

# BULGA COAL

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## GLENCORE

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting

26 October 2016

Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room

<b>Present</b>	Community representatives	Stewart Mitchell (SM)
		John Krey (JK)
		Helen Sharrock (HS)
	Bulga Coal	Ralph Northey (RN)
		Teegan Hayward (TH)
	Bulga Underground	Lucy Stuart
	Bulga Open Cut	Geoff Kelly (GK)
		Scott Wolfenden (SW)
		Tom Scott (TS)
		Keith Simkin (KS)
<b>Apologies</b>	Chairperson	Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)

Meeting opened: 9.05am

Meeting closed: 11.30pm

Declaration of pecuniary interest: None.

#### Confirmation of the minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were moved as true and accurate by Helen Sharrock and seconded by John Krey.

#### Actions from the minutes 18/05/16

Item 1 *Send the letter to the MSB.* RN: Letter was sent to MSB and they responded promptly and have now commenced final repairs to Charlton Road.

Item 2 *Follow up with the response provided by Scott Brooks regarding the Industrial Noise Policy on the 24<sup>th</sup> November last year and inform the committee as to whether it affects our criteria.* Changes to the industrial noise policy are not applied retrospectively to our conditions. We will have to manage noise in accordance with new policy but it will not impact on our criteria.

RN to re-send Scott Brook's response to the noise policy to the CCC. **ACTION**

Item 3 *Send a copy of the community perception survey results presentation to HS and SM.*  
Completed 24/05.

Item 4: *Proceed with advertising for a new committee member once Terry Everett's resignation has been received in writing.* Two applications were received and these were passed around the committee for consideration. RN: Our current committee has 2 representatives from Bulga and one from Broke. The position was vacated by Broke resident Terry Everett. It was discussed whether the replacement should be from Broke. HS mentioned that an applicant from Broke would be beneficial. It was agreed that the committee will nominate their preferred candidate when the minutes are circulated to give them time to review the applications. **ACTION**

### 1. Bulga Open Cut

GK Gave an overview of the fume incident on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Bulga Coal apologised for the incident. Fume was generated from the blast and it tracked towards the south. There were reports of odour as well as concerns around the children at school. The school contacted Bulga Coal about the fume cloud, they brought the children inside from lunch. The mine contacted the EPA and the regulatory authorities as required by our Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

RN apologised on the Broke Notice Board Facebook page and tried to contact those who expressed concern. RN and TH also attended Broke School P&C meeting to apologise and provide information about fume.

GK Explained all factors taken into account when designing a shot and that it is a balance of all factors including the Underground workings, moisture and vibration.

HS Moisture is the common problem and wind. With all of the monitoring we have available why can't you prevent the moisture in the holes? GK: It's working out where the water is coming from. If we use a water resistant product, we can still get fume. Using water resistant products can mean the shot doesn't break up the rock as effectively as using other products.

GK The explosives had been degraded due to ground water recharge flowing into the blast pattern prior to detonation. The blast was delayed due to weather conditions, it had been unfavourable to blast prior due to the potential impact on the underground ventilation fan. The blast was fired on Monday. When we fired the shot, the wind changed from blowing from the west to the blowing from the north. It was an overcast, cold day and the fume cloud didn't disperse and stayed at one height.

- SM Did the blast itself have any effect on the air movement? RN: No. It can impact air movement within the pit, but not when it's out of the pit.
- JK I was of the understanding that fume was a thing of the past. RN: When ammonium nitrate gets wet it will generate fume. And there are many factors that may also contribute to generating fume.
- JK What is considered noxious? RN: The cloud goes up and dust falls out quickly. The EPL has a condition that says offensive blast fume must not be emitted from the premises or impact on people's 'comfort and repose'.
- JK Asked about black 'smoke' from blasts. Do you measure it? RN: The blast fume (orange cloud) health impacts are not chronic, unless in high concentrations. Concentrations are generally pretty low. JK: From a compliance point of view, how does DOP or EPA know its harmless?
- RN Referred to the EPL that states 'offensive blast fume must not be emitted from the premises'.
- GK Informed the committee of changes Bulga Coal has made in response to the incident. We have revised the blast loading process and will notify the community should the event happen again.
- JK There was general discussion about the best way to notify the community. JK suggested a mobile phone number alert might be a better way to notify the entire community.
- SM I don't think this should ever happen in our rural community and an apology is not good enough. Have your blasts become bigger? RN: It's not about the size of the blast, we are focusing on mitigating the impacts.
- SM For the first 20 years there was never any fume. Is it an inferior product? GK: Products should have gotten better. We are mining deeper which brings more water, and we are blasting more.
- SM Back in the 80's water was an issue, but it wouldn't produce the fume. RN: We are more aware of fume now, there are more mines and generally more sensitivity to issues and increased media attention.
- HS Was it a major or minor incident? RN: This was treated as a major incident.
- GK left the meeting.

SW Gave an overview of the air quality performance from January – June in 2016. Air quality has been generally very good with both PM<sup>10</sup> and PM<sup>2.5</sup> trending below the annual criteria. We will continue to implement the same controls to minimise dust.

