

BULGA COAL

GLENCORE

Community Consultative Committee Meeting

8th May 2019

Present	Community representatives	Stewart Mitchell (SM)
		Helen Sharrock (HS)
	Singleton Council	Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)
	Bulga Coal	Ralph Northey (RN)
		Scott Wolfenden (SW)
		Tom Scott (TS)
		Lily Webster (LW)
	Chairperson	Teegan Hayward (TH)
	Apologies	John Krey (JK)

Meeting opened: 9.12 am

Meeting closed: 11.50 am

Apologies: John Krey, Geoff Kelly

Declaration of pecuniary interest: none

Confirmation of the minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were moved as true and accurate by GA and seconded by HS.

1. Actions from previous minutes 17/10/2018

Item 1 Provide a copy of the presentation to Godfrey to send to Council. Completed 17/10

Item 2 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 to determine composition (overburden, coal, vegetation, soil etc).*

RN Noted the samples were not from roofs.

SW Explained the draft results of the brush samples. Samples of dust were taken from houses in Bulga, Putty Road, Broke and Wollombi Road in March. The draft results show the dust to be made up of mineral dust, organic material and coal. Three of the

samples showed approximately 20% of coal within the sample. (Broke Road, Milbrodale Road and Inlet Road).

RN: The percentage of coal in the samples is unexpected given we mine 10 times more dirt than coal, but coal is obviously lighter. There was a discussion about the health implications of coal dust compared to normal dust. Coal can be absorbed in the body.

SW The samples are depositional dust which is the coarser dust that falls out of the air. HS noted the area the brush sample was taken from was cleaned 4 days before.

RN The analysis of the samples is showing proportion of dust and isn't based on dust volumes.

HS 25% coal in the dust sample taken at our property is a serious concern to us. HS asked for a copy of the preliminary dust sampling result table **ACTION**

SM Where does diesel fumes fit into this? RN: these are depositional dust samples (coarser particles), diesel fumes are PM_{2.5}, but there would be some PM_{2.5} in this sample.

Item 2 In response to concerns from the CCC about air quality in the Hunter Valley, we will:

- *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 Each individual mine site needs to do what they can (progressive rehabilitation, proactive workforce). Bulga Coal trained the entire workforce in an environment and community refresher training session in February. We took them to the top of Charlton Ridge and talked about dust management, noise, location of the community to our pit.

RN Dust management is within an operator's control and they can call up a water cart, slow down or stop a run in dusty conditions. Bulga has 4 watercarts and hire a 5th cart in summer.

RN From a local setting perspective, Bulga Open Cut will be operating to 2039 (if Modification 3 is approved), I believe Mt Thorley open cut will finish mining coal in 2019. Tailings will be deposited in north end of the Mt Thorley pit and Warthworth overburden will be emplaced in Mt Thorley pit to fill the void and believe Warkworth Mine is approved until 2035.

RN The air quality assessment in Bulga Open Cut's modification 3 includes Mt Thorley open cut mining at peak rates out to 2031, as per the approval.

Item 3 Investigate whether there is a native title claim over the crown land access road onto the Wollombi Brook Conservation Area

RN Wonnaruah Plains Clan have lodged a native title application over the entire Hunter Valley. There has been no decision on this. All crown roads are potentially subject to that claim, including the crown road next to Wollombi Brook Conservation Area.

SM If the claim is successful, will access to the Teaching and Keeping Place affected?

TS Access to the Teaching and Keeping Place is via a road that goes through our land, we won't use the crown road.

Item 4 Send a copy of the paper JK is preparing for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Air Quality Advisory Committee to TH.

JK did not send the report.

Item 4 Contact Singleton Council on behalf of CCC about the surface of Charlton Road

RN I was remiss in following this up. A request has been lodged with the Council to get back to me about the road surface of Charlton Road. ACTION

SM Is the road entirely the responsibility of council and not the Mines Subsidence Board?
RN: Yes, that is my understanding.

1. Presentation – Bulga Open Cut: Modification 3

RN: Gave an overview of Modification 3 from the Environmental Assessments Summary newsletter. It is the 3rd modification to our mine approval granted in 2014. We have been consulting with neighbours, held a drop in session at the Broke Hall and this information sheet has been letterboxed dropped to people living in Broke and Bulga.

RN From an impacts perspective, noise and air quality will effectively be the same as what is approved, clearing 20 ha of vegetation will need to be offset and there will be some minor visual impacts.

RN The air quality model includes Mt Thorley mining out to 2031 as a conservative measure, so this will change given they will stop mining coal in 2019. The annual PM₁₀ criteria has changed from 30 to 25ug/m³ so one property falls in the acquisition zone due to this change (cumulative criteria). This resident already has compulsory acquisition from the neighbouring mine for noise.

RN Gave an overview of the noise contours, there is no real difference between the approved contours to the Modification 3. Noise will effectively be the same as currently approved.

