



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Q4 Meeting Minutes

1. PRESENT

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Date & Time:	3 December 2025
Venue:	Mudgee Rugby Union Clubhouse	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), Brian McDermott (BM), Bill Vatovec (BV), Kim Peach (KP) & Rod Pryor (RP)		

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

Apologies:	Lisa Menke, Mayor Des Kennedy
-------------------	-------------------------------

3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews – opens meeting at 11:17am
 Acknowledgement of Country
 Welcomes BV to Wilpinjong and the CCC Meeting. LA to send Governance forms to BV. BV has replaced TO due to internal staff movements.

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) & Wollar Progress Association
 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
 Bill Vatovec – Compliance Manager, Wilpinjong Coal
 Maata Te Kira – Community Member (resident)

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from 3 September 2025 CCC were finalised and sent to members via email on 19 September 2025.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

Review of action items from last meeting:

BS – Page 4 of previous meeting – submission of Pit 9 and 10 Extension dates questioned of EIS submission. KB shows minutes from previous meeting; the previous minutes to be amended to state that EIS for Pits 9 and 10 Extension to Q2 2027

1.	Provide C-Weighted noise level recorded for location N17 in the July attended noise monitoring report	In this report
2.	Provide CCC members with notification of lodgement of application to EPA to increase water discharge limit	Complete 13 September 2025
3.	WCPL to provide CCC with opportunity to review SIMP	Submissions closed in September. Complete.
4.	WCPL to notify CCC when Modification 3 (Pit 8 Extension) goes on public exhibition	Complete. Email sent on 2 September 2025 to advise CCC members.

7. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence in/out:

- 12/9/25 - Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review. As well as the presentations. Comments received.
- 19/9/25 – Email to members with finalised minutes and advice that WCPL has lodged an application to increase water discharge limit to EPA.
- 2/10/25 – Email from KB with advice from Wilpinjong Coal - Pit 8 Extension (Modification 3) Public Exhibition. Forwarded through to members on 3/10/25.
- 8/10/25 – Email from KB with SIMP for CCC’s review. Forwarded through to members the same day.
- 10/10/25 – Email to members extending time for CCC SIMP review to 26/11/25.
- 10/11/25 – Email to members reminding of the SIMP review date for comments.
- 25/11/25 – Email from BS/Wollar Progress Association with comments on the reviewed SIMP v4. Acknowledged.
- 25/11/25 – Email from MK with submission on the SIMP review. Acknowledged.
- 26/11/25 – Email from MWRC advising that they have no comments on the SIMP. Acknowledged.
- 1/12/2025 – Email from LA to members reminding of CCC meeting time and date

Mine Map

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

Question: What's the specific timeframe of blast holes being drilled to when they are blasted? In reference to blasts visible from the road.

Answer: Approximately 1-2 weeks turnaround; exact location of these holes is discussed.

Action: WCPL to add BS to the blast notification email distribution list.

Attended Noise Monitoring

- Undertaken one night per month, on a date unknown to WCPL.
- Noise monitoring compliant with conditions.
- Attended noise monitoring reporting – request to split machinery operational to both Pit 8 north and Pit 8 south henceforth.

Blasting

- All blasts were compliant with maximum vibration limits, with the exception of an incident on the 18 November 2025 in Pit 8 South. The limit is 100mm/second. Because of the complexities of this blast, there was a temporary approval to increase the approval for this event to 150mm/second. The result recorded was 172mm/second. MWRC and NSW DPHI were notified on the same day, and post-blast inspections were conducted on 18-19 November 2025. The recorded exceedance was linked to the installation of the geophone, using adhesive mounting that allowed vertical decoupling which caused an error in the vibration reading.

Discussion: Will the blast on 18 November 2025 that was not compliant, be followed by a second blast in the same location – with similarly predicted complexities? What is the exact location? Discussion occurred with reference to presented images of the next blast location.

- Blast overpressure monitoring was compliant for each month.

