



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Q3 Meeting Minutes & Site Tour

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Date & Time:	1 September 2026
Venue:	WCPL Camp and site tour	Minute Taker:	Sally Mayberry (SM)
Committee Members:	Bev Smiles (BS), Kieren Bennetts (KB), Councillor Katie Dicker (KD), Brian McDermott (BM), Kim Peach (KP), Rod Pryor (RP), Bill Vatovec (BV), Clark Potter (CP), Tian Oosthuizen (TO), Grant Purcell (GP), Mark Eaglesham (ME), Michael Hooper (MH), James Heesterman (JH), Drew Reid (DR)		

1. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

Apologies:	Lisa Menke, Mayor Des Kennedy
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2. WELCOME

At 10:10am, Acknowledgement of Country, then a Blast presentation, followed by site tour.

Lisa Andrews – opens CCC meeting at 1:43pm

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lisa Andrews – Independent Chair approved by Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI), engaged by Peabody Wilpinjong to Chair

Clark Potter – Environmental Lead, 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

Rod Pryor – Community Member (Wollar Progress Association/Resident) [MWRC Councillor]

Bill Vatovec – Compliance Manager, Wilpinjong Coal

Michael Hooper – Senior Environmental Officer

James Heesterman – Projects Advisor

Drew Reid – Environmental Co-ordinator

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM Q2 AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Correspondence in/out:

- 11/6/26 - Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review.
- 23/6/26 – Email to members with finalised minutes & presentation
- 8/7/26 - Email from Department of Planning advising of MTK's resignation from this CCC.

- 13/7/26 – Email to MTK thanking her for her service to the CCC.
- 13/7/26 – Email to members with the draft minutes from the SIMP Extra-Ordinary CCC meeting held on 29/6/26. Comments received from BS.
- 14/7/26 – Email from SM advising of new document review platform currently being trialled. Requesting feedback. Responded, suggesting briefing of CCC members at Q3 meeting.
- 31/7/26 – Email to members with the finalised minutes from SIMP Extra-Ordinary CCC.
- 4/8/26 – Email to members advising of change of date for Q3 meeting to 1/9/26 and rescheduling of “Have a Chat” at Wollar due to staff availability.
- 24/8/26 – Email to members with Meeting Notice, agenda & correspondence report.
- 24/8/26 – Email to members with map and information about site tour.

5. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING 3 JUNE 2026

1. Update March 2026 CCC minutes remove reference to Mod 3 and change to Continuation Project
 - a. Complete
2. Share public link for scoping report with CCC Members
 - a. Complete
3. Check approval regarding year-based transition to domestic: export coal sales
 - a. KB presents an update; further information to be presented in next meeting with respect to the EIS commitments
4. What area does the Native Title Agreement cover?
 - a. Presented during KB presentation
5. Areas of interest for the September site tour
 - a. Completed

7. BLAST VIBRATION WITH TO

TO presents information for the group about why a blast at Pit 8, Strip 22 Blast on the 29 June 2026 was felt by CCC members during the Extraordinary Meeting held at Wollar Store Meeting Room.

Question: *How much explosive was used?*

Answer: *Approx 830 Tonnes of explosives*

TO explained the wind direction was away from Wollar and was why the blast was felt but not heard.

Question: *Where are the blast monitors in relation to this blast, as seen on the slide P8 S22 Blast Location*

Answer: *There are blast monitors for MWRC infrastructure, internal Cultural Heritage site and Bat Adit monitoring as well as the main EPA blast monitor site, which is west of the old Wollar Public School property*

There are 3 blast monitors around Rocky Hill, where WCPL are learning data to inform future blast designs as well as monitoring the Cultural Heritage site that is Rocky Hill.

P8 S22 Cast – Vibration Modelling slide – graph is talked to, that shows all blasts (in blue dots), that are all under the allowed vibration limit (NSW EPA) of 5mm/s and below modelling predictions, which tend to be conservative

Question: *Prior to blasting, does WCPL predict the blast vibration?*

Answer: *Yes*

Every blast is assessed and adjusted accordingly, as geologic conditions and location to sensitive receptors change between each blast individual blast location.

Question: What would be the physical feeling of a 5mm/second blast, in comparison to a 3.38mm/second blast?

