

Attendance

Chairperson

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

Independent Chair

Community Representatives

Tony Lonergan (TL)

Community Representative

Trevor Parkinson (TP)

Community Representative

Jonathan Moore (JM)

Community Representative

Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)

Cr Darryl Marshall (DM)

Councillor - MSC

Theresa Folpp (TF)

Environmental Planning Officer - MSC

Company Representatives

Mick Redman (MR)

General Manager - Operations

Andrew Raal (AR)

Senior Environmental Advisor

Mark Nolan (MN)

Project Environmental Advisor

Lisa Richards (LR)

Environment & Community Manager

Georgia Cook (GC)

Graduate Environmental Advisor

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

De-Anne Douglas

Deputy Mayor & Councillor - MSC

Llewellyn Bates

Community Representative

Chris Lauritzen

General Manager - Resource Development

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Purser (SP)

- 1. Welcome;** WP opened the meeting at 10.20 a.m. on members return from a tour of MACH's new workshop. Mark Nolan, Georgia Cook and MSC Councillor; Darryl Marshall were welcomed as first time attendees to the MACH CCC. Members were provided with a hard copy of today's meeting presentation.
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country;** Led by WP.
- 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 noted that safety on site is the responsibility of each individual, as an example; MR raised the importance of workers not to follow on with a step or task taken by another person without investigating the procedures to ensure the correct processes are followed.
- 6. Minutes of the previous Meeting held 13 March 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;** Nil.

8. Chairs Report - Wej Paradise

WP provided an overview of the history of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS), noting a newly formed Operations Committee had met in Singleton on 18 June 2025. LR detailed the representatives on the HRSTS Operations Committee which include discharge licensees, not limited to the mining industry, along with a number of Government organisations.

LR explained the process for securing credits and the procedures for licensees to discharge water from site. The HRSTS is coordinated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

In response to a query from TP regarding dams reaching capacity, it was confirmed that Water NSW manage Glenbawn and Glennies Creek Dams, and the operator of the dams are on the HRSTS Operations Committee.

9. Community Feedback

TL acknowledged interest in the European Heritage work and had a Diary containing historical information in relation to the Kayuga School and surrounds. TL noted the Diary indicates that there were two Churches on either side of the School, however these had not been found. TL confirmed that he had discussions with Jess from Extant Heritage onsite and would provide the Diary to her.

JM acknowledged MACH for supporting the Polocrosse event, JM had attended and been impressed, noting there had been a lot of people there.

TF confirmed the reclassification of Bengalla and Wybong roads was continuing to progress. TF advised as an outcome of the SSD Meeting held in June it was likely that MSC may put in a policy and provide some guidance in relation to temporary workforce accommodation.

10. Environmental Performance - Lisa Richards & Andrew Raal

LR formally introduced new team members GC; Graduate Environmental Advisor and MN; Project Environmental Advisor. LR noted that MN is onboard to provide support to MACH's Project Team in relation to new projects that were scheduled to commence in the near future.

Since January 2025 rainfall had been trending well above the long term average. MACH presented the rolling 12 month rainfall for the period June 2024 to May 2025 identifying the historical average. TP queried if there were differing impacts on production based on heavy or steady rainfall. MR responded that is correct, sustained rainfall over longer periods can be more challenging.

During March, April and May 2025:-

- There had been no environmental incidents.
- The Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Embankment Lift Project had commenced.
- Blast vibration results had been well below criteria.
- Dam monitoring and inspections had identified no issues.

Department of Planning Approvals:-

Annual Review

This is now available on the MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation website. LR confirmed that it is a requirement for MACH to make the Annual Review available to the CCC and WP agreed that the link be included in the Meeting Minutes: [**MACH Energy-Mount Pleasant Operation-2024 Annual Review**](#)

TL queried the finalisation date for the Annual Review and MACH confirmed that this is end of March. The reporting period runs on a calendar year; January to December, then there is three months to finalise. LR noted that aligning reporting with MACH's financial year assists with lining up all the business statistics, allowing there to be one set of data for all.

Historic Heritage Management Plan

Approved in June.

Stated 1a retirement of Biodiversity Credits relinquished

MACH advised that Biodiversity Credits can be purchased from market, obtained via payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund and/or generated via the demonstration of established flora and fauna communities on off-set areas, for example; Eucalyptus White Box. WP queried the process for relinquishing Biodiversity Credits and asked if retirement is through offsets. LR advised that Independent Consultants, certified by the Department, conduct Audits to assess and confirm that an established community has been demonstrated, then assign the value of credits to be retired. LR explained the application process to retire Credits back into the pool. WP queried who oversees Biodiversity Credits and MACH advised the Biodiversity Conservation Trust which is run by NSW Government Environment & Heritage.

Resource Regulator Approvals:-

- ✓ Forward Program
- ✓ Final Landform Rehabilitation Plan
- ✓ Annual Rehabilitation Report

These approvals trigger MACH to update their Rehabilitation Management Plan which was under review and anticipated to be finalised end of June 2025. The Rehabilitation Strategy was with the DPHI for assessment at the time of this meeting.

