

**Minutes of Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Wambo Coal Pty Ltd and United Wambo Joint Venture**

Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for Wambo Coal Pty Ltd (**Wambo**) and United Wambo Joint Venture (**UWJV**), held UWJV Administration building on Tuesday 14 November 2023 9:08am.

Chairperson: Lisa Andrews (LA) – Independent Chairperson

In attendance: Brian Atfield (BA) – Community Member
 Robert Ball (RB) – Community Member
 Shane Gee (SG) – Community Member
 Janet Fenwick (JF) – Community Member
 Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA) – Singleton Council
 Shane Armitage (SA) – Hunter Valley Gliding Club (online)
 Cate Simms (CS) – UHMD (guest presenter)
 Peter Jaeger (PJ) – Wambo Coal
 Morgan Katsch (MK) – Wambo Coal
 Aislinn Farnon (AF) - UWJV
 Ashlee Baker (AB) - UWJV
 Skye Vickers (SV) - UWJV
 Lori Depczynski (LD) – UWJV
 Alex Coleman (AC) – UWJV
 Dinah Edwards (DE) - observer
 Charles De Anteuil (CA) - observer

Apologies: Dianne Gee (DG) – Community Member
 David Thelander – Community Member
 Jake Hawkins (JH) – UWJV
 Jan Davis (JD) – Hunter Environmental Lobby (Online)
 Nick Slater (NS) – UWJV

1.	Welcome & Apologies (LA)
	The chairperson opened the meeting at 9:11am, welcoming all to Wambo / UWJV CCC meeting and delivering an acknowledgment of Country. Introduced Dinah Edwards and Charles De Anteuil as observers.
2.	Declarations
	LA declared that she is an approved Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Environment – engaged by UWJV to chair the CCC. No changes to members’ previous declarations.

3.	<p>Business Arising</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 25 July 2023 were finalised and distributed to members on 11th August 2023.</p> <p>Action items from the previous CCC:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="277 340 1311 875"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Action</th> <th>Responsible</th> <th>Complete (Y/N)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">Item 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/07/2023</td> <td>Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements be made online</td> <td>LD</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/07/2023</td> <td>Confirm pig trapping program with Alex Fenwick</td> <td>LD</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/07/2023</td> <td>Work through the new Community Consultation Guidelines and present to the Committee at next meeting.</td> <td>LA</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>JF – commented that pigs have been identified at Harris property along Wambo Creek. PJ commented contractor completes the baiting program and that will be communicated with JF. PJ offered to show wildlife cameras at CCC meeting in Q1, 2024.</p> <p>Action – PJ to provide wildlife camera footage and information regarding wild pig baiting program in Q1, 2024.</p>	Date	Action	Responsible	Complete (Y/N)	Item 1				25/07/2023	Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements be made online	LD	Y	25/07/2023	Confirm pig trapping program with Alex Fenwick	LD	Y	25/07/2023	Work through the new Community Consultation Guidelines and present to the Committee at next meeting.	LA	Y
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4.	<p>Correspondence (LA)</p>																				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/8/23 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review • 11/8/23 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentations. • 2/9/23 – Email from AF regarding recent Air Quality Exceedance at United Wambo Coal Mine. Forwarded on to CCC members that day. • 28/9/23 – Email from Elliot Holland requesting input from CCC regarding upcoming IEA for Wambo Mine. Forwarded to members on 29/9/23. • 9/10/23 – Email from AF advising of an Air Quality Exceedance at United Wambo Coal Mine. Forwarded to members the same day. • 11/10/223 – Email from James Bailey & Associations requesting input from CCC regarding upcoming IEA for United Wambo Mine. Forwarded to members 12/10/23. • 20/10/23 - Email to consultant advising that no feedback received from members and that CCC meets in accordance with condition of approval and receives presentation from proponent. • 28/10/23 - Email to consultant (Onward Consulting) regarding its proposed IEA of the Wambo site. No comments. • 30/10/23 – Email from AF advising of air quality exceedance on site on 24/10/23. Forwarded to CCC members the same day. • 31/10/23 – Email from landowner requesting “observer” status at this CCC. • 1/11/23 - Email to landowner granting request. • 1/11/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda and Correspondence Report for this meeting. 																				

