



**WAMBO COAL PTY LTD**  
**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes**

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Location: Wambo Coal – Lakes Room

Date: 11 December 2018

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**ATTENDEES:**

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Ron Fenwick (RF)	Community Member
Janet Fenwick (JF)	Community Member
Dave Thelander (DT)	Community Member
Stephen Schmidt (SS)	Community Member
Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)	Singleton Council Delegate
Shane Gee (SG)	Community Member
Albert Scheepers (AS)	Wambo Coal – General Manager
Peter Jaeger (PJ)	Wambo Coal – Environment and Community Manager
Suzanne Cryle (SC)	Peabody – Community Relations Manager
Trish Searle (TS)	Wambo Coal – Assistant to GM (minute secretary)

**OPENING:**

The meeting commenced at 9:05am

LA welcomed committee members and thanked AS for attending the meeting. LA declared that she has been approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) and is engaged by Peabody to chair the meeting.

No apologies.

LA advised that the minutes for the previous meeting were finalised and distributed on 11 September 2018.

## **BUSINESS ARISING:**

### **Action items:**

1. Aislinn Farnon (AF) to provide the figure and further explanation on drawdown for South Wambo Creek aquifers. AF (Glencore United) will present at the next CCC meeting.
2. PJ to resend DT's first flush system letter via email. Completed
3. PJ to organise for the CCC to visit the train loadout at a future meeting (when timing of trains allows) to see the profile bar in action. Agenda item for next CCC meeting.
4. PJ to send a copy of the draft Bushfire Management Plan to RF for markup. RF advised that he does have a copy and commented that the draft Bushfire Management Plan does not include area property tenants or details on how to contact them if there is a bushfire emergency. Noted.

GA then took the floor to bring the Wambo Singleton Hall of Fame to the attention of the CCC. The Hall of Fame is an initiative of the Singleton Council, sponsored by Wambo to recognise the achievements of local Singleton people. This year Ruth Rogers, Warren Taggart and the Singleton Scouting Group were inducted into the Hall of Fame and GA outlined their involvement with the community. GA asked the CCC members to consider putting names forward and supporting the Hall of Fame next year. AS advised that Wambo will have more involvement in promoting the Hall of Fame next year and intends to use avenues such as social media to raise awareness with younger generations.

### **Other business arising:**

Cultural Heritage Management was discussed at length. At the August meeting AF outlined Glencore's Cultural Heritage Management process and the plan to involve Aboriginal community members. RF questioned whether this consultation has taken place. Wambo has a list of registered Aboriginal stakeholders that has been provided to Glencore. RF suggested using the list of stakeholders as well as advertising in local newspapers to reach interested local Aboriginal members. PJ commented that it might require another round of consultation and he will ask Glencore to do a presentation to the CCC on their consultation process.

**Action:** PJ will ask Glencore to present to the CCC on their cultural heritage consultation process.

**Action:** PJ to provide Wambo's list of registered Aboriginal groups at the next CCC meeting.

Wambo's Heritage Management Plan (HMP) has been approved by DPE & OEH. PJ advised that Wambo refers to the list of registered Aboriginal Parties and uses the steps described in the HMP to identify, salvage, archive and store artefacts which will be kept on site in the safe keeping place until rehabilitation of the land allows them to be returned. PJ added that a brief outline of the process for managing any artefacts found at Wambo is included in the site induction for people working on site.

SS outlined the full day of cultural training he provides archaeologists and volunteers. Members of the CCC expressed an interest in undertaking some training and LA suggested an extraordinary meeting could be considered for next year so SS could provide a Cultural Awareness session. SS said that he would be happy to organise a session.

## **CORRESPONDENCE IN & OUT (distributed with the meeting notice)**

- 3.9.18 Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 11.9.18 Email to members with the finalised minutes from 16.8.18 meeting.
- 2.12.18 Email to members with the meeting notice & agenda for 11.12.18 meeting, together with the correspondence report.
- 8.12.18 Email to members with a reminder for this meeting.

Accepted.

## **IPC**

Before moving on to the presentation PJ spoke about the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) public meeting to be held in Singleton on Wednesday 12 December and followed by a United / Wambo site inspection on Thursday 13 December if weather permits.