Question: Where in Wollar is the blast vibration monitor?

Answer: 50m west of the Wollar Public School, on Wilpinjong owned land, which is outlined in the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) conditions, with GPS Coordinates stated in the EPL

Air Quality

- Depositional dust was compliant for the monitoring period.
- HVAS (High Volume Air Sampler) and TEOM location maps shown.
- HVAS and TEOM results are compliant for the monitoring period.

Question: When are we likely to see a review of the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan and Air Quality Management Plan 2022? It was mentioned in 2023 CCC minutes as ongoing.

Answer: Undertaken annually following the submission of the Annual Review with updates made as required. Additionally, will be reviewed once the modification is determined.

Water Discharge

- Water discharge and quality were compliant during the monitoring period.
- Bank of four evaporators in Pit 3 approx. 150L/second throughput.
- Application to NSW EPA to increase water discharge is an ongoing discussion with NSW EPA.
- WCPL are considering reinjection of excess mine water into mine spoils (rehabilitation areas).

Question: The reinjection of water in mine spoils – which pits, and will this be directly into groundwater?

Answer: Pit 1 and Pit 5; the water would be injected into the mine spoils (unconsolidated overburden/waste rock and not directly into the groundwater).

Question: Could you clarify where the Spontaneous Combustion hotspots areas are located. In Page 10 of the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan 2022, Pit 3 as the main hot spot?

Answer: Yes, the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan identifies historic hot spots (including Pit 3) and is reviewed annually. No spon com hot spots have been identified there. Infrared equipment is being used before flare outs, to detect any hot spots.

Operational Downtime

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

Rehabilitation

- Drone is now operational, and requires CASA Approvals. Internal staff have been specifically trained to seed, weed spraying which required an EPA permit.

Question: The final void at north Pit 2 dam; it won't hold any more excess water? Is this the final size?

Answer: KB takes on notice.

Complaints

- 7 complainants; 34 individual complaints. 32 noise and 2 blast noise complaints.

Mining Sequence Map

- Requested in last CCC, KB talks to a map from WCPL WEP EIS that outlines each pit location and sequence of advancement.
- BS raises an issue: Pit 8 south is much higher than other pits and would have different implications for noise movement. The mining sequence nominated as part of the WEP EIS, is different to the mining sequence being undertaken.
- KB responds that EIS nominated mining sequence is mine planning in its early phase, and changes in mining sequence have been made as the project progresses in response to various conditions. WCPL will continue to manage noise in accordance with licence conditions.

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.

'HAVE A CHAT' 2025 Details

- 1st Thursday of every month between 1:30pm and 4:30pm at the Wollar Store.
 - December 2025 Have A Chat has been postponed due to conflicting priorities; CCC notified of the changes.
- Community Complaints Hotline 1300 606 625

Modification 3 Public Exhibition Results

- Outline of the consultation process so far, including numbers of respondents.
- Timeline of the Modification process shown – noting that this is an WCPL estimate.

EL9399 Projects

- Pit 8 Extension – Modification
- Pit 9 and 10 – SSD
 - The process is an SSD; the Wilpinjong website states Stage 1 and Stage 2 Modification
 - Wilpinjong to clarify whether Pit 9 and 10 will be lodged as a New Project or Modification?
 - Wilpinjong to confirm as action item; general consensus is New Project.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

MTK – A complaint was sent via the chair on 3/12/24 and mentioned at the 4/12/24 CCC by BS, enquiring on how the mines are going to rectify the odour issue. The odour has been rectified but MTK requests clarification about what was done to improve the odour. A summary of the complaints were included in the CCC presentation. *Comment: The detailed information of complaints, such as complaint dates, times and descriptions are captured in the monthly complaints summary published on the Wilpinjong Coal website. It was confirmed that MTK's complaint from 3 December was not captured. WCPL will update the complaints register to rectify this.*

MTK - What is being done to improve the odour from spontaneous combustion?