5.	<p>Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (CS)</p>
	<p>CS – Provided the members with an update on UHMD via a PowerPoint presentation (attached), noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS – discussed reasons for the establishment of the UHMD. Established primarily due to media coverage of coal mining in particular the air quality. In 2010 the Minerals Council ran a series of consultations around the Upper Hunter and from that consultation the Minerals Council devised three key issues from that consultation – air quality, social impacts, rehabilitation. • CS – discussed the structure of the UHMD. Every 3 years there are community perception surveys implemented. Most recent survey was conducted in 2021. The largest committee sits on the Environmental working group, industry, local government, local agencies. Socio-economic working group becoming more important. Economic transition is a reality and is becoming more prevalent since the closure of coal mines such as Liddell, Muswellbrook Coal. UHMD is engaging, listening and acting. The UHMD and its committees meet three times a year. • CS – discussed the key projects and ongoing benefits of the UHMD, including grazing studies of post mine land. Feedback from field days are seeing improved results for cattle in regards to body weight and condition. • CS – 21 tours of mine sites in 2023. Taken 3,300 kids out to sites since conception, with the purpose of giving them a better understanding of mining and how impacts are minimised. • CS – annual forums are held. Issues that have arisen from this are shown on slide (attached). UHMD facilitate and support local agencies to support these issues. Ongoing projects include air quality, water, and rehabilitation. • CS – joined the UHMD approx. 6 months ago and was previously in the coal sector in the Hunter Valley before joining the non-profit organisation. • CS – highlighted that community working groups had fallen away during Covid in the socio-economic working group. There is proactive engagement by the UHMD currently. Previously relied on Upper Hunter Show, Singleton Show however have pivoted to participate in Singleton Inter Agency, Upper Hunter Inter Agency, Singleton Youth Network. There are no members 30 years and under on the working groups; CS will be working on engaging and setting up a Youth Advisory Group to include voice of the next generation. • CS – Pasture Restoration Field Day held – brought together industry experts, agronomists, resources regulator, scientists, farmers. Provided a great opportunity for conversations, Google survey had positive feedback and UHMD will do more field days including rehab and closure. • CS – Annual Rehab Reporting Project – commenced after the Dialogue established, increased transparency and rehab progress across the Upper Hunter. Increase of rehabilitated land from 32 to 39% (see slide attached). • CS – Discussed the trend and graph for Comparison of Annual Disturbance to New Rehabilitation (2012-2022). Discussed the requirement of progressive rehabilitation during mining. • CS – Annual Water Usage Project – Mining takes around 3% from the Hunter River on average, 8% during drought and around 1% in wetter periods, an unprecedented less than 1% in 2022 due to the large amount of rain during the year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS – Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Data Analysis conducted by UHMD was described and commented that air quality is much better during wetter periods than dry periods. • CS – Mine Tours Program – surveys of participants were not conducted. Pre- and post-mine surveys will be implemented to understand and report on what impact the tours have for students and mining. • CS – Actively seeking community members to be involved in particular the socio-economic working group. UHMD need voices and views on what and how they facilitate. • CS – All the reports are available on the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue • DE – asked about water % taken from Wollombi Brook. CS offered to find out that information and pass on to AF for distribution to the committee. • DE – asked about mine closure final landform. CS described that there may be more opportunities rather than just the general two types of post mine land uses approved in the Hunter Valley (pasture and woodland). Agreed that it should suit the future needs of the community which is a subject to be discussed with government when planning and approving final landforms. <p>Action: CS to identify data for water taken from Wollombi Brook and communicate to AF who will then distribute to CCC members.</p>
5.	United Wambo Coal Business Update (AF)
	<p>AF - Provided the members with an update on UWJV via a PowerPoint presentation (attached), noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF – outlined the presentation agenda. • AF – discussed actions from previous meeting have been completed including detail of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement. • AF – provided an update of production and view of meeting overburden and ROM targets for the year. • AF – UWJV completed an internal audit in preparation for the external audit. AF discussed findings that have been reported to relevant bodies for non-compliance to SSD conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ road closure application at Montrose Pit remains outstanding from Crown lands ○ occupation certificate for temporary crib hut ○ consultation required with DCCEEW (regarding Biodiversity Offset Strategy updates) • AF – continued to discuss consultation with government including MEG (applied for sublease; change of Technical Manager), Resources Regulator, EPA (Bust the Dust program including their attendance and no action required for operations). • AF – Biodiversity Offset some changes to Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (BSAs). Data has been submitted to Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) and funds to be paid to BCT once signed. PJ added that there is also a lot of administration relating to the management of Wambo’s biodiversity areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF – Federal government – non-compliance EPBC Act requires notification each time a change is made to the Biodiversity Strategy. No major changes were made however administration was overlooked. • AF – Dam Safety delisting plan being pulled together for the report. • AF – The water licences require UWJV to keep daily logbook records for water extraction up to 5 years. Extraction was undertaken up to early 2020, however only monthly extraction data still available. Non-compliance for maintaining the copy of the logbooks. All water extraction orders and reporting was reported at the time. • LA – asked what is discussed at the VPA meetings. AF responded - as a group they decide how the funds are allocated. Council is the facilitator. Due to some works needing to be signed off by Crown Land there is a delay. Full completion will still be a couple of years away. • LD – discussed the planned rehab areas with the same vegetation type being woodlands type 1691 Narrow leaved ironbark and grey box woodland. 32 ha of disturbance for the year with majority in northwest (Montrose Ridge) that can be seen from Jerrys Plains; the other area towards the Golden Highway. Rehab re-disturbance has also been completed and as mining progresses the re-disturbance number will reduce. • AF – all of the topsoil from rehabilitation re-disturbance is picked up, stockpiled and reused on future rehab. • LD – Hunter Pit rehab status update described. UWJV have added all topsoil, gypsum, biomix and ready for ripping and seeding. West United rehab have approx. 