

Attendance

Chairperson

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

Independent Chair

Community Representatives

Tony Lonergan (TL)

Community Representative

Trevor Parkinson (TP)

Community Representative

Llewellyn Bates (LB)

Community Representative

Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)

Theresa Folpp (TF)

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Company Representatives

Mick Redman (MR)

General Manager - Operations

Ngaire Baker (NB)

External Relations - Manager

Kylie Sercombe (KS)

External Relations - Officer

Mariah Lane (ML)

Environmental Advisor

Blake Shackleton (BS)

Graduate Environmental Advisor

Richard Ali (RA)

Land & Property Officer

Sandy Lettice (SL)

Land & Property Officer

Thiess Representatives

Peter York (PY)

Environment & Community Superintendent

Apologies

Sharon Pope

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Tim Troon

Community Representative

Jonathan Moore

Community Representative

Andrew Reid

Environmental Superintendent

Chris Lauritzen

General Manager - Resource Development

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. Welcome

WP opened the meeting at 10.05 a.m., thanking all for their attendance. New MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation representatives; Mariah Lane, Blake Shackleton and Kylie Sercombe were introduced and welcomed.

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 Sarah Purser for preparing the Meeting Minutes.

5. Safety Share - Mick Redman

MR provided an example of the importance of taking the time to find the right tools for jobs to ensure safety and avoid harm when doing tasks both in the workplace and at home.

6. Minutes of the previous Meeting held 21 June 2024

The Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting 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;** In response to a query from TL, MACH advised the Northern Link Road design was approximately 70% complete and confirmed that this road will be fenced.
- 8. Chairs Report - Wej Paradise;** WP advised that Joe Fittell, the current DPHI contact for both the MACH CCC and MACH Operations is departing from that role. WP will advise the CCC when the new DPHI contact is known.

9. Community Feedback

TP queried the CCC Meetings being held off-site for 2024 and WP responded that when MACH allow all CCC members to be on-site the meetings will be resumed at the mine. MR confirmed that MACH are comfortable to hold the next CCC Meeting at the Mount Pleasant Operation.

LB thanked WP for sending a Sympathy card on behalf of the CCC. WP responded that members thoughts had been with her. LB asked if the next meeting to be held on site could include a Site Tour and NB responded that she had intended to discuss this with members at today's meeting.

LB enquired how MACH's baiting programs were going and TL noted that there is still quite a lot of box thorn about. RA responded that he will provide an update on Vertebrate and Weed Management Programs at today's meeting.

10. Mount Pleasant Operation Update - Mick Redman

MR advised that operations are tracking well as MACH approach the end of QTR 3 and commence QTR 4. The mining sequence continues with operations progressing west. Calendar Year (CY) 24 budget volumes forecast for 45.7 million cubic metres (MBcm) are less than CY23.

MR identified the high energy coal areas for August and September 2024. MR noted there is a strong demand for MACH's premium product particularly from Japan, along with domestic power generators seeking security of supply.

Mining Infrastructure Area (MIA) Upgrade Project

New Workshop; Commissioning is anticipated for October 2024. MR noted this to be a great facility for both the operation and staff. There were over 100,000 man/woman hours associated with the construction phase resulting in significant investment and flow on effects to the local community.

Coal Handling Preparation Plant (CHPP) Incremental Expansion; The purpose of this project is to increase the installed processing capacity up to 12.5 million tonnes (Mtpa) and is effectively complete.

MR provided an extensive overview on the following suite of projects:-

Northern Link Road (NLR); MR advised that MACH are in consultation with Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) regarding NLR Option 2 and identified the location of this 6km road via mapping.

Discharge Water Dam (DW1); The detailed design is complete for DW1 which is located on ML1829 on the western side of the Bengalla Link Road. MR explained there had been a lot of consultation with the Bengalla Team around this 300ML storage dam. There will also be a re-route of an 11kV power line as part of the project.

