

METROPOLITAN COAL

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 21 November 2023

Time: Commenced 3:02 pm

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

Attendees:

- Lisa Andrews (LA) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Nicolas Tucker (NT) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal (via Zoom)
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member - community
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member – stakeholder - National Parks Association representative
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member - community
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member - community
- Keith Hawkins (KH) - CCC Member – stakeholder – Helensburgh Lions Club & Probus
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)

Apologies:

- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member

Welcome and introductions:

- LA welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked members for attending.
- LA introduced KH to the CCC as a new member. KH provided background to his involvement with the Helensburgh community through the Helensburgh Lions Club and Probus.

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 declared CCC meeting minutes 18 July 2023 were finalised 9 August 2023 and sent to members with 3 action items.
 1. Boundary fence and signage repairs completed by Metropolitan Coal. **Complete.**
 2. LA wrote to suitable stakeholder groups asking for CCC member nominations. **Complete.**
 3. Revised CCC guidelines to be discussed in General Business. **To be addressed in this meeting.**

Correspondence – as sent with meeting notice on 13/11/23:

- 31/7/23 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
 - 31/7/23 – Letters to Helensburgh Historic Society, Helensburgh Lions Club and Helensburgh Neighbourhood Forum 1 (Warwick Erwin) inviting nomination to join CCC.
 - 9/8/23– Email to members with the finalised minutes, with presentation.
 - 11/8/23 – Email from SL with information concerning the landslip on 6/8/23. Forwarded to members.
 - 17/8/23 – Email from AH with questions regarding the landslip. Forwarded to SL.
 - 24/8/23 – Email to AH with response to questions.
 - 6/10/23 – Letter - Nomination from stakeholder group/s for representative on this CCC.
 - 12/10/23 – Email/Letter to stakeholder group/s advising of approval to be on CCC.
 - 13/11/23 - Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting, as well as request for any Community Questions.
 - 20/11/23 - [Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.](#)
- LA confirmed that 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 regarding:

- Mining Update
- Project Modification
- Exploration Lease
- EPA Prosecution
- Landslip Update
- IEAPM Recommendations – Upland Swamp Monitoring

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

- PT enquired how much the new EV site bus cost. JH explained that vehicle was approximately \$100,000 and is part of a larger program to deploy solar and electrify vehicles onsite.
- KB enquired if faults in coal seam stay dry and free of water from surface after being mined through. SL explained that the fault can be observed at the surrounding unmined roadways and that the lack of groundwater make underground confirmed that no connection to the surface was occurring.
- AH asked how deep the coal seam was from recent exploration borehole. JH indicated that seam is approximately 500m below surface at current exploration location.
- PT enquired about the clean-up efforts in Camp Creek. SL confirmed that the cleanup was complete, with ongoing monitoring at this stage.
- AH enquired how Metropolitan handled the recent heavy rainfall event. KO confirmed that the dam network and Water Treatment Plant had handled the rainfall with all water onsite captured and handled as per the Surface Facilities Water Management Plan.
- AH queried the results from real-time monitoring upstream and downstream of mine site. SL explained that results were consistent with those historically recorded since project approval. AH suggested that Helensburgh Creek needed to be tested for WQ as an input of water to site. SL agreed that there are several inputs of water to Camp Creek that need to be taken into account before drawing conclusions about downstream water quality.

General business:

- AH explained that during filming of the 'Planet of the Apes' film in Helensburgh, Landcare agreed to compensation from the filmmakers in return for the removal of the fence at the Helensburgh tunnel. Landcare would now like to look at installing a new fence inside the tunnel to allow some access to the public. AH requested any available assistance from the mine as the tunnel is jointly owned by Peabody and Landcare, plus it has local heritage listing. SL agreed that they would be willing to assist if a viable solution can be designed.

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- KB asked about new gate at mine entrance road. KO stated that Metropolitan were replacing the gate for a similar design due to corrosion. New gate will be fabricated by local business in Helensburgh.
- LA discussed the revised CCC guidelines with detailed information previously provided to CCC members. Various subjects discussed by LA including the effectiveness of CCC, WH&S, DPE roles, new state significant developments, and the general terms of the revised CCC guidelines. LA advised that there would be a new Terms of Reference for this CCC and a draft template would be sent to members for their review and input. **Action.**
- AH asked when LW 309 was complete. JH stated this Longwall would be completed in February 2024 as well as a short Christmas shutdown period.
- AH suggested that it would be beneficial for the CCC to have representation from the Sutherland Shire due to the surrounding Hacking River Catchment. LA agreed and stated that she would be happy to write to relevant authorities/groups/potential individuals inviting them to nominate a delegate on the CCC for consideration and assessment in accordance with the selection criteria/guidelines. **Action.**

Meeting closed: 4:04pm with LA thanking all members for their attendance and contribution throughout 2023 and wishing all a happy festive season and safe new year.

Meeting Schedule for 2024:

- Tuesday, March 19th
- Tuesday, July 30th
- Tuesday, November 19th

Commencing at 3pm on site.

ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Send draft Terms of Reference to members for review/input	LA
2	Write to relevant Sutherland Shire groups inviting representation on the CCC.	LA