2-3ha of gypsum to complete as well; hoping to seed by end of November. Geo-fluvial shape has been accomplished. Photos shared from rehab completed in 2022, there is a diverse range of native species currently coming up including acacia shrubs, saltbush, native daisies. Initial monitoring is showing good results due to being strict on topsoil used. • JF – asked what the purple flower was and LD responded that it was a native species – solanum brownii. • AF – added further information regarding government consultation and discussed the A29 noncompliance was due to not having an occupation certificate for a crib hut. B92 was waste that was previously reported due to EPA waste exemption licence renewal. • AF – Biodiversity Offsets - 2 managed by Wambo (on behalf of UWJV as they are on Wambo owned land) and 4 by UWJV. • AF – Exploration forward works program confirmed, 2023 drilling only occurring on site at this stage. Any boreholes on private land would be discussed and agreed upon with residents. • AF – discussed the UWJV Environment & Community metrics with only 5 community complaints year to date. Complaints have decreased each year, demonstrating UWJV managing complaint issues onsite. • AF – UWJV have hosted 5 mine tours for schools and community such as the UHMD, HunterWise Women in STEM, Witmores and Hunter Valley Supports year to date. • AF – UWJV have completed the 2023 rehab target. Rehab can be restricted due to land availability. Next years target is 58ha and will increase in coming years.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF – discussed meteorological and air quality data. Discussed tenants in Warkworth can leave the residence without penalty. Noise data with no exceedances. Discussion of comparison of EIS predictions and measured data for noise. • AF – Blasting has had no exceedances. An external consultant has been engaged to help with blasting management with multi variables being investigated and an action plan developed. • LD – Currently sitting at half of long-term average rainfall for Singleton this year. This is reflected in drier soil conditions and vegetation. Water inventory currently monitoring dams but trending back to normal. Overall water storage is good. • SV – discussed community impact mitigation works update including air con cleaning completed and tank cleaning underway. SV also discussed that UWJV had a mine tour with Hunter Valley Supports since the last CCC meeting. • AF – discussed to have close out meetings by end of year for mitigation works completed (may need to be rescheduled in the early new year if residents have other plans leading into Christmas). • AF – discussed the VPA meet four times a year and funds will not cover the streetscape of Jerrys Plains. Majority is allocated to the recreational area upgrade part. Committee minutes are available on the website. Additional fencing was required for safety of children utilizing the area. There are only indicative time frames as VPA are still waiting on Ministerial Consent to publicly exhibit the Plan of Management. • SV – discussed the Cultural Heritage Program, Tidda Yarns after school program funded by UWJV which brings female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people together whilst learning about their culture through cultural activities such as painting, weaving, learning about bush tucker and cooking with those ingredients, and the role of women in indigenous society. LD added that Tidda means sister. • SV – discussed the community funded programs of Backpack Pals, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Mental Health First Aid and attendance at the Reclaim My Place Art Therapy exhibition and the positive feedback provided by participants that has been life changing for them. • DE – asked about what happens when the mine closes. AF discussed that UWJV mine life has at least another 15 years remaining and that a mine closure consultant would be engaged prior to mine closure. PJ added that Wambo has an approved mine until 2042 with a financial and technical review of the South Wambo mine being conducted and the current mine for South Bates being completed in 2026. Large part of the Wambo workforce are very experienced. Generally, changes in workforce looks at opportunities available at other sites as Wambo is the only Peabody site in Hunter Valley site. LD added example of Liddell closure, including a working group for a detailed mine closure plan. UWJV have multiple ex Liddell workers on site that have been redeployed. PJ mentioned workforce changes are not unusual in mining. • AF – mentioned UWJV are looking for community sponsorship opportunities if members know of any programs to please pass on the details of the Smarty Grants Program. • AF – Community Info Night will be held on Wednesday 29th November 5.30-9.00pm at Jerrys Plains Hall. Join for some good food, a band, some entertainment for the kids.
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	<p>QUESTIONS: Nil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Business • BA – mentioned positive feedback from Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Mental Health First Aid Course UWJV funded from previous week. • JF – requested consideration for the entry into offset property along boundary to be locked. AF agreed to locking the entry to the offset. <p>Action: AF to arrange for a gate and lock to be installed at the entry to Brosi Offset property along JF boundary.</p>
6.	<p>Wambo Business Update (PJ)</p>
	<p>PJ provided update on the Wambo operations via a PowerPoint presentation (attached) noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ – outlined the presentation agenda. • PJ – provided a current and future operations plan for review. • PJ – provided a plan of the current operations at Wambo. LW23 in progress. LW24 expected to commence in Dec 2023. 1.6MT from underground, year to date. LW25 partly in 2024 and 2025. • PJ – advised changes to the environment and community metrics since last meeting. There were no reportable incidents or complaints. 1 regulator inspection by BCT. • PJ – discussed North Wambo Creek Diversion (NWCD) Remediation of Stages 3 &4 completed. Sections of the bank have been reprofiled and reseeded. A number of new rock chutes have been constructed. The works will disperse energy along the stream. Log deflectors are used to slow the water to protect the banks. • PJ – discussed the surface Water Inventory for Wambo assets including South Dam to increase capacity from 900ML to 1.6GL. Gained by 3m rise in the bank. Civil Construction at 70% completion. Currently undertaking QA. Expected completion in Q1, 2024. • JF – asked what the approx. area of South Dam would be. PJ replied approx. 20ha and is in the current development footprint • RB – asked about warranty on the liner. PJ – commented that unsure and project life of South Dam is approx. 10yrs and an inspection regime will be implemented. Installation is key part of the quality of the seal in Bituminous geomembrane (BGM) liners, along with the BGM thickness, type of use and environmental conditions drive the life of the BGM. OEM engaged to complete installation. • PJ - Approvals update – MLA 632 is being assessed for Wambo’s new Mining Lease. The Extraction Plan for LW24-26 is being assessed by Department of Planning and expected end November 2023. • PJ – discussed new groundwater bores to assess impact of longwall operations on Waterfall Creek. • PJ – outlined the community sponsorships made for 2023. Peabody has provided sponsorship for the Newcastle Cystic Fibrosis Race Day, Jerrys Plains Junior Cricket Club, May 50K MS Australia, the Wambo Coal Singleton Council Hall of Fame and Kitbags which is a second-hand sports gear workforce donation program. PJ

