga Road. PY responded yes, MACH plan to continue to dump there as operations head north and are working through geotech to ensure the area is suitable for the rehabilitation that is anticipated to follow on in approximately six months.

10.Environmental Performance - Lisa Richards & Andrew Raal

- Since August 2024 rainfall had been trending below the long-term average.
- The Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) had been updated to reflect changes of the SSD.
- The Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) report had been completed. MACH will provide any relevant feedback from the DPHI to the CCC.
- Environment Protection Licence Annual Return was submitted to the EPA at the end of February. MACH will advise the CCC if that is accepted, noting that gets published on the EPA website.
- The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) conducted a dust inspection on 14 January 2025. Thiess has a tracking system whereby they can show where equipment was located on any given day. The EPA had been interested to see that information and MACH showed them their water cart tracking. LR noted the EPA had been impressed by this, along with other processes MACH have in place.

A Historic Heritage Archaeological Survey was underway at Kayuga School. This program will extend to include the homestead wells, surrounding areas, and the Kayuga mine north of Castlerock Road.

Salvage of Aboriginal artefacts from the Northern Link Road (NLR) to the mine site covered by the new project approval were underway, with completion anticipated for end of March 2025. Feedback from Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP's) was that they had been pleased and positive about MACH's processes. The salvage had gone smoothly with everyone doing a great job, Lisa noted it was good to hear such positive feedback. LR confirmed that MACH will assess all the relevant information and finalise a report on completion of these works.

MACH rehabilitated 32.2 hectares back to open woodland in 2024, PY identified rehabilitation areas via mapping in relation to topsoiling, topsoiled and bulk shaping. PY noted that rehabilitation had been performing well, there had been good rainfall and good habitat for birds etc. PY identified the area where MACH will dump and connect back around to the north with rehab to follow.

MACH presented data on their 2024 Rapid Logix Weed Spraying Areas. This covered 312 hectares during the period May to December 2024. MACH are able to analyse this data to ensure weeds on site are managed appropriately and return to areas to confirm that the spraying has been successful.

TL noted the prevalence of the purple babina weed that tends to spread along roadside. TL has a patch that is progressing and RA confirmed he knew the weed that TL is talking about.

TP asked if the spoil that can be seen when heading towards Castlerock is getting to height. MR responded that there will be three peaks within the Geofluv landform and this will still go a bit higher. TP noted operations were really moving towards Castlerock Road. MR advised he will talk about a couple of different development strategies for Mt Pleasant that are being considered in the Operation Update at today's meeting.

11.Applications and Approvals - Mick Redman

Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project (SSD 10418)

As presented at previous MACH CCC Meetings

12.Mount Pleasant Operation Update - Mick Redman

The mining sequence continues with operations progressing west. MR provided MACH's 2025 forecast volumes which are higher than 2024. MR identified the high energy coal areas for February and March 2025.

MACH completed the Feasibility Study in December 2024 that models how MACH are going to deliver on the expansion plans that are approved under the SSD. MR advised that MACH were reviewing a couple of options with regard to the strategy they will take with the development, one example being consideration of the short term benefits of staying south of Castlerock Road for a slightly longer period.

MR provided an overview of mining fleet changes and detailed the new equipments capabilities. With regard to MACH securing operators for this equipment MR explained that they were quite fortunate as a number of employees had been seconded to the Muswellbrook Coal rehabilitation project MPO and as that project winds down they will return to Mount Pleasant, bringing the benefits of being familiar with the site and living locally.

MACH provided a video clip of the new Workshop Opening Ceremony that had been held on 17 December 2024. MR noted that straight after the ceremony trucks had rolled in and work began, the workforce are extremely happy with this facility. LR noted that MACH had been tracking an improvement in turnaround times for equipment maintenance and realising the benefit of the new workshop. TP expressed a desire to attend those types of events, as a CCC member he would like to mix with the workforce as well. MR responded that MACH are commencing the design for Stage 2 of the Workshop and will have the CCC to that opening.