Answer: Discussion regarding Richter scale

Statement: WCPL are stating that the 29 June 2026 blast was measured at 3.38mm/second? Questions the monitoring data as they would expect structural damage at that rate and is concerned of damage to buildings with the level of physical shaking felt at Wollar Stores on 29 June 2026. 2-5mm/s is perceptible, but well below structural damage levels.

P8 S22 Cast – Overpressure slide – Windrose of the wind direction of the day shows how the interaction and amplification of sound waves relevant to the direction of the wind on the time/day of this blast.

Question: Are there wind condition limitations?

Answer: Yes, 7m/s with some conditions regarding the direction of wind of the day which are also captured in the Blast Management Plan

PPV (Peak Particle Velocity) Results slide – a map of the mine site with various blast monitor locations (that are installed and calibrated by a third party company) is shown with the wave Max R readings

P8 S22 Cast - Wollar Monitor Vibration Waveform slide – wave length graphs shown of the Wollar blast monitoring station, with air blast and ground vibration graphs. The blast was recorded for about 6 seconds. TO asks if that is in line with what was physically felt by the CCC on the day? Members agree.

PPV Calculations & Wollar Store Estimation slide – TO explains how a blast vibration is back-calculated.

Direct Impact Comparison slide – outlines 3 different vibration levels (5, 10, 25mm/s) and the typical impact on structures.

TO clarifies that 3.38mm/s vibration level was calculated as 'expected'; 2.79 mm/s was the 'actual' vibration that was recorded in the Wollar monitoring station.

Question: Has there been visual monitoring of Rocky Hill, considering the physical shaking that was felt at Wollar Store?

Answer: Rocky Hill has different blast vibration limits including performance limit of 80mm/s, as well as Navin Officers that are engaged to monitor the site. Visual inspections are also carried out.

Question: How close is WCPL to blasting at Rocky Hill?

Answer: This 29 June 2026 blast was the closest blast to date

Question: On July 3 2026, a person using Wollar Hall experienced a blast at 3pm. The hall shook the same as was experienced at Wollar Stores on 29 June 2026. Blasting is causing buildings to shake in the village. Mounted picture frames on the walls fall off and glass break.

Answer: A blast will make structures shake; the 5mm/s limit is the Australian Standard for modern building vibration. Cannot comment on the report of the picture frame falling from wall, but that would be usual.

Question: Is there a limit of how many blasts can occur?

Answer: Yes - Monday-Saturday, maximum 5 per week on average over a year and a maximum 2 per day. None on public holidays.

Question: Where do these documents come from (referring to vibration impact of blasts)

Answer: The Australian Standards are adopted by the NSW EPA

Action: TO to provide the document source of 'Human Perception' to CCC Members

Questions slide – outlines two questions regarding the blast noise (lack thereof) on 29 June 2026, and the effect of blasting on a building and why a building can make the vibrations of a blast feel worse

WCPL has a dedicated Drill and Blast engineer to look after the blast modelling, to ensure compliance with blasting rules and update modelling for the next blasts.

Question: *Are the detonators all on a single time?*

Answer: *WCPL load different detonators depending on the timing needed; electronic detonators are favoured due to the ease of setting the variability of each individual blast timing*

Question: *Perceived vibration in a building is greater than on actual ground – does this mean that if we were standing in a paddock, we may not have felt this vibration?*

Answer: *That's correct – a building amplifies vibrations*

End of TO presentation at 11am.

CCC offered refreshments, and members explained the rules of today's site visit which include PPE expectations, and no phones to be carried on site. The tour will include a log in at the administration office. Mobilise to vehicles for Site Tour.

8. SITE TOUR

All meeting participants join in site tour. From 11am – 1:30pm

- Logged in at administration office
- Viewed truck driving simulation
- Dispatch Office
- 915 Board
- Maintenance shed
- Drive around CHPP
- Stop at Pit 6; observe loaded shot
- Stop at Pit 6 South to view operations
- Drive back via rehabilitation

9. CCC MEETING OPEN

Meeting open at 1:43pm by LA

10. ENVIRONMENT REPORT - KB

Presentation is talked to with respect to available time, due to focus on site tour. KB provides slide pack to all meeting participants and goes through presentation 'by exception' to highlight points of interest and change.