- **Historic Heritage Archaeological Survey;** had recommenced at Kayuga School. This program initially commenced in 2024 and includes the School block, two to three Homestead wells, and the Kayuga U/G mine north of Castlerock Road. MACH detailed some findings including; the foundations of the school, original wooden posts, an old oil lamp, horse shoe and pottery shards. MACH reiterated their interest in the historical Diary and TL confirmed he would like to send this to Jess.
- **Salvage of Aboriginal Artefacts;** from Northern Link Road (NLR) to the mine site covered by the new project approval had been completed with two potential sites under investigation.
- **Keeping Place;** work had commenced on a Keeping place for artefacts salvaged from the Mt Pleasant site. There will be ongoing access to the Keeping Place provided to the Aboriginal Community to run their own events. There is a yarnning circle planned, along with parking and amenities. TF noted this is the first Keeping Place she had ever seen done on a site and would like to see that when completed.

Rehabilitation - Peter York

- The rehabilitation target for 2025 is 35 hectares and MACH was on track at this midyear point despite the wet weather.
- 5.5 hectares were seeded in May 2025, PY noted this had been completed prior to rain which was good timing and subsequently cover crops were growing well.
- Northern Rock Drains had been completed.
- Excavation had commenced in C10 Rock Drain.

MACH were in the process of redesigning a northern section of the dump and hoped to bring works in that area forward to improve the visual amenity. JM had noted a lot of truck movements and MR confirmed these had been required to bring in the blanket drain material of rock and sand for the TSF Embankment Lift Project and that MACH had reached about the 40% mark in relation to deliveries. TL asked if rock could be used from site and MR responded that the material from site was not of a high enough quality, therefore MACH import this to guarantee longevity. MACH provided a pictorial overview of the 2024 rehabilitation areas.

2025 Weed Spraying; is targeting Boxthorn, Galenia, Bathurst burr and other weeds.

MACH identified the target areas via mapping and showed the dedicated vehicle that has been set up with a weed spray unit onboard. With regard to treating Boxthorn, TL advised that he had good results from a 50/50 chemical mix and PM thanked TL for sharing this good observation. All were in agreement that it is best to target the Boxthorn when the plant is under vigorous growth. LR confirmed that MACH map weed treatment and also conduct an annual flyover to assess treated areas and confirm strike success.

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

From a safety perspective MACH had a reduction in the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) and had been performing well relative to industry peers.

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 May and June 2025.

The next stage of MACH's expansion to lift production to 16.5 Mtpa was in the detail design phase at the time of this meeting. There has been interest in the additional coal from the domestic market with customers liking the product and that MACH can provide a consistent supply.

MR provided an overview of the mining fleet and the additional fleet operating on the TSF Project.

Tailings Storage Facility Embankment Raise Project

- Borrow works had been advancing well.
- Embankment Contractor mobilisation was anticipated within the next eight weeks to commence works. MACH noted that it was good to have this Contractor onboard as they did the first embankment lift.
- Import material progressing.
- Installation of laboratory facilities was expected within the following eight weeks to allow for on-site geotechnical testing.
- It was anticipated that the embankment wall would be up to height around April 2026 and the planned completion of project estimated for August 2026.

Northern Infrastructure Works Project

Northern Link Road (NLR)

- Notification provided to DPHI regarding commencement of this project.
- Enabling works had commenced inclusive of facilities and disturbance boundary fencing.
- Various commitments associated with the NLR Works Deed - Muswellbrook Shire Council. MR noted that there was a requirement for MACH to negotiate with MSC in relation to a Works Deed that covers matters, not limited to; access, preconstruction works, land valuations etc. and an agreement had been formed that allowed MACH to commence the enabling works.
- The main contractor will be mobilising in July.
- Anticipated completion is Q2 2026

In response to a query from TL, MR advised that MACH had reviewed the advantages and disadvantages in relation to delaying crossing Castlerock Road by approximately 18 to 24 months. MACH decided to maintain their program that had anticipated crossing Castlerock Road in Q3 2026. TL asked if the road design had been completed and MR responded yes.

TL raised a couple of issues in relation to three depressions in the road, he noted one is located near the Fire Shed, then two in close proximity of each other. On rare occasions the depression stops some people from being able to drive through due to water across the road. TL noted that these are deep depressions and asked if they would be left like that or if there would be a raised culvert. LR confirmed that MACH had conducted a flood study and culverts will be appropriately designed for flood conditions.

Water Infrastructure

Water management infrastructure is required prior to operations moving north of Castlerock Road, MACH anticipated these works would commence in July 2025 and include:-

- Three new sediment dams - 22kV supply and associated infrastructure, pumping stations and LOM pipelines.
- Storage capacity and pumping upgrade to existing SD4.
- Associated clean and dirty water drains.
- Light vehicle access roads.
- The first of two water fill points.