Northern Surface Water Infrastructure (NSWI); Includes; three sediment dams including pumping stations, 22kV power line extension from SD3 to SD9, SD4 pump station upgrade, clean water diversions drains and drainage retention structure and 10km LV access road.

MACH have engaged with the market to ensure local suppliers are aware of this body of work and have an opportunity to be involved. MR anticipated that Tender Documentation would go out end September calling in bids on the ground for late Q1, early Q2 2025.

TF queried the approval for DW1 and MACH confirmed this is under Bengalla, there is a interaction agreement involved that outlines responsibilities in relation to management and construction.

In response to a query regarding ownership of the Northern Link Road, MR advised that will be subject to the Works Deed that is negotiated with MSC. The Works Deed includes the subject of road maintenance, plus additional matters such as the mechanics of Castlerock Road being closed after construction of the NLR.

TL asked if there will be a bypass for water that comes down from the gully and crosses the road where it dips. MR confirmed that there is a water detention structure designed to capture, hold and release water in a controlled fashion and modelling indicates there will be no adverse impacts.

TP queried the proposed location for the NLR and MACH explained this road follows the Dorset Road alignment and identified where the NLR will join onto Castlerock Road. MR suggested if it was of interest to the CCC that MACH take members out to view the tie in point.

Actioned Post Meeting; On 1 October 2024 CCC Members were taken to view the proposed location for the NLR in conjunction with a visit to the Warrawee Nursery with Troy Van Balen and a viewing of MACH's Biomass Trial with the CSIRO on Roxburgh Road.

11.Applications and Approvals - Mick Redman

Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project (SSD 10418)

As presented at previous MACH CCC Meetings

MR reinforced that MACH notified the DPHI that they were commencing operations under SSD 10418 on 12 February 2024. All required State Significant Development (SSD) Management Plans have been submitted in the six month window following commencement of SSD 10418. The overarching document (EMS) is on MACH's website.

The Land and Environment Court dismissed a judicial review challenge to the SSD approval on 19 August 2024. A notice of intention to appeal has been lodged and MACH will work through that process.

MACH Energy requires a further Commonwealth approval for the Project "Action" under the EPBC Act. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEW) are processing the approval.

Modification 7 (MOD 7)

As presented at previous MACH CCC Meetings

MR noted that MACH has provided detail of the MOD 7 at a number of previous CCC Meetings. MOD 7 was drafted to provide an extension of mine life by 6 years until the end of 2032 to provide operational certainty. MOD 7 also includes an increase of the ROM coal extraction rate under DA 92/97 to 12 Mtpa and alternative alignment options for the approved NLR to be constructed prior to the approved closure of Castlerock Road. MR confirmed consultation with the community and regulatory agencies is underway.

12.Land Management - Richard Ali & Sandy Lettuce

Priority Weed Management Programs

Muswellbrook Area

Box Thorn Management; RA advised that MACH have established a good relationship with the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority (UHWA) and Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS). RA noted that there had been an inspection by the Chief Weeds Officer at HLLS who are researching biocontrol for Box Thorn in NSW. RA said the HLLS had found MACH's site unsuitable for this research as the Box Thorn had been controlled so well and made positive comments about MACH's good work in that area. RA noted that chemical, mechanical and mulching practices are working well for Box Thorn. RA acknowledged TL's feedback that the land is quite green and lush now, therefore MACH had a contractor in the previous week working across the countryside.

Variiegated thistle control; MACH control this mostly due to the thistle being unsightly when it reaches height, spraying has proven to be a successful treatment.

St John's Wort Monitoring; RA advised MACH had sprayed this back in February 2024 with good results from using Grazon.

Offsets - Monitoring

Sweet Briar, St John's Wort and Blackberry; RA advised that weed control is scheduled to commence in October 2024 with the focus on grassland. MACH wait for clover and beneficial plants to set seed after which they commence treatment for these three species.

Privet Control Program - Cooba Bulga Creek, St Antoine; RA noted this is not a new species of weed but a recent find for MACH and confirmed the privet has also been treated.

