



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Q1 Meeting Minutes

1. PRESENT

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Date & Time:	25 March 2026
Venue:	Wollar Store	Minute Taker:	Sally Mayberry (SM)
Committee Members:	Bev Smiles (BS), Kieren Bennetts (KB), Clark Potter (CP), Mark Eaglesham (ME), Councillor Katie Dicker (KD), Maata Te Kira (MTK), Bill Vatovec (BV), Kim Peach (KP), Drew Reid (DW), Allie Repetto (AR)		

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

Apologies:	Lisa Menke, Mayor Des Kennedy, Rod Pryor & Brian McDermott
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3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews – opens meeting at 1:08pm
Acknowledgement of Country

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lisa Andrews – Independent Chair approved by Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI), engaged by Peabody Wilpinjong
Clark Potter – Senior Environmental Officer, Wilpinjong Coal
Kieren Bennetts – Manager Environment & Community, Wilpinjong Coal
Bev Smiles – Community Member (Resident)
Katie Dicker – MWRC Councillor (alternate for Mayor Des Kennedy)
Brian McDermott – Community Member (Lessee of Peabody pastoral land and former resident)
Kim Peach – Community Member
Mark Eaglesham – General Manager, Wilpinjong Coal
Rod Pryor – Community Member (Wollar Progress Association/Resident) [MWRC Councillor]
Mayor, Des Kennedy – Mid Western Regional Council delegate
Bill Vatovec – Compliance Manager, Wilpinjong Coal
Maata Te Kira – Community Member (resident)
Drew Reid – Environmental Coordinator, Wilpinjong Coal
Allie Repetto – National Parks and Wildlife alternate delegate

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from 3 December 2025 CCC, with comments to review and clarify. Version 2 approved
Note: Minutes are a summary of the meeting/discussions and focused on actions and outcomes.

Discussion about minute taking and the postscript amendments, including inclusions and voice recording of minutes. Focus on the accuracy of minutes and transparency.

Outcome: Henceforth, with the Meeting Notice email – 14 days prior, LA will seek any Community Questions; these will be forwarded to WCPL for response, tabled and minuted at the meeting. All members are in agreement of this amendment to the agenda. Questions arising during a meeting, that are not able to be answered at the meeting, will be taken on notice and carried over to the next meeting.

MaT raised that there was a discrepancy in the complaints register compared to her spreadsheet/record of complaints. **Action – MaT to provide spreadsheet to WCPL for cross referencing and possible amendment to register.**

Comment: re: delay on finalised Minutes from previous meeting - member states that not having finalised minutes available are not compliant with the conditions of a CCC, additional it's frustrating to not have a record to refer to. The Chair noted this and explained it was a once off due to the number of amendments and wanting to get the final version correct.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

Review of action items from last meeting:

1.	Notify the CCC when WCPL lodges its Response to Submissions related to Modification 3.	KB submitted on Friday 13 March 2026 but has not yet notified the CCC Members – those who participated during the public exhibition period would have been notified by NSW DPHI
2.	The previous minutes to be amended to state that EIS for Pits 9 and 10 Extension to Q2 2027	Complete
3.	WCPL to include BS in the blast notification email distribution list.	Complete; CCC Members who have requested notifications will receive emails
4.	Attended noise monitoring - split machinery operational to both Pit 8 north and Pit 8 south	Complete
5.	Pit 2 dam (proposed final void) – Does its current size differ from the proposed final size?	Remains similar size; changes may come from modifications to walls to achieve closure criteria
6.	Report locations of Spon Com at each meeting	Complete
7.	CCC site tour scheduled for September 2026 to inspect rehabilitation works completed in 2023	For Q3
8.	SIMP comments will be collated, reviewed, and responded to in consultation with a suitably qualified person endorsed by NSW DPHI. Responses to comments will be shared before lodgement of new draft SIMP.	To be discussed during the meeting.
9.	WCPL to clarify whether Pit 9 and 10 will be lodged as a New Project or Modification?	Pits 9 and 10 are proposed to be an SSD attached to an existing mining application, constituting a brownfields development.
10.	Send Governance forms to BV	Complete
11.	Arrange for mine tour with two members of CCC	Complete
12.	Amend Community Complaints Register to include complaint on 3/12/24	Discussion of records and included complaints. Further correspondence from MTK to WCPL

7. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence in/out:

- 19/12/25 - Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review. Comments received.
- 29/1/26 – Email to members advising of notification of Exploration Licence Application 7005.
- 1/2/26 – Email from BS requesting to be advised of the advertising period for EL application. Request forwarded to WCPL 2/2/26.
- 13/2/26 – Email to members with advertising details.
- 13/2/26 – Email to members with Meeting Notice, agenda, correspondence & draft minutes V2.

8. REPORT BY KEIREN BENNETTS

Mine Map

- An aerial photo/map of the operational pits is shown and talked to (image taken in February 2026)

Question: Has Pit 7 finished mining?

Answer: It is being backfilled for rehabilitation at the moment

Attended Noise Monitoring

- Undertaken one night per month, on a date unknown to WCPL
 - 19-20 November 2025
 - 9-10 December 2025
 - 27-28 January 2026
- Noise monitoring compliant with conditions
- The active machinery reports are shown individually for Pit 8 north and south, per request in previous meeting

Comment: When there is a G-level inversion, the mine is exempt from the compliance limits. From a community perspective, the noise is likely to be worse. To note, this is a policy issue that does not represent the impact on the community. To also note: CP clarified that G-Level inversions are not specifically taken into account when implementing the noise mitigation TARP so 'policy issue' raised by BS is not relevant in this case.

Blasting

- All blasts were compliant with exception of Pit 3 North on 28 February 2026
- Blast vibration monitor exceedance by 38.46mm/s. MWRC and DPHI were notified, and post-blast inspections occurred. On inspection, it was found that the bonding material failed and was not holding the geophone in a rigid position
- This is a repeat of a recent exceedance, with a similar outcome
- All blast vibration monitors are now fixed to a NATA certified block of concrete, in a representative location, compliant with the Australian Standards

- The culvert is measured as it has a more sensitive mm/s threshold than the roads, so is conservatively chosen as measurement location (lower threshold mm/s)
 - *Discussion about the monitoring locations and measurements*

Air Quality

- Depositional dust was compliant for the monitoring period
- An increase in recorded dust towards the end of 2025 is indicative of the dryer conditions as the dry summer progressed
- HVAS (High Volume Air Sampler) and TEOM location maps shown
- HVAS and TEOM results are compliant for the monitoring period

Water Discharge

- Water discharge and quality were compliant during the monitoring period – graphs are shown per month
- Bank of four evaporators in Pit 3 approx. 150L/second throughput
- Withdrawn - Application to NSW EPA to increase water discharge, due to alternative water management techniques that have reliably been managing water during these dry times. Including watering rehabilitation locations
- WCPL are considering reinjection of excess mine water into mine spoils (rehabilitation areas), as well as ACEREZ, RFS and NPWS encouraged to use the available water

Question: Is there a variation on EPL for irrigation systems?

Answer: A condition allows application to land, providing there is no pooling of water. The irrigation option was developed in consultation with the EPA.

Question: Are changes in water table measured around the pits?

Answer: There is an extensive network of water monitoring; the Annual Review tabulates the entire years' water level and chemistry

Question: When is the Annual Report due?

Answer: Due on 31 March 2026; comments are received and revised and then uploaded to the website

Question: What is the current excess of surface water to get rid it?

Answer: Overall, about 1.5 gigalitres above the ideal volume. The immediate priority is to dewater Pit 3 and including the water held within the adjoining spoil material.

