



# Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



## Q4 Meeting Minutes

### 1. PRESENT

<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	Lisa Andrews (LA)	<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	4 December 2024
<b>Venue:</b>	Club Mudgee	<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Sally Mayberry (SMb)
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Bev Smiles (BS), Kieren Bennetts (KB), Clark Potter (CP), Kim Peach (KP), Brian McDermott (BM) (departed 12:29pm), Grant Purcell (GP), Rod Pryor (RP) (departed 12:29PM), Mark Eaglesham (ME) & Cr Katie Dicker (KD)		
<b>Invited Guests/Observers:</b>			

### 2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

<b>Apologies:</b>	Lisa Menke, Maata Te Kira
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### 3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews – opens meeting at 11:07am.

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

Brian McDermott – Community Member (Lessee of Peabody pastoral land and former resident)

Kim Peach – Community Member

Grant Purcell – NP&WS delegate (alternate)

Mark Eaglesham – General Manager, Wilpinjong Coal

Rod Pryor – Community Member (Wollar Progress Association/Resident)

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from 11 September 2024 CCC were finalised and sent to members via email on 4 October 2024

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

EnergyCo presentation is being held over until 2025 due to unavailability of a representative to attend this meeting.

**Question:** regarding Modification 4 that has been approved – has a variation on the EPBC conditions occurred? Answer: EnergyCo are reaching out to WCPL regarding offsets. A variation on the approved EPBC offset conditions has not occurred. Action item 1 – taken on Notice

BS requests that the minutes from previous meeting be updated to reflect the dB(C) sentiment that BS was sharing.

BS - Page 5 of the previous minutes – comments on the dB(C) – the technical description. The response in the minutes – Clarification regarding the dB(C) – in the actual reporting of the monitoring at each site, there is not reporting of the dB(C) monitoring. The Attended Noise monitoring reports are saying that the process of looking at the dB(C). The real time monitors do not monitor dB(C) as it is what BS notes as the impact to her. In the reports, the dB(C) is not being reported from the perspective of being able to understand how close the noise might be to triggering the required adjustment of the noise compliance assessment (modifying factor of >15). BS would like to know how close the sound is getting to that noted Modifying Factor.

CP – suggests that the noise specific presentation produced for the meeting may answer BS's questions.

Review of action items from last meeting:

1.	WCPL to present summary of depositional dust monitoring for the next CCC meeting incorporating the model predictions	KB	Covered in this meeting's presentation
2.	Members to share any areas of concern or focus for the audit with LA prior to the audit in October	LA	Complete
3.	WCPL to respond to BS questions (from General Business)	KB	Completed (incorporated into previous minutes)
4.	WCPL to advise CCC when website goes live and newsletter is available	KB	Ongoing (website not live yet)
5.	Ask auditor to review Dust Management procedures/monitoring as part of the IEA review	LA	Sent email on 4/10/24

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence in/out:

- 16/9/24 – Email to members with IEA information, seeking feedback by 2/10/24.
- 26/9/24- Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review. As well as the presentations.
- 1/10/24 – Email from community member with information for IEA. Forwarded to auditor on 3/10/24.
- 4/10/24 – Email to IEA with Action Item from CCC 11/9/24 to include dust management in the audit.
- 4/10/24 – Email to members with finalised minutes.
- 15/11/24 – Email from MWRC advising of delegates for this Council term on the CCC.
- 22/11/24 - Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for the meeting.
- 3/12/2024 – Email to LA and BS from MtK regarding spontaneous combustion

## 8. REPORT BY KIEREN BENNETTS

### Aerial Photo – November 2024

- Talks to the most recent aerial photo available of the WCPL operations from November 2024

### Attended noise monitoring

- 9 and 10 September 2024 WCPL audible at all the attended noise monitoring locations. WCPL was audible at all noise monitoring sites but remained compliant with consent conditions
- 10 and 11 October 2024 WCPL audible at all of the attended noise monitoring locations but remained compliant with consent conditions

**Question:** *BS interprets the mining continuum is the low-level humming noise – could we discuss the term of ‘mining continuum’ and what noise monitoring reflects*

**Answer:** *CP: The ‘mining continuum’ is the low frequency (<600Hz) noise level that is associated with mining operations and can be generally heard as a background ‘hum’. This low frequency noise ‘spectrum’ that is attributed to mining operations will be reported in the attended noise reports.*