Works for the TSF Embankment Rise were anticipated to commence in May 2025 and run through to approximately 2026. This is a six meter lift from the top of the wall and MR provided an overview of how these works will be staged and the respective timeframes.

Northern Infrastructure Works

As presented at previous MACH CCC Meetings

MR noted that this work hinges on the strategy MACH take with the development, he reiterated that MACH are considering the opportunity of staying south of Castlerock Rock for longer. MACH will still need to do the Northern Infrastructure works before they mine north of Castlerock Road and will keep the CCC updated.

13.Land Management - Richard Ali & Sandy Lettuce

Priority Weed Management Programs

Muswellbrook area; Box Thorn, St John's Wort and Green Cestrum

St John's Wort; Since the last CCC meeting, MACH completed treatment of a new infestation of St John's Wort around site via boom spraying.

Box Thorn; This tends to be spread by birds as can be seen by it growing under bigger trees. MACH have learned a lot in relation Box Thorn control, this plant has a tendency to come back, therefore an excavator with a mulcher is utilised to disintegrate them. This is particularly effective when the Box Thorn are located around trees where residual chemicals cannot be used.

Green Cestrum; MACH have been controlling this along the river for livestock health.

Offsets; St John's Wort, Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Broad and Narrow Leaf Privet, and Tree of Heaven

RA explained that MACH are not permitted to use helicopters to aerial spray, there are benefits to aerial spraying but the effect can be hard on trees and MACH need to take care of these. The next best step was for MACH to implement drone spraying. MACH engaged Delta land management to undertake a drone trial at Antoine targeting St John's Wort. The XAG P100 Pro agricultural drone carries approximately 50 litres and can cover about 100 acres of country in one day. Drone spraying is also great for areas that are unsafe to put in a ground team.

Priority Vertebrate Pest Management Programs

RA noted that Vertebrate Pest Management is conducted to also improve habitats for threatened fauna. RA provided an overview of the Management Programs that were undertaken in the Muswellbrook area in relation to their fox program. RA advised feral pig monitoring continues on-site. In the Offsets MACH had commenced a pig management program in revegetation areas; St Antoine. There will be a fox program conducted in Autumn.

MACH are also investigating what others are doing in the realm of feral cat control in an effort to protect glider species and smaller marsupials. TL asked if MACH survey for squirrel gliders and RA confirmed that an Ecologist is engaged on a regular basis, the survey depends on the charter i.e. it could be for one particular species such as legless lizards. MR added that MACH have Flora and Fauna monitoring in place for rehabilitation and offset spaces. TL queried if MACH monitor areas around the mine and PY responded that monitoring is conducted in vegetation and rehabilitation, in addition MACH have some passion projects. TL noted that there are not many wattle trees in the area to attract the squirrel gliders. MACH hoped they may be found in the stag trees and advised that they had found some squirrel gliders at Woodburn.

Projects and Infrastructure

MACH's Housing renovation program was progressing well at; Glenwood house "St Antoine", Invernisk homestead "Blackrock" and Karrabah House "Kayuga". New livestock yards had been installed at Overdeen. There is a new post and rail house yard fence at Negoa Homestead. The new hay shed "Scrivens" was nearly complete.

Offset Advisory committee

MACH hosted this group and held talks about offsets, particularly in the Merriwa, Cassilis and Gunnedah space. The Advisory Committee had been taken on a tour and there had been good feedback from this group in relation to receiving the information that MACH present to the CCC and in seeing work come to fruition.

Key items for the Offset Advisory Committee was a visit to view the Historic Woolshed that MACH keep maintained. MACH have endeavoured to attract interest to see if any local community groups might like to use this Woolshed, this is being given some consideration however it is a bit remote. MACH also provided detail of their Weed Management Programs and Projects and Infrastructure to the Offset Advisory Committee, as per detail that is presented to this CCC. WP asked if the Offset Advisory Committee was a State initiative and RA confirmed that is a Federal requirement under MACH's Offset Management Plan.

TF queried what triggers a housing renovation and if there were any houses with Heritage status. MACH confirmed that would include Negoa Homestead and whilst other homes are not listed and maintenance is not a requirement, MACH do conduct these works as good management practices.

