



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Q2 Meeting Minutes

1. PRESENT

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Date & Time:	4 June 2025
Venue:	Wollar Meeting Room	Minute Taker:	Sally Mayberry (SM)
Committee Members:	Bev Smiles (BS), Kieren Bennetts (KB), Clark Potter (CP), Rod Pryor (RP), Mark Eaglesham (ME), Tian Oosthuizen (TO), Councillor Katie Dicker (KD), Maata Te Kira (MTK), Kim Peach (KP), Brian McDermott (BM)		

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

Apologies:	Lisa Menke, Mayor Des Kennedy (DK)
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3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews – opens meeting at 1:04pm
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 Des Kennedy)
Brian McDermott – Community Member (Lessee of Peabody pastoral land and former resident)
Kim Peach – Community Member
Lisa Menke – NP&WS delegate
Grant Purcell – NP&WS delegate (alternate)
Mark Eaglesham – General Manager, Wilpinjong Coal
Rod Pryor – Community Member (Wollar Progress Association/Resident) [MWRC Councillor]
Mayor, Des Kennedy – Mid Western Regional Council delegate

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from 5 March 2025 CCC were finalised and sent to members via email.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

Review of action items from last meeting:

1.	<p>WCPL to determine how compliant depositional dust might be visualised and shared with members.</p> <p>KB provides update: There is no further advancement after researching. The EPA suggested that there are too many variables and noted the DDG is a long term monitor; from a compliance point of view, look at PM10 from TEOM and HIVOLs together with the DDG results as a more representative approach to developing an understanding of the depositional dust within the environment over longer term trends. A trend of the data over 12 months is presented during this meeting.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the Depositional Dust Gauge sample technique and visual representation of the equivalent volume of dust that is being recorded in WCPL's data collection (TEOMs, HIVOLs, and Depositional Dust Gauges).</p>	KB provides update - complete
2.	Condolences to be sent to Mandy Jackson (and family) wife of former WCPL General Manager on behalf of the CCC	Complete (noted that it was gratefully received)
3.	Groundwater Management Plan	Sitting in the Major Projects Portal (DCEW) waiting review
4.	EPBC referral maps, provide information on difference between CCC and EPBC maps	Included in WCPL presentation today
5.	WCPL to comment on surface and groundwater investigation trigger limit exceedances reported in the 2023 Annual Review	This data is contained in the Annual Review (page 39 & 56 – Surface and Groundwater). Members to read the document and come back with further questions
6.	Low frequency noise (dBc – dBA and third Octave analysis) information (as shown in the Dec 2024 CCC Meeting) to be included in the January and February 2025	The reports have been updated

7. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence in/out:

- 19/3/25- Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review. As well as the presentations.
- 26/3/25 – Email from BS with comments on draft minutes & request for information.
- 7/4/25 – Email to members with finalised minutes. Additional information provided to BS regarding the "hot houses" at the nursery.
- 21/5/25 - Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for the meeting.
- 3/6/25 – Email to members with reminder of CCC meeting on 4/6/25.

Mine Map

- An aerial photo/map of the operational pits is shown and talked to (image taken in April 2025)

Attended Noise Monitoring

- Undertaken one night per month, on a date unknown to WCPL
- 18-19 February 2025 with three audible locations during the monitoring period
- 13-14 March 2025 with two audible locations during the monitoring period
- 16-17 April 2025 not audible at any locations during the monitoring period. (KB when requested offering a non-expert opinion that variations in environmental & atmospheric – conditions likely cause the variation in audibility of operational mine noises)
- Noise monitoring compliant with conditions
- Modifying factors talked to in regard to assessing low frequency noise and ensuing technical discussion
dB(C) – dB(A) is included in the report (NOT dB(C) levels on their own because NPfi methodology does not solely rely on dB(C) levels. The NPfi methodology determines the difference between dB(C)-dB(A) as the first step before comparing the third-octave noise levels to a reference spectrum. The dB(C)-dB(A) noise levels are shown in Table 4.4 of the noise reports. An explanation on the NPfi modifying factors methodology can also be found in Section 3.3 of the noise reports. Table 4.3 and 4.4 demonstrates that dB(C)-dB(A) and dB(z) levels (the second part of the modifying factor process) are not quantifiable or too low to be measured by a sound level meter. Please note that EMM have attempted to provide the third-octave noise analysis despite the dB(C)-dB(A) results could not be quantified because of meteorological conditions, other noise sources or mining noise too low to be quantifiable.
 - Concern regarding the limitations of C wave monitoring not being representative of true noise impact to residents
 - RP - Statement that the noise from WCPL has wiped out the community