LR confirmed that MACH had completed a letter box drop to inform community of the commencement of this project along with the scope of works.

13.Land Management - Richard Ali & Sandy Lettuce

Priority Weed Management Programs

Muswellbrook area; St John's Wort, Boxthorn and Green Cestrum. RA noted that MACH had trialled a number of control measures for Boxthorn and research indicated the best way to treat this weed is to conduct mulching and spraying simultaneously. RA noted that Boxthorn thrive amongst trees and sandy creeks that MACH are wanting to conserve, the mulch and spray machine can be effectively used in riparian areas and around trees due to it being very compact. RA advised the main source of spreading Boxthorn is via birds.

Offsets; St John's Wort, Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Broad and Narrow Leaf Privet, and Tree of Heaven. RA noted that St John's Wort had appeared to be well under control however this had taken off again around the Muswellbrook pit and surrounds. MACH remain focussed on treating this weed and RA noted this is typically spread by animals, predominantly kangaroos.

Priority Vertebrate Pest Management Programs

Muswellbrook area; SL provided an overview on MACH's fox management program. SL acknowledged that LB had mentioned pig control at the previous CCC Meeting and confirmed MACH had commenced a program at Sandy Creek. MACH have a feral pig program in place for Mount Pleasant Operations and Broomfield.

Offsets; SL advised MACH's pig management program had commenced in revegetation areas and detailed the Autumn control program for foxes.

Projects and Infrastructure

Muswellbrook

- Karrabah House; is being repaired and will provide a residence for the new employee at MACH Agri.
- Negoa Homestead Project; there is a new fence and DA approval for next works. JM noted the good quality posts that MACH had utilised for the fencing.

Offsets

- Glenwood house "St Antoine"; will provide a home for another family moving into the area that work locally.
- Invernisk homestead "Blackrock"; requires a lot of work, estimated to take approximately 6 months. MACH had received positive feedback from locals who are very pleased they are doing up houses rather than demolishing them. MACH noted the contractors working on these properties have done really good work and the Offset Advisory Committee had been very impressed about the before and after condition of them.
- MACH are also conducting works with regard to the Glenwood off stream water supply system.

MACH Agri

Livestock

MACH commenced purchasing cattle in March 2025. Total numbers; 253 breeders, 1 bull and 18 calves.

Cropping/Fodder and Hay Production

- 32 bales of lucerne
- 79 silage bales
- 8.8 hectares of Aladdin Oats planted

It was queried if MACH have targets for production and SL confirmed that is correct, MACH Agri had undergone a business budget study. TF commended MACH on this, stating it was good to see buffer land being used well and MACH Agri having targets in place.

14.External Relations - Lisa Richards

Stakeholder Engagement - Sponsorship & Community

- Ongoing stakeholder engagement with local neighbours and businesses including residents in Kayuga, Aberdeen and Muswellbrook.
- The General Manager Operations and team members attended Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- MACH representatives attended local sporting games and events.
- International Women's Day held in March with MPO teams attending to mark the occasion.
- Women in Mining Awards Dinner held in Sydney on 27 March 2025 with MACH team members attending.
- NSW Mining, Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, School Visit - St James Primary Muswellbrook 13 May 2025
- Biggest Morning Tea held on 22 May 2025 with MPO teams attending and money raised for the Cancer Council.

MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation - Rural Community Scholarships

MR confirmed that MACH had supported four Scholarships through the University of Newcastle. Career pathways chosen were one in medicine, one in teaching and two engineering related. The successful applicants receive \$15,000 per year as they progress through University. MR noted that MACH's long term aim was for these students to return to the local area to apply their trade and LR acknowledged the need to encourage locals to apply for these Scholarships to keep these professionals in the area.

Recent Sponsorships

- Aberdeen Golf Club
- Denman Rugby League Football club
- Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces
- Merriwa Polocrosse Club
- Murrurundi Rugby League Football Club
- Muswellbrook Country Women's Association
- Muswellbrook Swimming Club
- The Australian Photographic Society
- Westpac Upper Hunter Rescue Ball
- St James Primary School Muswellbrook
- Cancer Council Box Rallies
- Merriwa Race Club
- Merriwa Junior Rugby League Football Club
- Muscle in the Brook
- Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre
- Merriwa Pony Club
- Denman Pony Club
- Sandy Hollow Charity Motorfest
- Muswellbrook Netball Association
- Westpac Charity Golf Day
- Kayuga RFS
- Sandy Hollow Charity Horse Ride
- Scone Rodeo
- Muswellbrook CATS AFL

Complaints per Month By Type and Number of Complaints per Complainant (March, April, May 2025)

During the reporting period there had been two complaints in relation to blast, one in relation to lighting, the remainder were noise related from a single complainant who MACH were working with.

15. General Business

DM commended MACH for the high level of local support they provide.

WP thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 12.05.

MACH provided lunch and refreshments for members.

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

- 18 September 2025
- 11 December 2025