	<p>commented on the great work of people within the Singleton Community and will send link for the Hall of Fame inductees.</p> <p>Action: PJ to distribute Hall of Fame Inductees link to committee members.</p> <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Business • LA asked for questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GA – asked for presentations to be sent to him. ○ GA – asked if Wambo uses contractors for Longwall moves. PJ replied that they use contractors for equipment and labour. PJ also commented that Wambo have employed approximately 10 new to industry trainees year to date.
7.	General Business (LA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA – advised that that the new Community Consultative Committee Guidelines in June 2023 have been revised and a briefing sheet has been distributed to members. LA noted a few changes relevant to this committee including re-signing of code of conduct and declaration of interest to be completed annually, a Term of Reference will need to be adopted as per the DPE template, which will be revised annually. LA advised she will send out copy of the draft Terms of Reference for this CCC with the Minutes and asked members to provide input and/or suggested changes. Also noted that - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Committee is only established post approval. ○ Committee members no longer need to live in LGA. ○ Newspapers are no longer useful for advertising; word of mouth recommendations are now allowed. ○ All members are considered “workers” under WH&S Act by DPE. <p>LA expressed that it would mean little changes to this CCC. LA will prepare and send out with minutes new code of conduct and pecuniary interests that need to be completed yearly and the committee will complete at the start of each new calendar year.</p> <p>LA to review effectiveness of the CCC as part of her Annual Report to the Department.</p> <p>Action - LA will prepare and send out to CCC members, the proposed Terms of Reference for review, new code of conduct and pecuniary interest forms for signature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA confirmed 2024 meeting schedule; on site, commencing at 9am: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarter 1 – Tuesday 6th February 2024 ○ Quarter 2 – Tuesday 7th May 2024 ○ Quarter 3 – Tuesday 6th August 2024 ○ Quarter 4 – Tuesday 12th November 2024
8.	Meeting Finalisation
	Meeting closed at 11.17am with LA thanking members for their contribution.

Action Register:

Date	Action	Responsible
14/11/2023	Wambo to communicate with JF in regard to baiting programs	PJ
14/11/2023	Share wildlife camera footage in Q1 2024	PJ
14/11/2023	Conduct Creek Diversion Tour in Q2 2024	PJ
14/11/2023	Identify data for water taken from Wollombi Brook and communicate to AF who will then distribute to CCC members.	CS
14/11/2023	Arrange for a gate and lock to be installed at the entry to Brosi Offset property along JF boundary.	AF
14/11/2023	Distribute Hall of Fame Inductees link to committee members.	PJ
14/11/2023	Prepare and send out the proposed Terms of Reference and new code of conduct and pecuniary interest forms to CCC members for response.	LA