Question: What would be an example of a 35 dB or above noise?

Answer: The scale is available in the report; for example 30dB is quiet countryside, 45dB is a quiet suburban area

Blasting

- February x8, March x12, April x12 2025, blasts were compliant with maximum vibration limits
- Blast overpressure monitoring was compliant for each month

Air Quality

- Depositional dust was compliant for the monitoring period
- Detailed technical discussion during Business Arising
- 12 months of trending data graph shown and talked to for Wollar
- 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 (Feb, Mar, April 2025)
- Bank of four evaporators in Pit 3 approx. 150L/second throughput (12.9 ML/d)
- Discussions with NSW EPA initiated to increase water discharge approval to 20ML/day
 - Discussion regarding the volume of water release and potential impact to community infrastructure including public and private roads. Additionally impact on community both locally and regionally from the cumulative discharges from Moolarben, Ulan and Wilpinjong.
 - There is no outcome date as there has been no formal application date lodged at this point but it is business critical for operations, so it will be prioritised to seek a solution to water storage on site

Question: At what stage of rehabilitation will the runoff be classified as clean water

Answer: The final landuse outcomes and performance metrics will dictate when rehabilitation is considered “safe, stable and non-polluting” and water can be considered “clean” allowing for discharge from site.

Question: Where does the mine site surface water runoff go to?

Answer: On site storages/voids and then directed into the mine water system.

Operational Downtime

- 331.2 hours from 27 February – 1 June 2025; majority time lost due to fog, rain, noise, lightning in that order

Rehabilitation

- 98ha target for 2025
- Rehab vs Disturbance 2025 map has not changed since last meeting but will be updated annually.
- Species credit requirements for SSD-6764 requirement to have 2857ha under rehab within the specific Biodiversity Vegetation Types (Regent Honeyeater regeneration)

Complaints

- 4 complainants with 11 total complaints

Community Donations

- Six priority areas to support (health care, environmental, diversity, youth services and education, arts and culture, community development)
- Total \$88,115 donated/sponsored since the last reporting period in March 2025 with majority (\$65k) directed to the Doctors for Mudgee Region program
- CCC members encouraged to share details of the sponsorship with the wider community, and to contact KB/CP directly or via standard channels to discuss potential sponsorship
- Discussion about an awareness campaign at WCPL for Stem Cell Donors Australia

Rehabilitation Strategy Review Request

- Rehabilitation Strategy - requests CCC review and comment during the 28 day consultation period

- Comments to be individually sent to LA and CC'd to KB prior to 2 July 2025
- WCPL to report collated and considered results back to CCC at next meeting, if available.

Consultation and information

- EPBC Application – and confirmation of mapping provided as part of the application.