TF asked what is done with the mulch from mechanical weeding and MACH responded that some is left in situ or used as mulch around other plants. TF spoke about a new facility in Muswellbrook that take weeds and make biofill out of these. NB confirmed that MACH are aware of the facility, MACH are in discussion regarding biomass and will be supplying some.

Fauna Surveys 2024; SL advised the bi-annual process was underway with MACH identifying some nice bird species.

Priority Vertebrate Pest Management Programs; SL provided an overview and the outcomes of MACH's feral pig and rabbit programs in the Muswellbrook area and feral goat and fox programs in offsets.

Projects and Infrastructure; Mitigation and renovations are continuing on rental houses. SL presented before and after photos of a property renovation, noting that had been a good outcome. Members agreed that it looked so much nicer after the improvements.

New Livestock water systems; An ongoing program with the installation of infrastructure to allow for additional water troughs.

Fencing Program; Involved 6.5kms of internal and boundary fences being replaced due to the age and condition of the fences, along with some new post and rail entrance ways to enhance visual appeal.

13.Environmental Performance - Mariah Lane

Compliance Monitoring

- Rainfall for the months of July and August were consistent with the historical monthly average. June was above average.
- Approved Management Plans are uploaded to MACH's website;
<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/mount-pleasant/documentation/>
- EPA unannounced EMS audit outcome stated that *"Mach Energy has performed well in the compliance audit, the documentation received and online was of a high standard overall and the personnel very helpful"* (Dr Chris Burt Lead Auditor EPA).
- Post earthquake inspections were completed on all three declared dams plus High Wall Dam 2 following recent seismic activity. No issues were found from surveys undertaken on dams and infrastructure.
- The Planning Secretary (DPHI) has approved/endorsed the independent audit team which includes a lead auditor and five specialists in the fields of air quality, noise, groundwater, biodiversity and off-sets.
- Resources Regulator review of the updated Rehabilitation Objectives and Final Landform Rehabilitation Plan following SSD updates. MACH provided the link to portal <https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/>. ML noted this to be an interesting platform where landform uses are uploaded for the general public to view and contains interpretive and interactive maps.

MACH provided an overview of the following:-

MIA batter shute erosion repairs

Tailings Storage Facility Lift Three Design

The design has been completed by ATC Williams and MACH will commence notifications to the Resources Regulator regarding this six metre lift. LB queried where the soil will be sourced from and MR responded that it is most efficient for MACH to secure this from the footprint of the dam, however there will be some imported material. LB queried if the material going into that facility will be strong enough and MR responded yes. MR explained this is Tailings Lift Number Three, and there will ultimately be seven in total with the last lift anticipated for approximately 2038.

With regard to recent earthquakes and the possibility of another one LB queried if the TSF will be more vulnerable when Lift Three is in the process of being constructed. MR confirmed that would be unlikely through a subsequent lift as this will not impact the integrity of the existing TSF.

MACH noted that there is detailed Quality Assurance and Certification applied when dams are being constructed with every 300mm layer required to meet key criteria that is signed off by an Engineer. Dams are subject to scrutiny from Dams Safety and the RR, in addition MACH will conduct monitoring and regular inspections during construction.

Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme HRSTS Discharge Trial; MACH conducted this trial in July which went well, if MACH discharge water in the future the CCC will be informed at the next meeting.

Riparian Stabilisation - Sandy Creek; Conducted utilising 1,600 plants secured through MACH's Warrawee Nursery.

Port Tour; BS attended this tour that was organised by Hunter Coal Environment Group.

14. External Relations - Ngaire Baker

Stakeholder Engagement - Sponsorship & Community

- ✓ Ongoing stakeholder engagement with local neighbours and businesses including a community meeting in Cassilis to gauge interest in the development and potential uses for the sorting shed next to Llangollen Shearing Shed. NB noted that community had been keen to see the shed developed and she will keep the CCC updated.
- ✓ The General Manager Operations and team members attended Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- ✓ Sponsored and attended the 2024 Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Business Awards.
- ✓ Attended, conducted and supported NAIDOC events including a site recognition, Small Schools celebration, Muswellbrook and Singleton Family Days and the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council NAIDOC Business Awards.
- ✓ Hosted three school tours through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue School Tour Program.
- ✓ Attended the opening of the Kayuga RFS Brigade shed.
- ✓ Participated in the NSW Mining Voice for Mining Family Day activation zone prior to the Knights Game.
- ✓ Hosted the MACH Energy Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) Cultural Spectacular in Muswellbrook with more than 5,000 attending.