Identifies compliance with operational and monitoring conditions. Outlines relevance of reported information to the site tour today, such as drawing reference to the Dispatch Office that was visited, as being where information for the Lost Time pie charts is gathered.

Question: *How will the power outage be categorised today that was shut down due to the planned AceREZ powerline construction?*

Answer: *It will be treated like a planned maintenance activity. It is not 'lost time'*

No Spontaneous Combustion hot spots active at the moment.

2 June 2026 – 28 August 2026 community complaints are outlined; all within compliance criteria.

Mudgee Combined Christmas Churches have been funded via WCPL community funding; they have put a call out for volunteers, which WCPL shares with meeting participants.

WCPL Projects have not changed since the last CCC meeting – Wilpinjong Extension and Continuation Projects. Response to submission process for Modification 3 completed since last CCC meeting; the project has now been referred to the Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining for surface and groundwater. The Continuation project timeframe is sitting between Gateway Certification having been issued on 20 August 2026, and lodgement of the EIS with DPHI.

Question: What's the timeline for going into Rosedale? Could MWRC be advised, to encourage a road upgrade as there have been issues with vehicle tyres.

Answer: KB outlines the outstanding processes remaining and expects first disturbance in Pit 8 extension to occur Q2/Q3 2027, but progression towards Rosedale house approx. 2030. Explains other variables in the road maintenances between different stakeholders.

LA states that this presentation will be shared again with the draft minutes and encourages everyone to raise questions again

11. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

No questions raised prior

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

SM introduces MinutePortal, as a new minute review platform. Members agree to trial MinutePortal for this meeting alongside the current review method.

Question: *What's happened with the SIMP?*

Answer: *It has been submitted to MWRC*

Question: *What is the status of ELA 7005?*

Answer: *No feedback received yet. KB to seek feedback for next meeting*

Question: *On website update – naming of the projects; Mod 4 is referred to instead of Mod 3 as a typo on 'Future Plans' page*

Answer: *Taken on notice*

Question: *Mowing requested prior to 19 September 2026, in support of Progress Association plans.*

Answer: *Yes, it's underway.*

Question: *Annual review: What is the status of the groundwater model update and WMP?*

Answer: *SWMP and GWMP are under review now. AceREZ add complexity to this review as they are impacting the same environment. The update of the management plans impact the planned modelling. AceREZ will have impacts on surface and groundwater. KB suggests members to tour the sites in question that will provide further context regarding vegetation removal and potential movement of sediment during rain events.*

Action: *Next meeting to include information on groundwater management modelling*

Question: *Assessment for the SSD project – over what period will the noise assessment be undertaken?*

Answer: *Taken on notice*

Note by BS: *In the Annual Report GHG emission reporting – WCPL are a fair bit higher than in the WEP predictions*

Discussion with BS regarding her claim that Wilpinjong Coal will become an export mine post-2026. CP sought clarification regarding this comment and asked which part of the WEP EIS BS was referring to. CP queried whether the statement was based on Appendix M of the WEP EIS (Economic Assessment). BS advised that references to the mine becoming an export-focused operation after 2026 are made throughout the WEP EIS.

The next meeting was agreed for 9 December 2026, commencing at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held in Mudgee at a location to be determined. The start time was agreed to allow both Councillors Dicker & Pryor to attend the Council meeting scheduled for the afternoon of 9 December 2026.

13. ACTIONS

1. TO to provide the source of 'Human Perception' to CCC Members
2. SM to share MinutePortal slide pack
3. KB to include groundwater management modelling overview in next meeting
4. KB to answer in next meeting: over what period will the noise assessment be undertaken for the SSD assessment
5. WCPL to check 'Future Plans' page of the website regarding Mod 3 and Mod 4 references

14. NEXT MEETING

Meeting schedule:

- ~~4 March 2026 (postponed to 25 March 2026)~~
- ~~3 June 2026~~
- ~~29 June 2026 – Extraordinary meeting SIMP~~
- ~~2 September 2026 (with site tour and earlier start)~~
 - ~~Date amended to Tuesday 1 September 2026~~
- 9 December 2026, 10am in Mudgee. Location TBD

Meeting Closed: 2:46pm

Next Meeting: 9 December 2026

Photos of the CCC Site Tour