Wilpinjong Camp

- Approximately 60 workers being accommodated at the camp currently

'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

9. REPORT BY CLARK POTTER

Modification Overview

- Extension of Pit 8 for approx. 14mT of ROM coal
- Overview of key environmental assessments including where reporting is at

Question: *has a response been received from the Federal side of things?*

Answer: *not as yet*

- Scoping letter was lodged in February 2024. The public exhibition is scheduled for Q3 2025. The determination is anticipated in in Q3 2026

Property Management

- Demolition work in Wollar Village is complete
- The waste contractor issue persists; another solution has been sought and should commence in the coming weeks

Question: *When the soil is removed from the house demolition, will the soil be replaced?*

Answer: *Ideally, yes, to enable grass to grow*

- SLR have been engaged to inspect 5,000L fuel tank and provide suitable rehabilitation plan
- Weed and feral animal control is ongoing. WCPL contribute to the Munghorn Wild Dog Group and their control program

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Update directly from NPWS Lisa Menke (share by LA in LM's absence):

- NPWS and EnergyCo are in ongoing discussion regarding future management of the Saddlers Creek offset property adjacent to Goulburn River NP near the Drip. The property is an offset for REZ transmission network construction impacts to existing mine offsets (Wilpinjong, Moolarben and Ulan) and in the region more widely. EnergyCo are establishing a biodiversity stewardship agreement over the property. The Resource Regulator

has objected to reservation of the property as NPWS estate. Ongoing discussion between EnergyCo and NPWS relates to interim management arrangements in the period between retirement of offset credits and transfer to NPWS management

- The Autumn 2025 1080 wild dog and fox control program was completed in May 2025. Goulburn River NP and Munghorn Gap NR were included in this program
- An aerial pest control (FAAST) program is underway this week (hence NPWS inability to attend the meeting!) Goulburn River NP is included in this program. Previous programs have noted a general increase in the number of fallow deer culled in Munghorn Gap NR.

BS: The previous minutes provided the website link to WCPL's new website, promoting that WCPL provide 25% of coal for power generation in NSW. The EIS for the WEP stated that the current contract with AGL is expected to be completed by approximately 2026.

Question: Are you proposing to extend the contract for Mod 3?

Answer: *The continuation of coal supply domestically is an option that is being considered for WCPL. The website is indicative of current; it does not include speculation about the Modification application*

BS: *The Annual Report –*

- *The breakdown of management plans*
 - *SIMP clarification Version 4, refer to action item 3*
- *Air Quality Management Plan - EPA had requested additional time to review and provide comment on Version 9 – WCPL are addressing their comments*
- *In the annual noise review, the monitoring at Ringwood Road and another location in one instance each measured noise above what was predicted in the modelling. What implications does this have for the model? **Answer:** The extension modification model will be revisited based on the real time compliance of noise*
- *GHG emissions have been greater than predictions – will this be informing what will be doing with the next project?*
 - *Note that WCPL seems to be underpredicting impact of GHG emissions*
- *Figure 9.1 compares complaints from 2015 to 2024. There were more complaints in 2015. Figure 9.3 compares 2006 to 2024, with a general trend drop. Could CCC see an analysis of acquisition of properties from 2006 to 2024, with the suggestion that the complaints and issues are reducing due to WCPL acquiring the properties.*
- *Monitoring in Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve – monitoring of blasting impacts on rock shelters required when blasting within 1km. **Answer:** mining activities (blasting) has moved further from these rock shelters (>1km) and therefore nothing to report*

11. NEXT MEETING

Q3 3 September 2025 with a site inspection to be held at WCPL. Pit 8 Modification area suggested, as well as accommodation facility.

Long sleeve, long pants, closed in shoes as minimum PPE requirement. Members must log in as Visitors which means that alcoholiser must return a 0.00% BAC result.

Midday lunch > site inspection > office catch up after, with a handed out pre-prepared presentation with discussion and presentation by exception only.

Meeting Closed:	3:20pm
Next Meeting:	12:00pm Wednesday 3 September 2025 - Wilpinjong Village

ACTION LIST			
Number	Action	Whom	By When
1.	WCPL to update Attended Noise Monitoring slides with correct date (18-19 February 2024 > 2025)	KB	14/6/25
2.	WCPL to print the noise report and provide to interested members	KB	Next meeting
3.	SIMP Version 4 update	KB	Next meeting
4.	Prepare a year-on-year comparison of privately owned properties versus community complaints	KB	Next meeting