RN There is a 154 ha offset area that is a potential offset for disturbing 20 ha in the Modification 3. It has beautiful views over Broke and can provide recreational opportunities. There are aboriginal grinding grooves and picnic locations. RN noted if this location is approved as an offset area, we could look at bike / horse riding trail between this area and the Wollombi Brook Conservation Area. There was a discussion about an equestrian facility in the Mt Thorley Warkworth VPA, which

could also potentially be connected to the two offsets and would provide recreation opportunities for the community.

- SM Doesn't that type of activity conflict with the purpose of an offset area? RN: The Wollombi Brook Conservation Area includes camping and the Teaching and Keeping Place as a permissible development.
- SM Offset areas are usually habitat for flora and fauna.
- TS All of our offset area agreements allow camping, signage, access tracks.
- LW The state department does a review of the impacts and State Forests goes through EPBC approval to see what the potential risk of the activities would be.
- HS From a tourism perspective, trails and providing connection would make a lot of sense. National Parks do this very well and are set up with basic facilities. HS suggested working with National Parks who have expertise in this area would be a good idea.
- RN A bike trail could go from Broke, up Fordwich Road and Cobcroft Roads, on Glencore owned land, across to the Conservation Area.
- HS Suggested a brainstorming session with community.
- RN: Gave an overview of rehabilitation & final landform. It was noted the final void would be 60m deeper than what is currently approved and move slightly to the south east.
- HS Asked if there will be a lot more overburden given the void is deeper? RN: the mining rate will stay the same with an extra four years of mining, and internal dumps will go slightly higher
- RN Groundwater flows into the final void will be small, there will be more surface water but evaporation will win the race. The void will be a hydraulic sink. Water will be saline. There was a discussion about the void being suitable for pumped hydro.
- GA Where will the water storage be for pumped hydro? RN: the upper storage would potentially be located on top of the dumps.
- RN Bulga Coal had a meeting with Council who were keen for us to consider other end of mine life land uses. We don't have the answers but there are options including rural residential land plots and alternate power such as solar farms.
- RN Gave an overview of the surface water, aboriginal heritage and groundwater for the modification.
- RN There will be views of internal dumps from some elevated areas. In some areas you can already see internal dumps. The dumps associated with the modification will be visible from 2030 onwards. Some of the internal dumps that are already visible from Turnbull Road in Bulga are not due to be rehabilitated until the end of mine life. We are looking at what we can do in the interim to reduce the visual impacts.

- RN Showed pictures of the noise and visual bund taken from Milbrodale Road and Hill Street.
- SM Will you lose the undulating effect of the bund if you build internal dumps to the same level?
- RN There will have to be topographical relief in the approval, to help create that undular landform. It's been successful on the bund, less so in the north west corner.
- RN We are continuing to consult on Modification 3 and we are finalising the assessments this month. We hope to submit the Statement of Environmental Effects in June.
- SM Is the social impact assessment a part of the DA? RN: No, it's a requirement from the Department of Planning & Environment for the Statement of Environmental Effects.
- HS If you are mining deeper, does that mean there is more overburden and therefore more dust? RN: it's the same mining rate, so the same dust levels but for a longer period (2035 – 2039). We are proposing the same management of dust.
- HS This concerns me because over the last 5-7 years since the expansion dust has increased.
- RN The modification will mine overburden at a higher rate. Most of the dust from our site comes from haul trucks and exposed areas. Once we finish the noise and visual bund, we will mine be in behind that.
- RN Discussed the air quality results from Modification 3. The results show cumulative dust emissions against the criteria.
- SM Does dust from blasting impact the dust levels? SW: Blasting isn't the major source of our dust emissions, it's the haul trucks.
- GA Asked if the councillors will have a copy of the Modification 3 summary book? RN: We have a meeting with councillors scheduled for June.

2. Presentation - Open Cut presentation

- RN We have received 12 complaints year to date.
- RN Showed the environmental incidents. 6 incidents were dust exceedances from regional dust events.
- TS Gave an overview of rehabilitation, the target for 2019 is 107 ha and we should complete 120 ha. The monitoring results of the rehabilitation show we are trending towards the Endangered Ecological Community target species. TS showed pictures of the trees on the bund and said it will take a few years before you can see the trees from the community.

- RN We do supplementary planting on the noise and visual bund, last year we planted grey box and ironbark tube stock.
- SW Noise has been a concern in the last 2 weeks due to the change in weather conditions. Production has responded well to alarms and modified where necessary.
- SW We have changed the way we assess the fume and dust risk prior to blasting by using a dust dispersion model. RN: We had strong support from the business about the blasting protocols.
- SM Do you close Broke Road to traffic during blasting? SW: Where the dust cloud might cross the road, we close the road as per the traffic control plan. SM: What about the blast delays? RN: Yes we do have delays, generally postpone to the next day.
- SM Do you close the road when you are within 500m? RN: Yes and when we think the dust might travel across the road. SM: Do you get many complaints? RN: We are trying to improve the traffic signage on days when the road might be closed. We had a complaint from a resident in Broke about the blasting traffic signs. There was general discussion about reduced speed signs on the road prior to road closure.
- SM Isn't it a non-compliance if the dust leaves mine site? RN: the public roads go through our mining lease. We have operations on both sides. SM: There should be as little impact on the public travelling along the roads as possible.
- SW Gave an overview of air quality in 2019, generally very good or good for most of quarter 1 in 2019.
- TH Gave an update on the VPA and free community yoga.