Recent Sponsorships

- ✓ Merriwa Springtime Show
- ✓ Mullins Conceptual Photography Prize
- ✓ Cassilis Rodeo
- ✓ Lunch Box Rally
- ✓ Towarri Physie
- ✓ Snake Gully Quilters - Defibrillator Machine.
NB acknowledged that Tim Troon and his team had been wonderful in assisting with this.
- ✓ Muswellbrook Red Cross 110 Birthday morning tea.

Complaints per Month By Type and Number of Complaints per Complainant (June, July, August 2024)

NB provided an overview of the nature of complaints received during this reporting period. NB explained as per previous meetings, there had been one main Complainant lodging 17 complaints in total. Two complaints had been received via the EPA that came through on a day where conditions had been very windy. MR confirmed that MACH do communicate with other mines, and they had received complaints on that day as well. WP queried if MACH had placed restrictions on operations on the day and MR confirmed that forecasts and environmental conditions dictate how operations are run e.g. where trucks and excavators are being operated.

WP noted there had been noise complaints across June and July and that JM had mentioned noise at previous CCC Meetings. MR advised the concern was raised further to the north as MACH head towards Castlerock Road. As a response to these complaints MACH relocated a Barnowl noise monitor in close proximity to the locations of concern and the data indicated there were no significant contributions from mining activities nor compliance issues in relation to MACH.

PY added that the Barnowl monitors are very sophisticated and when located in close proximity to site they can differentiate where noise is coming from and also the type of noise. Experienced Acoustic Engineers can identify where equipment is depending on noise frequency and are able to modify operations as required. WP queried if the Barnowl can recognise noise signatures of machinery i.e. if it is a truck or dozer and PY confirmed it does have that capability however that is dependent on how far away it is from the noise source. PY noted the Barnowl data also compliments MACH's monthly Compliance Monitoring, as part of their EPL and Consent.

WP queried the response process for complaints submitted via the EPA and PY advised that Thiess provide a response that is submitted to the EPA via MACH. There was a general discussion noting that some people make complaints directly with the mine and others via the EPA. PY advised that by phoning complaints to the Mount Pleasant Operation 24/7 Community Hotline allows MACH to investigate and respond.

In response to a query from TL, NB advised that the EPA monitor MACH's complaints via their website. NB confirmed that MACH do go back and investigate past concerns i.e. there had been a dust complaint from three weeks ago that MACH had gone back and conducted a review on what happened on that day. NB noted that the EPA may also phone a number of mines if there is uncertainty where the concern was originating from.

15. General Business

Muswellbrook Shire Council Update. TF confirmed Transport NSW's decision to reclassify Bengalla and Link Roads to be State roads, noting the outcome will be gazetted in the near future.

NB provided an overview of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Forum scheduled to be held in Singleton on 29 October 2024. NB encouraged the CCC to attend as it is a good interactive forum with industry professionals engaged to speak on the day.

TP appreciated being provided with the printed MACH CCC presentation saying it was well done. TL said MACH had provided a good presentation at today's meeting that had been easy to understand.

MR and NB led a discussion to see what the CCC would like to view on a Site Tour. It was agreed the next tour to be of the Pit and Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), and to look at Rehabilitation and the MIA on another occasion.

16. Next Meeting Date - 12 December 2024

9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Site Tour

11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. CCC Meeting

WP closed the meeting at 11.20 a.m. thanking all for their attendance. MACH welcomed all to stay for lunch and refreshments provided for the CCC Meeting attendees.