- 5 and 6 November 2024 WCPL audible at some of the attended noise monitoring locations but remained compliant with consent conditions

**Question:** *Are both ends of Pit 8 being worked at?*

**Answer:** *The attended noise monitoring (machinery in operation) doesn’t differentiate where in the specific pit machinery is operational. KB will investigate if specific locations in Pit 8 (North vs South) can be presented in the future. Action item 3*

### Blast Monitoring

- Compliant with overpressure and vibration monitoring for August, September, October 2024 for the blasts that occurred during that period

### Air Quality

- Remains compliant with dust gauges and HVAS and TEOM
- As an outcome of the previous CCC, a map is shown of the modelling of depositional dust, superimposed with the 2023 annual average. How is WCPL performing vs what was modelled
- The internal WCPL depositional dust gauge is used for the purpose of this map; it is noted that this gauge is an internal gauge and not reported on for compliance purposes.

*BS - The model is based on modelling the predicted compliance criteria? From a community perspective, the dust deposition in Wollar Hall is heavy and there is hearsay evidence of coal dust deposits on property and in tank water to the north of the mine. The area of prediction is quite close to the mine*

**Question:** *How long before this years’ data is available? Could it be expected to have different dust impacts due to the changes in pit locations?*

**Answer:** *End of March 2025 it is expected that the data will be available and finalised, in order to report. If this report is available prior to the March 2025 CCC, it will be shared for the next meeting*

**Question:** *Is there a way to visualise what compliant concentrations of depositional dust looks like?*

**Answer:** *It may be possible to share a visualisation of the dust; Action item for WCPL to determine how this might be best represented and shared in a CCC*

**Statement:** *There is no reportable Dust Deposition monitor to the north of the mine, where there are more private landholders*

### Surface Water Discharge

- Compliant with no exceedances for August, September, October 2024

**Question:** Has WCPL ever been required to measure and report on heavy metal content of discharges?

**Answer:** EPL licence limit for pH, EC, TSS and oil and grease – there is no past requirement for measuring or reporting on heavy metal content of the RO water. The RO water treatment process essentially removes all minerals (including metals). While the RO discharge water is mixed with some raw mine water to increase the EC so the discharge water doesn't bleach Wilpinjong Creek the levels are still very low and in most cases below detectable levels.

#### Operational Downtime

- Lost time numbers have been incorrectly included in this presentation; KB will retrieve the correct number and update the presentation prior to confirmation of the minutes
- Approximately 431.96 hours of lost time in digger, loader and dozer hours
- Lost time was due to rain, noise, lightning, fog and dust

**Question:** What dust issue causes WCPL to lose time?

**Answer:** Visible dust on internal roads – referencing a requirement of conditions of consent

#### Rehabilitation 2024

- Discussion of the rehabilitation undertaken during the calendar year, including changes determined by mining sequence changing
- Drone seeding occurred recently and was successful

**Question:** Will drone seeding be utilised in future?

**Answer:** WCPL are very happy with how the drone seeding worked, and are now training people internally and looking to purchase a drone that WCPL can use internally that will have spray, seeding and mapping capability

#### Peabody Healthy, Safety and Environment (HSE) Innovation Awards

- WCPL's Drone Thermal Technology recently placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Peabody's HSE Innovation Awards
- Uses drone based thermal technology as an additional tool to monitor spontaneous combustion

#### Rehabilitation vs Disturbance

- The same maps shown from previous meetings; there was no new data to include but will be updated accordingly for the next meeting

#### Community Complaints:

- Overview of complaints made recently from noise, dust and odour complaints. Wilpinjong investigated and were compliant with all complaints raised.
- Community is reminded to provide as much detail of the complaint as possible, to assist with investigating and resolution

#### Community Donations & Consultation

- Priority areas are per the Social Impact Management Plan with the budget expended for 2024
- Since the last meeting, the Country University Centre (CUC) has received a 3 year commitment for vehicle and running costs, as well as Gulgong Fishing Amateur, Mudgee Rotary Club, St Matthew Catholic School

#### 'HAVE A CHAT' Details

- 1st Thursday of every month between 1:30pm and 4:30pm at the Wollar Store
- Community Complaints Hotline 1300 606 625
- Graffiti on signage at the Wollar Stores – WCPL are considering installing security cameras

## 9. REPORT BY CLARK POTTER

### Attended Noise Monitoring

- Presentation extra to ordinary meeting presentations to provide further technical context to WCPL's noise monitoring
- CP talks to a presentation by EMM

**BS acknowledges** that the dB(C) will be reported now after a longstanding request

**CP responds** that the continued effort to deliver transparent noise monitoring information to the community began with the graphing of noise, and that the update to include dB(C) is another step forward

KD thanks CP for the technical information

**Question:** Internal position changes – who are the new WCPL employees, in particular after the resignation of Ian Flood?