Operational Downtime

- Majority time lost due to lightning, rain, fog, dust, noise in that order

Rehabilitation

- 103ha was rehabilitated in 2025, which is more than the targeted 98ha
- 2026 target is 125ha
- Rehabilitation : disturbance ratio 0.32:1

Spontaneous Combustion hot spots

- There are no active hot spots currently. WCPL are always actively trying to find these locations to manage quickly. Cooler months tend to encourage spontaneous combustion, which can be visible sometimes from the steam haze.

Complaints

- 7 complainants; 22 individual complaints. All complaints were investigated

Community Donations

- Six priority areas to support (health care, environmental, diversity, youth services and education, arts and culture, community development)
- Current year to date donations and sponsorships outlined, including recipients and amounts
- Mudgee Combined Churches – recipients of donations prior to Christmas 2025. Photos shown of their Christmas hampers that were shared. The group asked to share the photos, thank WCPL, and to remind members that more volunteers would be gratefully welcomed

'HAVE A CHAT' 2025 Details

- 1st Thursday of every month between 1:30pm and 4:30pm at the Wollar Store
- Community Complaints Hotline 1300 606 625

Mudgee Show presence

- Photos shown of the combined location of the three local coal mines
- Mudgee Show seemed to have a good turn out
- 140 registered for local mining updates

Modification 3 Public Exhibition Results

- Outline of the consultation process so far
- Response to submissions are complete, and awaiting DPHI determination; expected response around Q3 2026
- Timeline of the Modification process shown – noting that this is an estimate to indicate.

EL9399 Projects

- Pit 8 Extension – Modification
- Pit 9 and 10 – SSD
 - The process is an SSD connected with a brown field site; the Wilpinjong website states Stage 1 and Stage 2 Modification
 - Scoping letter planned for submission in Q2 2026. This will include a Social Impact Assessment

Gateway application notification

- Mudgee Guardian does public notices on Saturdays. The notification content is shown to members

Traineeship recruitment

- Job Alert – through WorkPac. Traineeship available for a 12mth single-skilled operator, as a dump truck driver. Minimum age 18
- WCPL are close to 100 participants to make their way through this program, since inception in 2006
- As a result of attendance at Mudgee Small Farm Field Days, a student engineer enquired about work experience which was arranged. The student then went on to apply for the graduate program and was successful, and is now employed by Peabody.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

LA – first meeting of 2026, time to review the Terms of Reference for this CCC to confirm they are fit for purpose. These will be sent with the draft minutes, for review. An agenda item will be placed on the Q2 meeting for discussion/ratification.

LA - DPHI sent an email and correspondence to all Independent Chairs in February 2026, following representations to the Secretary from some members of some CCC's. As a result, DPHI has reminded Chairs to ensure CCCs are run in accordance with the Department's Guidelines, Terms of Reference, adherence of the Code of Conduct and update any Pecuniary Interest Declarations. **Action: Copy of correspondence to be forwarded to CCC.**

KD – June 2026: if fuel is not readily available, would an alternative meeting location arrangement be considered?

Answer: action item, to keep an eye on the fuel availability for next meeting

MtK – How many truck tyres per annum are disposed?

Answer: 350 tonne criteria; approx. approximately 100 tyres buried in 2026 which are between 3 & 3.5 tonne at waste weight

KP: Rehabilitated Land – water is available; why doesn't WCPL grow pumpkins, watermelons to ship along the same train line?

Answer: The approvals that allow mining specify a 'final outcome' for Regent Honeyeater, which limits the opportunity to pursue market gardens

BS – An update on progress for the SIMP v4? The current SIMP with current approval had a 'big variation' without proper consultation which in her opinion was in breach of the Conditions of Consent. Finalising the SIMP for the current approval should be completed, before moving to the next approvals. It is stated that the lack of clarity regarding the varying SIMP approvals/SIA processes, is a social impact on the community. SIMP Version 4 should be finalised first. BS advised that the Wollar community has received an undertaking from DPHI that the community can provide feedback and that an updated version be submitted.

