

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

**Date:** Tuesday 26 November 2024

**Time:** Commenced 15:05 pm after site tour of Metropolitan's surface facilities area

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

**Attendees:**

- Michael Ulph (MU) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Nicolas Tucker (NT) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Keith Hawkins (KH) - CCC Member
- Vicki Christie (VC) – CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member (meeting only)
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)

**Apologies:**

- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal

**Welcome and introductions:**

- MU welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked members for attending.

**Acknowledgement of Country:**

MU acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Dharawal people and paid respects to their Elders.

**Declarations of interest:**

- MU declared his position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Director General of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and engaged by Peabody.
- MU reinforced the need for CCC members to disclose conflicts of interest such as owning shares in Peabody or family members employed by Peabody. Conflict of interest disclosure forms will be updated yearly as part of the CCC Terms of Reference.

**Action items from previous meeting:**

- MU declared CCC meeting minutes 30 July 2024 were finalised and sent to members.

**Correspondence:**

- 2023 Annual Review provided to members by MU via email.
- MU provided correspondence report to members via email.
- Emails regarding PPE requirements.

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

A presentation was provided to the CCC regarding:

- Extraction Plan Approval
  - Metropolitan submitted the Longwalls 311-316 Extraction Plan to DPHI and other agencies for review in March 2024
  - Longwall 311 was approved in October while IEAPM continue to consider any additional measures required as LWs 312- 316 approach the large swamps
- Mining & Company Update
  - Longwall 310 completed September 2024
  - Longwall 311 commenced 21 October 2024, expected completion March 2025
  - Peabody announced yesterday that its bid to purchase four metallurgical coal mines in the Bowen Basin from Anglo American had been successful, subject to approvals
  - Estimated to increase Peabody's coking coal production from 7.4 million in 2024 to 22 million in 2026
- EPA Prosecution Update

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- On 18 November Metropolitan attended a hearing for EPA's prosecution of MCPL. Metropolitan had pled guilty early to three charges for discharges from the Turkey's Nest Dam licenced discharge point in September and October 2022
- As parties had come to agreement on all disputed facts prior, hearing was for one day
- Judgements are typically handed down in the following 3-12 months
- Landslip Update
  - Landslip area has been remediated and will be revegetated starting tomorrow
  - Fill and compaction utilising engineered mesh was used to stabilise slope combined with concrete piers on haul road
  - Toe of slope stabilised using sandstone boulders
- Water Treatment Plant Upgrade
  - WTP upgrade completed in August
  - Improved WTP reliability has increased site water recycling capacity and significantly reduced chemical consumption
- Camp Creek Monitoring
  - Two streams enter Camp Creek between the upstream and downstream monitoring points – data cannot be used to draw direct conclusions
  - Monitoring pH (acidity/alkalinity), Specific conductivity (salt levels), and turbidity (sediment)
- Community Sponsorships
  - Holy Cross Primary and Helensburgh Public School Environment Programs
  - Lions Club of Helensburgh
  - Helensburgh Tigers Rugby League Club
  - Helensburgh Thistles Soccer Club
  - Helensburgh Netball Club
  - Helensburgh Men's Shed
  - Holy Cross Primary School Fete
  - Country Companion Animal Rescue
  - Sydney Heritage Fleet
  - Helensburgh Christmas Carols and Fireworks
  - Hope Church Food Hampers and Gift Cards
  - Bulli High School Surf Program
  - Otford Public School Colour Run
  - Illawarra Cycle Club
  - Helensburgh Landcare
  - Symbio Wildlife Park Frog Breeding Program

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

- MU requested clarification of what upland swamps were. SL explained that they are an endangered ecological community which are spread across various parts of the Woronora Special Area and the Woronora Plateau more broadly.
- AH enquired of Peabody's financial position post Chapter 11. SL confirmed that Peabody exited Chapter 11 approximately 5 years ago and has been paying down its debt to creditors since the business finances were restructured.
- MU asked about emergency pump at Turkeys Nest Dam. SL explained that pump was purchased in 2022 in response to the ongoing heavy rainfall events experienced at the time to provide additional contingency to site water management.
- MU underlined the occurrence of landslips along the east coast over the past few years including Lismore in reference to the remediation of the landslip onsite at Metropolitan after heavy rain. SL confirmed that local civil engineering firms had been dealing with hundreds of landslips in the Illawarra. AH highlighted slips on Bulli Pass and at Stanwell Park.
- MU questioned the reference of High and Low readings from presentation table outlining Camp Creek Water Quality Monitoring. SL confirmed that the High and Low were referring to the highest and lowest recorded value during the period. AH further added the input of sewer water to Camp Creek via failures in the Helensburgh sewer system which flow into Camp Creek and Wilsons Creek.

**General business:**

- MU reiterated CCC members roles as a conduit of information to and from the community for CCC discussion.
- KH thanked SL for agreeing to present to the Helensburgh Probus Club in new year.
- SL highlighted that as always CCC members do not need to wait for a CCC meeting where questions or comments would benefit from a prompt response.
- AH requested confirmation of timing of longwall move from Longwall 311 to 312. NT explained that current planned timing will be March 2025.
- MU suggested preliminary dates for CCC meetings in 2025 as 18 March, 15 July, and 18 November.

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- KB asked about quarterly noise monitoring. SL explained that the noise monitoring is designed to capture the average noise from site and will provide an update at the next CCC meeting once analysis of the 2024 results have been completed. MU queried the Kingspan cladding to reduce noise onsite which is a thick foam board sandwiched between sheets of corrugated steel and had significantly reduced noise emanating from the CHPP.
- KB added that vehicles travelling on the mine entrance road can be noisy when entering from the top office turn off. KO confirmed that recent road repairs had eliminated much of the loose gravel generating this noise. SL confirmed that this intersection would be reviewed for any further potential improvements to minimise noise.
- MU will bring the CCC Terms of Reference to the next meeting to revisit.

**Meeting closed:** 3:45 pm

**Proposed next meetings:** 18 March 2025, 15 July 2025, 18 November 2025.