

**METROPOLITAN COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 1 March 2022

Time: Commenced 3:00 pm

Location: Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh

Attendees:

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member

Apologies:

- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)
- David Henry (DH) - Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC)
- Jim Middleton (JM) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal

Welcome and introductions:

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked members for attending given the inclement weather.

Apologies: As listed above.

Declarations of interest:

- LA declared her position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Director General of Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) and engaged by Peabody.

Action items from previous meeting:

- LA advised that the CCC meeting minutes 16 November 2021 were finalised 6 December 2021 and sent to members.
- KB confirmed and thanked Metropolitan for timely removal of security station and bollards from mine entrance road.

Correspondence:

-
- 16/11/21 – Email from PG apologising for missing the November CCC due to a mix-up with the commencement time.
- 25/11/21 – Email from PT requesting mid-year six monthly and the associated appendices. This was forwarded to Metropolitan.

- 27/11/21 – Email to PT advising that the report will be submitted to DPIE in December 2021 and should be provided to the CCC in early 2022.*
- 27/11/21 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 6/12/21 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 14/2/22 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting, as well as request for any Community Questions.
- 26/2/22 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.

*SL currently confirming that DPE is satisfied with Metropolitan Coal Six Monthly Report before distributing to CCC.

LA confirmed no community questions had been received prior to CCC meeting.

Metropolitan Coal operations update – Stephen Love, Environment & Community Superintendent

A presentation was provided to the CCC with an update regarding:

- Company and Mine Update
- Extraction Plan Update
- Surface Facilities Update
- 2021 Air Quality
- CWR Transport Totals
- Eastern Tributary Remediation
- 'Blasting' in Helensburgh

Questions/Comments/Feedback from CCC members in relation to the Presentation:

- AH enquired if Longwall 307 would start at southern end and work north. SL clarified that each longwall in the 300 series commences at the northern end and works south.
- KB asked about status of Turkey's Nest (TN) desilting program. SL stated that desilting is not complete with approximately 20% of material removed to date. Progress has been slow due to COVID-19 and rain, with focus on maintaining desilting and keeping drain clear to TN.
- AH asked if any solid coal had washed into Camp Creek. SL answered that it is possible that solid coal has been washed into creek as a result of recent heavy rainfall events but there is no evidence of it in Camp Creek. AH asked if follow up water sampling had taken place. SL confirmed that Metropolitan samples Camp Creek monthly and typically after a greater than 25mm rainfall event.
- AH asked if the drain to TN can be altered so it does not block. SL stated that given the relative levels and the design of TN infrastructure it's difficult to change and managing silt levels is the best way to avoid blockages.
- KB asked why Depositional Dust Gauge 3 (DG3) has had highest recordings in 2021. SL indicated that DG3 is located in the Top Administration Carpark closest to the mine. KB queried if this suggested that the trucks were not a significant source of dust. SL confirmed this may be the case, though it is difficult to assess without more data and suggested that dust levels in Helensburgh are generally low and the town may find they do not reduce significantly even once the mine has closed and the site has been rehabilitated.
- RS highlighted the information in the community regarding Metropolitan Mine on platforms such as Facebook. SL confirmed that Metropolitan is aware of social media commentary but

has concluded that there is little to be gained from engaging in these exchanges, preferring to use conduits such as the CCC, community organisations and discussing directly with community members when contacted.

- AH asked if Holsworthy Army Barracks advise neighbours/community when artillery training is being conducted. SL answered that notices are issued for some forms of training on the Army's website but general artillery practice does not seem to be included.

General business:

- AH indicated that a community member asked if Metropolitan has considered an overhanging tree limb on Parkes Street and a shrub at the mine entrance which may obscure vision for drivers. SL confirmed trees have previously been assessed by tree specialist but Metropolitan will arrange another review. JD indicated that Metropolitan would investigate and prune any shrubs at the mine entrance as required to main safe visual line of sight.
- AH raised concerns with water levels in Woronora Reservoir and suggested that WaterNSW are creating an artificially high hydrological system for downstream riparian vegetation with excessive environmental flows. AH questioned the validity of releasing large amounts of water and asked why WaterNSW do not retain more water for times of need. AH has considered writing to WaterNSW with questions outlined.
- RS asked if WaterNSW still believe Metropolitan is responsible for water loss from the Woronora Reservoir. SL outlined that WaterNSW have accepted the various pieces of evidence including stream flow gauge data, groundwater modelling and Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment findings which demonstrate that there is no connective cracking between the catchment and Metropolitan mine.
- AH enquired about recent coal market conditions. JD explained that coal prices have risen significantly, now in excess of \$400/tonne for premium hard coking coal.
- AH asked if coal operations have remained the same in 2022. JD indicated that shifts remain 24 hours 6 days per week with no coal production on Sunday.
- SL stated that Metropolitan had supplied Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to the Lions Club of Helensburgh to distribute to Helensburgh Probus and the Northern Illawarra Neighbour Aid. If CCC members knew of any other potential recipients Metropolitan would be happy to consider them. AH requested some RATs be supplied to Helensburgh Landcare for provision to participants in upcoming Clean-up Australia Day. SL and JD confirmed this should be possible and would make arrangements.

Meeting closed: 3:49 pm with LA thanking all for their attendance and participation.

Next meeting: Tuesday 26 July 2022 – commencing at 3:00 pm on site.

ACTION ITEM:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Distribute Six Monthly Report to CCC when DPIE confirms its satisfaction.	SL