

BULGA COAL

GLENCORE

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

17th October 2018

Present	Community representatives	Stewart Mitchell (SM)
		John Krey (JK)
		Helen Sharrock (HS)
	Singleton Council	Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)
	Bulga Coal	Ralph Northey (RN)
		Scott Wolfenden (SW)
		Tom Scott (TS)
		Sarah Moore (SJM)
		Geoff Kelly (GK)
	Chairperson	Teegan Hayward (TH)
	Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue	Craig Milton

Meeting opened: 9.05am

Meeting closed: 12.30pm

Declaration of pecuniary interest: None.

1. Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Presentation – Craig Milton

CM Introduced the UHMD and its origin, outlined past and current projects.

There was a general discussion about dust. HS noted they have black dust now, not brown dust.

JK Why can't we analyse coal dust v's brown dust, it seems difficult to get results.

GA Noted the study in Newcastle that looked at dust from coal stockpiles and rail corridor.

RN Disturbed areas across the valley have increased in the last 20 years, we need to rehabilitate and use operators to manage to conditions.

JK Levels have increased by something like 35% (EPA figures) and it's been worse this year. The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network (UHAQMN) is not achieving what it set out to do. The UHAQMN alarms tell us when dust is high, but

it's not doing anything about it. It comes back to policy and approvals and there is a link between the number of open cut mines and increased dust.

There was a discussion about offering filters but this doesn't improve the amenity.

RN On regional dust days we can modify our operations but disturbed areas still generate dust.

JK I don't see any improvement from all the work going on by industry, EPA etc. We look out the window see great clouds of dust. The system might say the air quality is good but we look out our window and it's lousy. The bottom line is it's getting worse. Industry should be making more contribution to the technical issues of how better to control the dust.

In response to concerns from the CCC about air quality in the Hunter Valley, we will:

- **Conduct an analysis from samples on rooves of CCC members and others to determine composition (overburden, coal, vegetation, soil etc).**
- **Provide an overview of the current local setting: what generates dust and when that is likely to change ie: clarity around when mining (all mines) will be complete. ACTION**

RN DRG have a database that shows data on how mines are tracking with rehabilitation.

SM I don't believe the EPA are given the powers to properly enforce the regulations. RN: There are more people on the ground at the EPA and Department of Planning and Environment doing inspections, including at night.

CM Played a video produced by UHMD on air quality.

JK No one admits there is a major pollution problem in the valley. There is lots of talk about going to do better. Does good management change the overall benefit? How do we continue as a collective to make change?

SM Singleton Council has declared rainwater collected from rooves is no longer potable water. That's why they are trying to supply potable water from town supply to Bulga.

JK We need industry and Council to accept there is a problem.

CM Continued UHMD presentation, noted projects about final voids and post mining land use.

SM When is post mining? In 1980 when mining started, they said they'd be finished in 30 years. It's now 40 years and approvals go for another 20 years.

CM There is currently work being done by the government to map the voids in GIS. It will be worth looking at when available.

Chris Milton left the meeting.

2. Business arising from the previous meeting held 9th May 2018 (community tour)

SM I asked the question in the last meeting about whether there was a native title over the crown land access road into the Wollombi Brook Conservation Area. RN: we will find out if there is a native title claim over this road. **ACTION**

There was a general discussion about trying to purchase the road and that Singleton Council were not interested in owning the road.

3. Actions from previous minutes

1. *Provide the vegetation plan to the committee*

TS showed the plan and outlined the communities we have to restore. JK: I was after the figure from the landscape architect from the focus groups held as part of the Bulga Optimisation Project consultation. It was noted today's presentation would look at the shape of the noise and visual bund.

2. *Provide copy of the Annual Review with a printed appendices. Completed 18/05*

3. *Send through the VPA Project spreadsheet. Completed 10/10*

4. *Bulga Coal will advertise for CCC members. RN: we need to canvas people from Broke and asked the committee for suggestions.*

JK I am writing a paper for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Air Quality Advisory Committee, I will send it through. **ACTION**

5. Presentation – Bulga Open Cut

SJM We have had 21 complaints for the year and 28 incidents. The majority of incidents were dust exceedances on Mitchell Line Road and the Mushroom Composter facility. Most of these exceedances were from regional events.

SJM Explained an incident where unfortunately 2 aboriginal heritage sites were destroyed. They were isolated finds found in an approved disturbed area during a survey. The sites weren't put in the GIS system straight away and in the meantime a ground disturbance permit was issued and a laydown area built on top of those sites. The artefacts were of low scientific value but high cultural value. The incident was reported to OEH and Aboriginal stakeholders. Our process was not followed and we have made improvements to the process.