Answer: WCPL believe the update of the current SIMP was not a 'big variation' requiring consultation as it was administration based. Comments on the current SIMP have nevertheless been received. Daniel Holm will start to have discussions with people face to face, as part of the Continuation Project process. WCPL to support a clear delineation between: (i) updating the current SIMP and (ii) SIA consultations for the Continuation Project. **Action - Responses to comments will be shared before lodgement of new draft SIMP.**

BS – Through the Central Tables Local Land Services and Wollar Progress Association, a pest and weeds workshop is to be held this Friday 27 March 2026 in Wollar Hall. Thanks to WCPL/KB for their support and input

BS – What is the destination of main coal exports?

Answer: Seabourne – SE Asia; a breakdown can be provided by countries

BS – Has WCPL extended its contract with AGL?

Answer: Not as yet; ongoing conversations

BS – What is WCPL's weekly diesel consumption, and are there supply issues?

Answer: 2-3 million litres diesel per month. Impacts to mining as well as impacts to employees, and suppliers has been considered. Risk management steps are in place at this stage. Nothing has been enacted as yet.

KD – Capacity for EV charging in parking lot was previously not considered

Answer: WCPL staff requests have not pointed to this as a concern/consideration. Currently planning regarding fuel is undertaken for 30 days ahead. EV charge installation is on the agenda for consideration subject to WCPL staff demand.

BS – transporting workers to site via bus would be a viable long term solution for road safety as well as reducing fuel consumption

Answer: WCPL reimburse for ride-share travel, to incentivise traveling together and to reduce vehicles travelling to Wilpinjong AR –could also be beneficial to reducing the number of animal strikes.

BS – Moolarben Mine will start to close the Ulan-Wollar road for blasts from April 2026. The regularity of blasts between WCPL and Moolarben mine road closures, plus traffic movements will impact residents.

Answer: Pit 6, 3 and 8 have an influence on Ulan-Wollar Road. Both mines share blast schedules for open communication and planning to limit community inconvenience.

BS – Predicted life span of Pit 8?

Answer: Somewhere around 2030 between north and south

AR – NPWS receive blast notifications and consider these for aerial work. At this stage, on-ground activities are not considered; should this be a consideration?

Answer: Sentries sweep the area prior to blasts, but WCPL can share a 6-month lookahead of scheduled blasts to assist NPWS.

10. NEXT MEETING

Discussing meeting schedule:

- ~~4 March 2026 (postponed to 25 March 2026)~~
- 3 June 2026
- 2 September 2026 (with site tour and earlier start) TBC
- 9 December 2026

Meeting Closed: 3:28pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 3 June 2026, 1pm at Wollar Store

ACTION LIST

Number	Action	Whom	By When
1.	With the Meeting Notice email – 14 days prior to the meeting, LA will request for Community Questions be sent to her for WCPL to respond to at the meeting	LA	Next meeting
2.	Clarifying correspondence/spreadsheet to reconcile and confirm odour/spon com and noise complaints	MtK and WCPL	Next meeting
3.	WCPL to share a file of potential water source points with NPWS	KB	Next meeting
4.	WCPL to confirm the SIA letter and report (clarify inclusions and dates for submissions)	KB	Next meeting
5.	Fuel availability to be considered for next meeting; including availability of an online meeting	LA	Next meeting
6.	WCPL to provide a clear delineation of all outstanding and impending SIMP and SIA consultations	KB	Next meeting
7.	What was the destination of main exports for 2025 (per country)	KB	Next meeting
8.	WCPL to share a 6 month look ahead and map with NPWS to allow planning on-ground planning with consideration to blast safety	KB	Next meeting
9.	SIMP comments will be collated, reviewed, and responded to in consultation with a suitably qualified person endorsed by NSW DPHI. Responses to comments will be shared before lodgement of new draft SIMP.	KB	Before lodgement
10.	Review of Terms of Reference for this CCC.	LA	With draft minutes
11.	Copy of DPHI correspondence regarding operation of CCC be sent to members	LA	With draft minutes