*[Post meeting note, the public meeting and site visit were cancelled by the IPC on 12 December and rescheduled for 7 February 2019.]*

## **PRESENTATION**

PJ presented a general update on:

1. Current operations
  - a. Comparison between the mine photos shown at the August meeting and now for the Underground and Open Cut operations.
2. Environmental performance summary
3. Rehabilitation
  - i. Roses
  - ii. RL160
  - iii. Montrose East
4. 2017 Annual Review
5. Approvals / Reports and Management Plans
6. Community investment

Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

RF was interested in finding out about dykes and fault lines and how blasting can cause vibration through fault systems. AS defined the terms dykes and faults and outlined how they are included in mining resource models with additional drilling undertaken to define affected areas in underground operations (because longwalls cannot mine through faults).

PJ mentioned the impact of the EPA temporary cessation in October 2018 on mixed waste organic material/output (MWOO) that has been used on mine sites for rehabilitation purposes (and also on agricultural land). PJ said that Wambo had only small stockpiles of the

material and would achieve rehabilitation targets. Rehabilitation areas that were planned to have MWOO applied are now being sown with a cover crop.

DT raised a concern about the frequency of servicing of the monitor bank near his house and said that he has seen no indication that the monitors had been serviced within the past three or four months.

**Action:** PJ to check and confirm the calibration records for the monitor bank at DTs house following concerns that it is not been serviced.

The 2017 Annual Review is available on the website and PJ will distribute the document to the CCC on USB.

**Action:** PJ to distribute the final 2017 Annual Review to the CCC on USB.

RF commented that hydrologists undertake modelling on desktops and he feels they generally don't understand mining impacts on aquifers. The discussion turned to creek flows and groundwater level triggers. PJ advised that a groundwater specialist is contacted following two consecutive triggers. The groundwater specialist then provides an investigation and or assessment why and cause of the triggers. RF asked how much water levels have dropped in the past twenty years.

**Action:** PJ will consult Wambo's Hydrologists to see whether information is available so a comparison can be made between water levels twenty years ago and current levels.

PJ is identified that work towards a modification on the mining consent may be required in 2019 pending the JV project determination. The modification would be required to the consent as economical resource of coal is still available in the current mine life past 2020 pending determination of the JV project.

DT raised a community concern regarding the potential that the Denman Saleyards will close before the end of 2019. DT was approached by the people who run the Denman sales. Colinta (*Colinta Holdings Pty Ltd (Colinta) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Glencore Coal Assets Australia*) is the biggest cattle dealer in the Hunter Valley and have been purchasing properties in the Hunter Valley including leasing large areas in addition to Glencore's lands that surround the mining company's operations.

DT suggested, as a result, Denman Saleyards had recorded a significant drop in the number of cattle buyers and sellers and it is likely they would close. Discussion regarding Colinta's business model (concerns the group does not purchase cattle locally and truck their cattle to Queensland for sale). The group voiced concerns Colinta does not support local businesses and may look to take up significant further leases.

**Action:** PJ will speak to his equivalent at Glencore and relay concerns about Colinta Holdings' impact on the Denman Saleyards. PJ hopes that someone from Glencore might be able to speak to the CCC and provide insight into Colinta's activities and future plans

PJ announced that an environment graduate started in his team today and a new senior environment officer will commence in February 2019. Merri has taken a role with HVO due to her interest in an open cut environmental role. JB is still helping out two days a week. The CCC was pleased to hear that PJ has been appointed as Manager - Community and Environment.

SC asked whether Singleton Chamber of Commerce has introduced 'Singleton dollars'? Something similar to e.g. Mudgee Money Gift Cards that are gift cards designed to only be used within the local business area. No one on the committee is aware of a local Singleton initiative like this.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2019**

The committee members agreed to hold three meetings in 2019 based on the same schedule as 2018:

- Tuesday 9 April
- Tuesday 9 July; and
- Tuesday 10 December

LA thanked the CCC for their contributions during the year and wished them well for the festive season.

The meeting closed at 10:43am and was followed by lunch.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

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