**Answer:** A Steering Committee has been implemented in Brisbane/Hunter Valley to manage project planning processes

### WEP – Mod 2

- The Eastern section of ML1795 has a minor amendment to the boundary

**Question:** Who will be occupying the camp from mid-January?

**Answer:** Transient workers to enable them to start their workers with the intention of relocating their families. It is not intended to be a permanent work force. The projections for accommodation availability in the next 2-3 years was determined to be an issue in the region; WCPL wanted to be sure they could accommodate workers without impacting the availability of accommodation for the rest of the community

### WEP – Mod 3

- Revised modification outlined
- Community stakeholder engagement to continue
- Planned further engagements outlined

**Clarification requested** regarding the EPBC Act Referral – does this include all modifications or only Mod 3 (BS requests clarification on Mod 4's EPBC offsets and whether they will be updated to reflect the changes of ownership)

### Mod 4

- EnergyCo meeting scheduled with WCPL for tomorrow
- DPHI approved WCPL's Mod 4 on 12 September 2024
- WCPL working with CWOREZ regarding the impending works
- GP comments on the offset applications that he is aware of.

### EL9399

- Inert waste is awaiting disposal by external contractors; the timing is determined by availability of the external contractor and the access (due to wet weather)
- The remaining two groundwater monitoring sites that were delayed in the first drilling campaign due to wet weather recommenced drilling on 25 November 2024

### Future SSD application

- Exploration drilling is complete
- Scope expected in Q1 2025

#### Property Management

- Two houses being demolished (7 Maitland St and 5 Barnett St) in the final stages of removing contaminated soil (with fibro pieces in the soil)
- A fuel tank was discovered during the demolition (thought to be a 5000L tank); WCPL have engaged an external consultant to determine the next steps for remediation. Nothing has been reported to governing bodies as no noncompliance has occurred; WCPL are going through the due process and have engaged the right people to determine the management of the fuel tank
- No more houses are planned for demolition within the Wollar village
- 2025 demolition program that relate to rural properties outlined

#### Weed Control

- NEWCO have been engaged to spot spray WCPL property for weeds such as blackberry, St Johns Wort, etc

#### RFS

- Turkeys nest dam north of WCPL (near Cumbo Sheds) has been filled in preparation for the fire season

### 10. GENERAL BUSINESS

BS raises an email from Maata Te Kira about spontaneous combustion on their property. Maata documents the distressing impact of spontaneous combustion on her and the ongoing complaints. KB took on notice and will respond to concerns.

BS requests update on vehicle changes, in reference to Semi-Autonomous Dozers. KB responds that these have not been in operation for several years at WCPL following a contact incident with the dozer and another vehicle. ME adds that insofar as a largescale change to autonomous vehicles, it is unlikely to occur at WCPL.

### 11. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

Wednesdays, first week of the month at the Wollar Meeting Room, commencing at 1pm

5 March 2025

4 June 2025

3 September 2025 (including invitation for site tour facilitated by KB and CP)

3 December 2025

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	1:11pm. LA thanked all members for their attendance & contribution throughout 2024. Members were invited to stay for lunch.
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	5 March 2025

ACTION LIST			
Number	Action	Whom	By When
1.	Modification 4 – has a variation on the EPBC conditions occurred? –3 (BS requests clarification on Mod 4’s EPBC offsets and whether they will be updated to reflect the changes of ownership)	CP	Next meeting
2.	Update previous minutes to reflect BS dB(C) discussion	CP	10/12/2024
3.	Attended noise monitoring (machinery in operation) presentation - investigate if specific locations in Pit 8 (North vs South) can be presented.	KB	Next meeting
4.	Share 2024 dust depositional data with members (per graphical representation shared for 2023) if available at time of March meeting	KB	Next meeting
5.	WCPL to determine how compliant depositional dust might be visualised and shared with members	KB	Next meeting
6.	Invite EnergyCo to the March CCC meeting	KB	Next meeting