JK: Is there any trend data? SW: Yes, it does depend on the type of season and whether it has been wet or dry. RN: Awareness of the workforce is our biggest tool and we are encouraged by support we are getting. Progressive rehabilitation is also important.

SW to prepare graphs on air quality over last 3-5 years. **ACTION**

SW Gave an overview of noise. Noise levels have been relatively low during our compliance monitoring. We had one exceedance in May on Cobcroft Road. We were dumping in a night shift dump on the Noise and Visual Bund in difficult weather conditions. A remeasure was undertaken in accordance with the noise affected night process in our Noise Management Plan. The result was below the criterion.

RN Gave an overview of the rehabilitation of the Noise and Visual Bund. The North West corner is almost complete, only the upper level of the northern face to go. The Grey Box-Ironbark Endangered Ecological Community is establishing. There will be 2,250 ha of Grey Box-Ironbark EEC and 250 ha of Spotted Gum EEC. RN noted that there needs to be pressure from the community to make sure we do a good job on rehabilitation. Quality rehabilitation will be an asset to us all.

TS Said there is close to 20 species in the seed mix. Ironbark trees haven't been successful from seed in the past.

JK Noted that the community can only see it from a distance and whether it's green or not. It's hard to appreciate the quality.

The CCC noted it would be worth providing a brief summary of what our rehabilitation is, the species and the different growth stages for the community to understand.

TS Offered to take the CCC on a tour of the rehabilitation at any time.

It was noted that Bulga Coal has a commitment to build the outer face of the bund by the end of 2018.

RN The water management system around the site is complete. The Northern Dam was completed in August and has an Italian liner, the only earth filled dam in Australia to have it.

RN Gave an overview of the Noise and Visual Bund. We are intending to put less dirt into the Noise and Visual Bund which will create greater topographical relief. There

will be more highs and lows. JK: Where are you putting the rest of the dirt? RN: Mine plans are changing and we are looking to see what we can do to end up with a better final void. A final void doesn't have to be a legacy. Current assessment is that it will take 500 years to fill after which it will spill at a very low rate.

There was a discussion about the strategic development of the Hunter Valley and that the Valley, Blue Mountains and Southern Highlands are the green lungs for Sydney. Our buffer lands could be used as rural residential.

RN We need to do the detailed work for the void and the time it will take to fill. There are post-mining land use examples from all over the world.

JK: Your final void is quite deep which is different to some overseas examples. RN: we need to focus on quality assessments of the final void and quality rehabilitation.

HS Suggested that the mine could paint the picture of the other successfully rehabilitated mines worldwide as there are many examples.

RN: Gave an overview of the revised Noise and Visual Bund.

SM: What sort of grasses do you use in your seed mix? TS: We use a cover crop to prevent erosion and native grasses, some of the native grasses are doing well. We are managing our topsoil and focusing on weed spraying. We are managing the weeds in our topsoil stockpiles as well.

SM What % of days do you have temperature inversions? SW: Our model takes that into account. We look at the distribution of those conditions during the year. We model the whole sweep of meteorological conditions.

SW Provided the noise comparison for the revised Noise and Visual Bund. The results remain relatively unchanged with revised bund and topographical relief. In year 7 there are 4 residences who will receive 36dB which is similar to the existing Noise and Visual Bund. We have committed to managing the noise to 35dB.

SW We will not seek a Development Application Modification as it is consistent with our approval.

TS Showed the ray diagrams for the revised Noise and Visual Bund and explained the difference in visual screening between the old and revised Bund. There will be some slightly different views but the pit won't be noticeable.

SM How much can you change your mine plans before you have to go back to the PAC or regulators for approval?

RN We've had legal review that confirms the changes to the Noise and Visual Bund are consistent with our approval. It depends on what aspect of the operation we are trying to change. We will consult with the community and inform the Department of Planning and Environment.

## **2. Bulga Underground**

LS Gave an overview of the remainder of the underground mining. We will retain our licenses and approvals. Our focus is on cleaning up along Charlton and Broke Road.

LS Gave an overview of Charlton Road repairs by the Mine Subsidence Board. The repairs will be ongoing until March 2017, closure of one lane at a time, delays up to 10 minutes possible.

## **3. Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) update**

TH Gave an update on the VPA Committee meetings. There are a number of projects identified on the works schedule list and the next meeting will prioritise the projects based on a criteria.

## **4. General Business**

SM How is the power station performing? RN: It's doing really well with 90% utilisation. It can produce 9MW which is not enough to power all of site. It isn't connected into the grid.

SM Why are you continuing to drain gas out of the underground? RN: It is pre-draining the gas from Blakefield North mine.

SM Asked about the Mine Subsidence Board. RN: There is a new CEO and the works department will affect the repairs now.

## 5. Next meeting

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 9am.

### Actions arising from the meeting

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	JK	Resend Scott Brook's response to the industrial noise policy. <b>COMPLETED 10/11</b>	RN	Actions from the previous minutes
2	RN	Indicate your preferred candidate to fill the vacant position when the minutes are circulated. <b>COMPLETED 29/11</b>	SM, HS, JK	Actions from the previous minutes
3	JK	Provide graphs on air quality over 3-5 year period to show any trends.	SW	Update from Bulga Open Cut