Answer: *Early detection of spontaneous combustion, usage of infrared equipment and physical inspections.*

MTK – WCPL Slide presentation Pages 54 and 55 of 5 March 2025 slide pack of CCC. The dates listed are incorrect. The spon com odour complaint should have been 3/12/24. On Complaints Register Summary (1/1/24-31/12/24) pages 11 & 12 on 18/11/24 & 21/11/24 and 1/12/24 & 2/12/24 states the odour complaints are at 8.50-9pm time range not 10pm as stated by the Attended Noise Monitoring person. *Comment: The date referenced on slide 55 relates to the complaint received on 9 December, which was submitted at 9.50pm and the contractor's observation occurred at 10pm.*

MTK – Why is this complaint not on the complaint register in December 2024?

Answer: Apology provided – will be rectified. **Comment:** Complainants are encouraged to ring the “1300” number to lodge complaints, which forms part of WCPL’s established complaints process. This triggers the operational response, investigation and reporting protocols. This should ensure that complaints are accurately captured.

Question: MTK requests copies Spon Com hazard and incident reports?

Answer: Wilpinjong to confirm if this is possible.

Outcome: Wilpinjong can report in CCC meetings about Spon Com complaints and locations.

Question: MTK – site tour 2023 – 70ha rehabilitation sites; is it possible to see the progress of this?

Answer: Photos can be shown, or members welcome to request site visit for a tour. MTK accepts offer of a site tour, as well as to answer more questions.

Question: RP states that the noise in Wollar during a one night stay recently was very loud. RP also states that he complained about dust to Wilpinjong via EPA and questions whether this is included in the reported numbers?

BS: C-Weighted N17 was 46

Question: SIMP and comments – what are the next steps? Will the new draft be publicly available before submitting to DPHI?

Answer: 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.

Question: How are preparations for bushfire season?

Answer: BV outline a number of preparations underway for this bushfire season.

BS discussed problems identified recently with local fires, in her opinion, caused by dwindling members of the local RFS Brigade due to the mines purchasing properties, as well as fire attendance by mine staff being called back to work while volunteers stay to fight the fires on mine land eg recent incident at Moolarben Mine.

Discussion about recently published speeding data that states Ulan Road is one of the worst speeding offending roads in NSW.

Question: What roads are large trucks supposed to deliver on?

Answer: Ulan-Wollar Road

10. NEXT MEETING

Proposed meeting schedule for 2026:

- 4 March 2026
- 3 June 2026
- 2 September 2026
- 9 December 2026

Meeting Closed:	12:53pm, followed by Christmas lunch at the Oriental Hotel in Mudgee.
Next Meeting:	Wednesday 4 March 2026

Postscript: Another member of the CCC requested to be included in the proposed mine tour. Noted by KB.

ACTION LIST			
Number	Action	Whom	By When
1.	Notify the CCC when WCPL lodges its Response to Submissions related to Modification 3.	KB	When lodged
2.	The previous minutes to be amended to state that EIS for Pits 9 and 10 Extension to Q2 2027	KB	Next Meeting
3.	WCPL to include BS in the blast notification email distribution list.	KB	Next meeting
4.	Attended noise monitoring - split machinery operational to both Pit 8 north and Pit 8 south	KB	Next meeting
5.	Pit 2 dam (proposed final void) – Does its current size differ from the proposed final size?	KB	Next meeting
6.	Report locations of Spon Com at each meeting	KB	Next meeting
7.	CCC site tour scheduled for September 2026 to inspect rehabilitation works completed in 2023	KB	September 2026
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.	KB	Next meeting
9.	WCPL to clarify whether Pit 9 and 10 will be lodged as a New Project or Modification?	KB	Next meeting
10.	Send Governance forms to BV	LA	Next meeting
11.	Arrange for mine tour with two members of CCC	KB/MTK/KP	ASAP
12.	Amend Community Complaints Register to include complaint on 3/12/24	KB	ASAP