

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

**Date:** Tuesday 22 November 2022

**Time:** Commenced 4:38 pm

**Location:** Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh  
Site visit to Turkey's Nest Dam and Camp Creek commenced at 3:00 pm

**Attendees:**

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

**Apologies:**

- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member

**Absent:**

- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)
- David Henry (DH) - Wollondilly Shire Council (WSC)  
**Action: Write to Wollondilly Shire Council requesting alternate delegate.**

**Welcome and introductions:**

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked members for attending and participating in site visit to Turkey's Nest Dam and Camp Creek.

**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.

**Business Arising:**

- LA declared CCC meeting minutes 26 July 2022 were finalised 15 August 2022 and sent to members.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Members to advise LA of suggestions for proposed site inspection at the next CCC – <b>Email sent to members on 9/11/22 asking for suggestions. Some responses received.</b>	CCC/LA
2	Clean out culvert under Parkes St. <b>Debris (silt and vegetation) from Parkes Street culvert on Helensburgh Creek removed as requested by AH.</b>	SL

## **Correspondence:**

- 8/8/22 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 15/8/22 – Email to members with the finalised minutes, with presentation.
- 14/9/22 – Email to members from SL regarding off site water flows and EPA investigations. Forwarded to CCC members the same day.
- 12/10/22 – Email from PT with request for six-monthly report and 2021 Annual Review & appendices.
- 17/10/22 – Email from SL to members with the link to the 2021 AR & appendices.
- 17/10/22 – Email to members advising that the six monthly report is still in production and not yet available.
- 9/11/22 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting, as well as request for any Community Questions.
- 11/11/22 – Email from AH with questions. Sent through to Peabody for response on the day.
- 21/11/22 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.

## **Community Questions**

A number of questions were received from AH prior to the CCC. This item moved to the Operations Update for response by SL.

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

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

- Business Update
- Mining Update
- CWR Management
- Stormwater Management & Camp Creek
- Community Sponsorships 2022

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

- AH had submitted questions prior to the meeting, many of which had been answered during the site tour and the presentation. AH also presented archive material regarding collapse of Turkey's Nest Dam in 1989 with photographic and newspaper documents for members.
- AH enquired about notices and fines from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as a result of incidents relating to Camp Creek. SL outlined that there have been 4 reportable events and one fine. SL also explained that EPA has advertised for comments regarding Metropolitan's EPL license and an investigation is ongoing which Metropolitan is cooperating with. **Link:** [Camp Gully Creek pollution clean-up and investigation \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/camp-gully-creek-pollution-clean-up-and-investigation)
- KB asked if the EPA have advised on desilting of Turkey's Nest Dam. SL explained that Metropolitan has kept EPA apprised of desilting options and their various limitations and drawbacks, particularly given the small site footprint.
- AH highlighted the media frenzy regarding spill events and "toxic coal sludge". SL agreed that no reporting included the relatively benign nature of coal as a sedimentary rock, as the black fine material looks quite dramatic. KB suggested that the coal fines build up in dams was long overdue for desilting. SL reiterated that the desilting process was underway well before recent events but had been set back by the enormous rain events in the first half of 2022.
- AH questioned if the cleanup process on Camp Creek has been successful. SL confirmed that Phase 1 clean up on Camp Creek to date had recovered approximately 8 tonnes of material and creek appeared healthy. KB agreed based on her review during site tour.

- AH asked which company was involved with Camp Creek cleanup. SL stated WSP had been engaged to assist with planning and logistics of clean up. AH asked if flow controls such as haybales or gabion walls could be used to contain spills in future. SL explained difficulty in installing obstructions in Camp Creek due to environmental requirements, and that sheer volumes of water during heavy rainfall events would be impossible to contain. JD shared a photo showing a gabion wall installed by Sydney Trains on Camp Creek that had been shredded by heavy rains.
- AH asked if there were any secondary ideas to stop spills into Camp Creek. SL outlined the installation of pipework which was installed several years ago to intercept any spills from site during low flows, but this would not be effective during high flows. JD explained that a historical Development Application was in place to reduce the risk of spills to Camp Creek by infilling the valley with an underground culvert for the creek, but DPIE had restricted this option as part of the modern Project Approval.

**General business:**

- AH asked how often Camp Creek was tested for water quality. SL explained that samples were taken monthly and/or after any rainfall event >25mm during a 24 hour day period, when safe to do so.
- SL thanked the CCC members for their attendance at meetings during 2022 and looked forward to working with the committee again in 2023.

**Meeting Schedule for 2023:**

It was agreed to continue to hold three CCC’s throughout 2023. in line with previous years:

- ✚ **Tuesday** 28 March 2023, commencing at 3pm.
- ✚ **Tuesday** 25 July, 2023 commencing at 3pm; and
- ✚ **Tuesday** 21 November, 2023 at 3 pm.

**Meeting closed:** 5:45 pm with LA thanking all members for their attendance and contribution throughout 2022 and wishing all a safe and happy festive season.

**Action Items:**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Write to Wollondilly Shire Council requesting alternate delegate	LA
2	Send link to members regarding EPA Review of License	LA