

	MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation Community Consultative Committee Meeting 14th March 2024
Attendance	
Chairperson	
Dr. W.E.J Paradise [WP]	Independent Chair CCC
Community Consultative Committee Members	
Llewellyn Bates [LB]	Committee Member
Trevor Parkinson [TP]	Committee Member
Jonathan Moore [JM]	Committee Member
Tony Lonergan [TL] Via Teams	Committee Member
Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)	
Theresa Folpp [TF]	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Company Representatives	
Ngairé Baker [NB]	External Relations Manager
Mick Redman [MR]	General Manager Operations
Chris Lauritzen [CL]	General Manager Resource Development
Sandy Lettice [SL]	Land & Property Officer
Richard Ali [RA]	Land & Property Officer
Andrew Reid [AR]	Environmental Superintendent
Thiess Representatives	
Peter York [PY]	Environment & Community Superintendent
Government Department Representatives	
Nil	
Apologies	
Tim Troon [TT]	Committee Member
Minutes	
Teena Keast [TK]	

- 1. Welcome & Apologies;** [WP] opened the meeting at 10.00 am. Acknowledgement of Country.
- 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**
Standing; [WP] is remunerated for Chairing the meeting.
- 3. Safety Share.**
[MR] Discussed the recent Ballarat gold mine collapse.
- 4. Minutes of the previous Meeting held 14th December 2023**
The Minutes from the previous meeting, 14th December 2023 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
- 5. Matters Arising from previous meeting.**
Nil
- 6. Chairmans Report**
[WP] will be taking more involvement in setting the agenda. [WP] asked the attendees to contact him to add to the agenda or if there are any requests. Moving more in line with the CCC guidelines.

7. CCC Community Update

[LB] Report

- Enquired about mine site tours.
- Dozers on the coal near the plant have been loud, are the tracks regularly tightened. [MR] Maintenance is quite rigorous. Will follow up.
- Vehicles cutting the corner when coming up the hill on Wybong Road. [MR] Will review latest safety audit report on that section of road.
- Letters sent to me have the wrong address. [CL] New search was run, and it has probably overridden previous address.

[JM] Report

- Lights have been visible on the skyline, not an interference just wondering about them. [MR] nothing different is happening or has changed.
- Noise, sound of the dozer tracks at the plant, louder than usual.
- Mowing at the entrance looks good and is appreciated, thank you.
- Amount of coal trains seems to have increased.

[TP] Report

- Council representative, what does it mean. [WP] Council can have one council representative and one Councillor attend these meetings. **Action TF to send resolution to WP.**
- Calls to radio station stating that a blast from Mount Pleasant was felt but the blast from Mount Pleasant was cancelled that day. [NB] Blast notices are updated on the web site as soon as changes are made.

8. Mount Pleasant Operation Update – Mick Redman

- The mining sequence continues with operations progressing west. CY24 budget volumes are less than CY23 volumes.
- Mining Infrastructure Area (MIA) upgrade is continuing.
- CHPP Incremental Expansion Project is continuing. Planned 18-day shutdown mid-June.
- Interim discharge pipeline works completed. DW1 discharge design at 80%. Looking at construction late 2024 early 2025.
- Northern Link Road (Dorset Road) detailed design ongoing. Stakeholder consultation ongoing.

9. Mount Pleasant Operation Applications & Approvals – Chris Lauritzen

- Development under SSD-10418 was commenced on 12 February 2024.
- Under the new Development Consent MACH is required to develop and submit a range of new environmental management plans and comply with various notification requirements.
- MACH is working through these requirements progressively in the coming months.
- DPHI has the discretion to extend this CCC's role to cover the requirements of the SSD-10418
- The IPC's statements regarding the Project and the new Development Consent is available on the IPC website
- MACH also requires a further Commonwealth approval for the Project "Action" under the EPBC Act.
- The EPBC Act approval process was delayed by a reconsideration request lodged with the Federal Minister.
- The Federal Minister has now confirmed the original controlled action and processing of the referral has commenced.
- An environmental group has launched a judicial review challenging the Minister's decision. That judicial review confirmed the Minister's decision. The group has now appealed.

Modification 7 (MOD 7) consists of:

- An extension of the mine life by six years until the end of 2032, to provide operational certainty.
- An increase of the approved ROM coal extraction rate under DA 92/97 to 12 Mtpa from 2025 (due to some identified operational efficiencies).
- A refined alignment for the approved Northern Link Road that would be constructed prior to the approved closure of Castlerock Road; and
- Consultation with the community (SIA and ACHA processes) and regulatory agencies is continuing for the Modification.