3. Annual review 2018

- SM When do you expect Modification 3 to be approved? RN: we are hoping to get approval in early 2020, the Statement of Environmental Effects will be lodged in June. The approval time will depend if we end up with an Independent Planning Commission (IPC), which comes back to number of submissions.
- SM Where is the depositional dust monitor A3 on figure 6, page 23? SW: it's on Inlet Road, it's not marked on the figure properly.
- SM The Inlet Road and Putty Road dust deposition results in Table 20, page 31 are high compared to the other monitors. RN: it may be due to the prevailing conditions, Broke is a little bit shielded. Other sites are removing dust deposition monitors but we are keeping our dust deposition monitors.
- SM The results gives you an indication of where the dust is settling.
- SM Asked about the attended noise monitoring results on page 26 for the Broke Cemetery. The criteria was not applicable due to a temperature inversion and wind conditions. SW: we manage noise during strong inversions using real time noise

monitors, but during attended monitoring, where there is a temperature inversion, it's says we are not non-compliant.

SM So when there is a temperature inversion and noise levels are increased, why are you allowed to dismiss that? That's the noise levels the community is getting.

SW It comes from the industrial noise guideline, we don't have much influence over that. We still manage to 35 decibels anyway in all temperature conditions.

SM Asked about the blast criteria on heritage sites from page 29, Table 17. Mt Leonard had a severe problem with cracking a few years ago. RN: there was a massive storm in April 2018, the chimney fell into the formal dining room. It was repaired and we are looking at structural assessment for the other chimneys now. We have a big focus on the Mt Leonard property at the moment, there is 650 hectares to tidy up including fences and irrigation infrastructure.

HS Can you relocate the monitor on our property to an open area? SW can coordinate moving the dust gauge on the Sharrock property. **ACTION**

SM Every effort should be made to look after Mt Leonard Homestead as its heritage listed. I believe ground vibration is responsible for impacts on heritage sites. We have problems with the headstones, but no one will say it's due to blasting. There was a discussion about heritage homes renovated by mining companies.

RN noted the inside of Mount Leonard homestead is in good condition. It is tenanted and they are passionate about the property and are re-establishing the gardens.

Note: The CCC expressed concern about management of the historical properties, it's a social impact.

SM Asked about the property near Monkey Place Bridge that is falling down. RN: There are no plans for it, previous advice from a heritage consultant said that its part of the fabric as it is.

HS Have you thought about collecting the bricks & use in a community space? RN: I was recently contacted by Dale McNamara who wants to use the bricks as a memorial for the family. SM: Some bricks may crumble, that happened with Wambo Homestead. RN mentioned Charlton Homestead (located on private property) needed repairs. The owners are getting advice on this.

SM Asked about non-indigenous heritage items in Modification 3 that will be impacted. Is the post and rail fence worth salvaging? We salvaged a post and rail fence from the police station at Bulga and used it at the recreation ground.

RN We will look at the state of the fencing and if suitable, salvage and use elsewhere for education. **ACTION**

RN: Showed the committee the draft signs for the Teaching and Keeping Place, which includes one sign on European heritage. They were developed by Ben Churcher,

archaeologist and drawings by artist Lillian Webb. We will send a copy of the signs to the CCC. **ACTION**

Offer the community the opportunity to participate in development of heritage signs and stories. **ACTION**

4. General Business

SM There is a powerline down by the gully on the Groves property, it doesn't seem to go anywhere? RN: the powerline was for a gas drainage site and is being removed.

TH Does the CCC have any comments on the applicant for the vacant position? GA asked about the approval process. It was noted the CCC would recommend the candidate to DPE if everyone agreed. SM and HS said that the applicant, Mike Wilson from Broke would be an excellent candidate. TH to call John Krey and canvas opinion, then recommend Mike Wilson to DP&E for appointment to the committee. **ACTION**

Next meeting

Tuesday, 29th October 9am.

Actions

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	GA	Provide a copy of the presentation for the Council report	<i>Completed 10/05</i>	
2	HS	Provide a copy of the draft dust sampling result table	<i>Completed 5/07</i>	2. Actions from previous meeting
3	SM	Contact Singleton Council on behalf of CCC about the surface of Charlton Road	RN	2. Actions from previous meeting
4	HS	Relocate the Sharrock dust monitor to an open location on the property	SW	3. Annual Review
5	SM	Investigate state of the post and rail fence in Modification 3 and salvage, use elsewhere for education	RN	3. Annual Review
6	HS	Provide a copy of the interpretive signs for the Teaching and Keeping Place	TH/SM	3. Annual Review
7	RN	Offer the community the opportunity to participate in the development of heritage signs and stories	RN	3. Annual Review
8	TH	Recommend Mike Wilson join the Bulga Coal CCC to DP&E	RN	4. General business