MR added that outside of the mining footprint, if there is a house with intrinsic value that MACH can do a decent renovation on, this most likely will be done. MR detailed a number of houses and their locations that had been renovated due to being seen as an asset that gives people an opportunity to reside there. As MACH have projects ramping up, they would like to have their project people live in the area. RA noted that in some areas there are not a lot of houses, so MACH work hard to save them as this puts a lot of new families into communities.

MACH Agri

MACH were planning to start up an agricultural venture on some land holdings, in the order of 1,718 hectares, for livestock and hay/fodder. RA identified the land via mapping showing the relinquishment areas and roads that JM and LB would be familiar with. MACH have good working relations with lease holders that will not be affected by this venture. LB noted earlier discussions regarding pig control onsite and at offsets and asked if MACH will conduct this on their own agricultural land. RA responded yes, both weed and pig control will be conducted there. SL added that MACH have some revegetated areas on Sandy Creek and are working to keep pigs out of there.

14.External Relations - Lisa Richards

LR noted that since commencing in the role of Environment & Community Manager she has been on a meet and greet campaign and would be heading out with SL to meet neighbours. LR said that her door is open and for members to feel free to share her contact details.

Stakeholder Engagement - Sponsorship & Community

- ✓ Ongoing stakeholder engagement with local neighbours and businesses including residents in Kayuga, Aberdeen and Blairmore Lane.
- ✓ The General Manager Operations and teams attended Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- ✓ MACH representatives attended local school presentations in December 2024.
- ✓ The official opening of the new Workshop was held on 17 December 2024. David Layzell MP attended, where he had the honour of cutting the opening ribbon.
- ✓ CCC site tour and meeting held on 12 December 2024.
- ✓ MACH representatives took part in the wrapping of Christmas Presents for the Blackroo Christmas Toy Appeal.

On behalf of Blackroo, DD thanked MACH for providing the wrapping paper and wrapping the Christmas gifts. DD expressed thanks also to MR, who assisted on the pack up day, she was very grateful for his help.

TP noted that Ngaire Baker had left MACH and asked if the CCC could send their good wishes to her, noting that she had been very helpful to him over many years. Members agreed that they would like to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the MACH CCC and WP confirmed that he would undertake that.

Recent Sponsorships

- ✓ Australian Stock Horse Association
- ✓ Cassilis Public School
- ✓ Denman Antique Truck and Machinery Club
- ✓ Fire and Rescue NSW Muswellbrook
- ✓ Hunter Stockman's Challenge
- ✓ Lake Glenbawn Carp Muster

- ✓ Merriwa Bulls, Broncos and Barrells
- ✓ Scone Mustangs Football Club
- ✓ Scone Rugby Union Football Club
- ✓ Upper Hunter Show
- ✓ Upper Hunter Stockman's Challenge

LR advised if members are asked about MACH's Community Sponsorships they can be directed to MACH's website where there is an application process. Sponsorship applications will be reviewed every quarter by an internal committee.

<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/community/community-sponsorship/>

MACH also have a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the Upper Hunter Shire Council that is a requirement under their Consent. This is a separate committee specifically for the Aberdeen area as there are funds to be directed there in association with MACH's SSD.

**Complaints per Month By Type and Number of Complaints per Complainant
(December 2024, January 2025, February 2025)**

Complaints statistics were going well and there is good engagement out there.

15. General Business

Members agreed they would appreciate a Tour of the new workshop prior to the next Meeting scheduled for 19 June 2025. MR asked if members would like to view anything else on site and it was agreed to leave other visits to following meetings.

WP thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 11.41 a.m.

MACH provided lunch and refreshments for the group.

16. Proposed Meeting Dates commencing at 10.00 a.m.

- ✓ 19 June 2025 - Commencing at 9.30 a.m. to visit the new Workshop, meeting to follow on at 10.00 a.m.
- ✓ 18 September 2025 - Commencing at 10.00 a.m.
- ✓ 11 December 2025 - Commencing at 10.00 a.m.