10. Mount Pleasant Operation Land Management – Sandy Lettice & Richard Ali

[RA] - Priority Weed Management Programs

We are working with the Upper Hunter weeds authority. Work is progressing with the conditions this year favourable for control.

- **Muswellbrook area** - St Johns Wart, Box Thorn, Green Cestrum around the Hunter River pump sites. St Johns Wart has been stunted due to dry weather. Manual removal of Box Thorn works the best.
- **Offsets** - Sweet Briar, St Johns Wart, Blackberry. Three teams of contractors working on offsets. Currently targeting blackberry.

[RA] - Drone Spraying Trial

Trialling drone sprayers targeting St Johns Wart. They are programable and have great target performance.

[SL] - Priority Pest Management Programs

- Increased areas for fox baiting. 47 on offsets and 33 at Muswellbrook. Coming into Autumn will start thermal shooting.
- Feral pig management is ongoing especially in our revegetation areas.

[RA] - Projects and Infrastructure

We are currently looking at all our houses across the offsets, assessing them for potential refurbishment/renovation.

Refurbishment of the offset properties has seen nine families and approximately 34 residents move back into the area.

This is bringing families into the local communities. Children attending local schools, families buying locally.

Llangollen Shearing shed has new protection fencing and looking into preservation work to keep the woolshed in good condition. Looking into ways to utilise the facility for community. Events, weddings etc.

11. Mount Pleasant Operation Environmental Performance – Andrew Reid

[AR] – Compliance Monitoring

- Rainfall for February was 93.2mm, YTD mid-March 127mm. The 2023 annual rainfall total was 432mm from 71 wet days (Historical average is 607mm).
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) notification – Anonymous odour complaint 7am Sunday 21 Jan 24. Actions taken when at 12:26am nightshift heated material was identified. An OCE inspection at 9:42am reported no heated material remaining. Actively managed.

- State Significant Development (SSD) 10418 commenced on 12 Feb 24. Eight key management plans prioritised to enable production greater than 10.5Mtpa. Additional SSD noise monitoring sites were added to the current program in February. Approved plans are up on the web site.
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 20850 Annual Return(s) for original reporting period and orphan period submitted.
- Submission of surface and groundwater investigation results to the EPA and Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), formerly DPE. Both investigations showed that observed elevated electrical conductivities in Hunter River water can be attributed to prolonged rainfall after a drought period and not related to mining operations at MPO.
- Completed consultation with Dams Safety NSW (DSNSW), and Independent Dams Engineer delivering five yearly surveillance and failure impact assessments according to DSNSW requirements.

[MR] Work continues on refining the Geofluv design, bulk shaping, topsoiling and seeding to get ahead of the plan and achieve as much rehabilitation as possible.

[JM] Quite visible from the road. Looks good.

[TF] Coming into town, Looks so much better.

[LB] Asked a question about the dam classifications.

[AR] Dam classifications have remained unchanged for all three declared dams. The Fines Emplacement Area has remained the same classification after the Stage 2 lift.

12. Mount Pleasant Operation External Relations – Ngaire Baker

[NB] – External Relations Report

- Christmas gift donations and wrapping for local senior citizens and families in need.
- Stakeholder engagement visits to Blairmore Lane, Kayuga Village and sections of Aberdeen throughout December, January, and February.
- General Manager Operations and team members attended the MCCI February & March meeting.
- Attended Singleton PCYC, recognised as NSW PCYC of the year 2023. MACH Energy MPO ACDF support the appointment of the Aboriginal Youth Mentor.
- Dreampath Aboriginal Trainee Operator site visits.

[NB] – Sponsorships & Stakeholder Engagement

From December to March there has been a diverse range of stakeholder engagement and neighbour interactions. Participating in local school end of year presentations and assisting with Christmas donations and wrapping for the community. Sponsorships included organisations from Muswellbrook to Merriwa, Scone etc. We have established a sponsorship committee to assist with the requests received.

[NB] - Complaints December 2023 to February 2024.

Six complaints. Including two air quality, two lighting, one Blast vibration and one Odour.

13. General Business

Nil.

14. Next Meeting – Friday 21st June 2024 at 10am

Meeting Dates for 2024

- 21st June 2024 – 10:00am Training Room, University of Newcastle Upper Hunter Campus, Hill Street Muswellbrook.
- 19th September 2024
- 12th December 2024

15. Meeting Close - 11:40am