TS Gave an overview of the rehabilitation status for the year. We have rehabilitated 114 hectares of a target of 156 hectares. TS showed aerial images of the progress of the noise and visual bund and eastern emplacement area.

TS The noise and visual bund Section 1 will be shaped and rehabilitated by the end of the year.

JK Referred to the landscape design of the bund from the focus groups (*action from previous meeting*). RN showed the figure in our development approval. TS said there will be varying heights of up to 30m which will be visible from 5km away.

JK How deep does the topsoil go? TS: The topsoil is 100mm deep and we rip to 500mm. JK asked about compost. TS said OGM has recycled plastics but we don't use that. We use a green waste compost (when needed) with a very small % of plastic.

TS Showed the topographical relief of the noise and visual bund.

The Visual Impact Management Plan will be revised for the recent DA modification 2 (completion of the noise and visual bund in August 2019) and we are seeking to remove the need to consult with a committee twice a year. We will consult with the community at the end of 2019 (5 years after the approval date) to make sure we did what we said we would.

11.06am Geoff Kelly joined the meeting.

JK Noted he has concerns about noise, he gets the results from the MTW noise compass. He is unsure where the noise is coming from.

SW We have access to MTW to the noise compass, but we use our data. Most of our mining activities are down towards Broke, we don't have much gear in the north. When you are unsure, call us and we can clarify if it's our gear. We have a process with MTW that they notify us when they think we are generating the noise so we can check with dispatch.

SW Gave an overview of blasting. There were no exceedances of blast overpressure or vibration criteria. Quite a lot of work went into the blasting process after the fume event in 2016.

SW We are looking to develop a model that classifies low frequency noise (ie: what is mine noise, what is road noise) for areas like Blaxland Street where there is a lot of road noise.

SM Do you take into account temperature inversions? SW: we manage noise for all conditions.

SW Showed a graph of air quality over the last 3 years.

SM Asked what the other sources of dust other than mining are. SW: diesel particulates, soil, vegetation.

SW Noted we are sampling coarse dust from a number of houses and will add the CCC to the list.

Bulga Underground

RN Mining finished in May and the mine was sealed in July. CO₂ is being pumped into the sealed mine, selected goaf wells still operating to reduce leakage of methane from the underground to ensure it's safe and non-polluting. GK: We are managing the gas because of the interaction between open cut and underground workings.

- JK Asked about future mining. RN & GK outlined that an underground mine takes around 3 years of gas drainage/ development up front before mining starts and money earned. There is risk associated underground mining.
- RN The gas wells for Blakefield North are still operating and supplying the power station.
- SM How long will that gas supply last? RN: tens of years, there is no issue with supply.
- RN Gave an overview of water. There is 2GL of water on site and another 4.5GL stored in the Beltana goaf. We are drawing water from the Hunter River.
- SJM Provided an update on the Teaching and Keeping Place. We are sorting out the finer details of the design with the builder. We are preparing draft signs for interpretive signage.
- HS Is there commercial kitchen facilities in the facility? This is a fantastic opportunity to build something that stands out: use the natural rock, think creatively. There is opportunity to tie into the convict heritage trail and become part of the tourist route. HS offered her assistance if required.
- RN Modification 2 to extend the completion date of the outer face of the noise and visual bund was approved.
- Modification 3 (Tailings Relocation) assessments are still being completed. An open day to be held in Broke in late November early December to provide the results of the assessments to the community.
- TH Provided an overview of community support for 2018.

6. General business

- JK What are your plans for future? RN: our future plans are the proposed modification 3 that involve relocating tailings to mine the shallow coal under the Deep Pit Tailings dam.
- SM The surface of Charlton Road is breaking up, is this from subsidence? RN said the final repairs were completed by the Mine Subsidence Board in conjunction with the Singleton Council, a few years ago.

Bulga Coal will talk to council about the surface of Charlton Road. ACTION

Next meeting

Wednesday, 8th May 9am, Bulga Coal Administration.

Actions

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	GA	Provide a copy of the presentation to Godfrey to send to Council	<i>Completed</i> 17/05	
2	All	<p>In response to concerns from the CCC about air quality in the Hunter Valley, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an analysis from samples on rooves of CCC members to determine composition (overburden, coal, vegetation, soil etc). • Provide an overview of the current local setting: what generates dust and when that is likely to change ie: clarity around when mining will be complete. 	RN, SW	1.Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Presentation
3	SM	Investigate whether there is a native title over the crown land access road onto the Wollombi Brook Conservation Area	RN, SJM	2. Business Arising from previous minutes
4	JK	Send a copy of the paper JK is preparing for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Air Quality Advisory Committee to TH	JK	2. Actions from previous meeting
5	SM	Contact Singleton Council on behalf of CCC about the surface of Charlton Road	RN	6.General business