

# BULGA COAL

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## GLENCORE

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting

29th October 2014

Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room

Present: Community representatives Stewart Mitchell (SM)  
Terry Everett (TE)  
John Krey (JK)  
Bulga Coal Ralph Northey (RN)  
Ben Hiatt (BH)  
Teegan Hayward (TH)  
Bulga Underground Ned Stephenson (NS)  
Bulga Open Cut Scott Wolfenden (SW)  
Geoff Kelly (GK)

Apologies: Helen Sharrock (Community representative), Paul Amidy (Bulga Open Cut), Scott Brooks (Department of Planning)

Chairperson Godfrey Adamthwaite , Singleton Council (GA)

Meeting opened: 9.15am

Meeting closed: 11.25pm

Declaration of pecuniary interest: none

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### Confirmation of the minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were moved as true and correct by Stewart Mitchell and seconded by Terry Everett.

### Actions arising from the previous meeting

**Item 1:** *Produce a summary of EPA and Bulga Coal air quality monitoring and coordinate a response to the EPA*  
A summary of the Bulga Coal air quality monitoring network was circulated with the final minutes on 3/07/2014. Further discussions regarding current monitoring locations occurred between EPA and Bulga Coal in a subsequent meeting

**Item 2:** *Provide a copy of the Federal EPBC approval with final minutes*  
A website link to the approval was provided with the final minutes on 3/07/2014

**Item 3:** *Provide a copy of the PAC notification with the final minutes*  
A website link was provided with the final minutes on 3/07/2014

## **1. Bulga Optimisation Project Update**

RN Gave an update on the current status of the project. The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) produced a review report to the Department of Planning in September with 6 recommendations:

1. Air quality with mushroom composters
2. Development of the noise and visual bund: conditions have been added to complete the bund within 4 years of approval.
3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage: relocation of the Loders Creek grinding grooves
4. Rehabilitation and final landform: more consultation with the community on our rehabilitation which RN will discuss with the committee today
5. Water management: consult with OEH, NOW and EPA on water management plan
6. Crown Land Road Closure

SM Asked about the grinding grooves on Charlton Road. RN: the native title claimant groups have decided these grinding grooves will stay in place and will be documented, then covered by the noise and visual bund

RN The Department of Planning are currently finalising their assessments which will then go back to the PAC for final determination

### Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

RN We have an agreement with council on the VPA which consists of 3 parts: projects for Singleton LGA, projects for Broke / Bulga villages and infrastructure

SM Asked who was on the committee to decide the VPA

RN Council and the mine reached agreement with the outcome put on public display for comment; a committee will be formed once the project is approved to facilitate the projects in the local community

JK Noted concern that although VPA is compensation for the villages affected by the mine expansion, within the agreement there is support for events in Broke, not Bulga. JK also noted that Council has commenced consultation with the communities in Broke and Bulga (and Jerrys Plains which is for a separate VPA). A consultant engaged by Jim Davies will put a proposal forward in November to council

RN We are unaware that this work has started, we will contact council to find out more.  
**ACTION**

## **2. Presentation from Bulga Open Cut**

### Incidents and complaints

SW Gave an overview of incidents and complaints; 12 minor incidents and 37 complaints year to date from a small number of complainants

RN The majority of complaints are from Bulga.

GA Asked if the 12 blast complaints were from 12 different blasts. SW: One blast had high vibration in Bulga and resulted in three complaints

JK Do you know why this one was different? GK: Vibration was high but only in Bulga, not to the south. We have blasted in the same area with no issues. We had a third party review the blast to see what was different with this one. There was a discussion around the process of blasting and that sometimes geological forces can impact a blast

### Rehabilitation

SW Gave an overview of the 2014 permanent and temporary rehabilitation

SM How permanent is the permanent rehabilitation? RN: Rehabilitation in the northwest corner is forming our final landform

SW 126 ha were aerial seeded in autumn and in spring. Rehabilitation on the Mt Thorley boundary has been shaped to final landform and should be completed by mid-December

JK Is the bund design and rehabilitation as per the focus groups held with community members a few years ago? RN: Yes, the top of the bund will be undulating to look more natural. If the BOP is approved the overall dump height will be 150RL with some areas elevated to 165RL to create the undular ridgeline

SM What is the height of the dump now? SW: the northwest corner is at 150RL. There was a discussion around the height of bund and perspective from homes in Bulga

SW In the northwest corner we have been following the principals of how we will build the bund: dumping in the most exposed areas during the day and in behind at night

### Air Quality

SW Gave an overview of air quality including haul road monitoring and continued education of supervisors

SM Do you use chemical additives? SW: At the moment we are managing with water only. We did a trial of different products and we weren't getting the results with some products. We have supplementary water so we don't need chemicals. This could change when we don't have the water supply

SW Gave an overview of the dust trigger response procedure. If there is high dust and high wind, we review activity and respond, so for example we may drop the height of the dragline dumping

SW Explained a graph that shows dragline and dig fleet delays to control dust in adverse weather conditions

GK: We are trialling an agricultural sprinkler in our dig area. There are limitations in that it uses a lot of water, the area needs to be watered for some time before digging to make a difference and requires pipelines to the site

GA: Has anyone looked into sprayers on dig units? RN: Yes – it's been trialled at other sites with fog machines but the wind impacts where the water goes, you need a lot of water to make a difference, operators need clear vision

### Blast and noise management

SW: There were no blast overpressure or vibration non compliances for 2014 and no reportable fume events. We are continually refining a risk based tool to prevent air quality impacts on neighbours and underground

SM: How long since you've had a fume event? SW: Every blast has a fume rating; most of ours are low, overall there have been less fume events recently

JK Your blast management plan doesn't have anything about not firing in certain wind directions. SW: We have an internal web based permissions page for blasting. It's referred to in the blast management plan

### 3. Presentation from Bulga Underground

#### Undermining Broke Road and public utilities

- NS Undermined Broke Road twice since the beginning of the year which took around 16-17 weeks of traffic management, no complaints or loss of service to PID, powerlines, telecommunications or potable water supply to Broke
- RN The underground is on track to produce 8 million tonnes this year, highly productive
- SM What are the gas drainage holes at Fordwich for? NS: These wells are the pre-drainage wells that need to be installed prior to mining. These wells produce high purity gas that is used by the power generators at the mine
- JK Do you only go as deep as the seam you are in? NS: We are targeting the seam we are mining to manage the gas in that seam
- NS Showed results from undermining Broke Road: largest cracks were in the order of 10-12cm wide and the road subsided a maximum of 2 metres. There are no plans to permanently repair Broke road at the moment, assuming we get approval for Bulga Optimisation Project, Broke Road will be diverted
- NS Noted that the MSB are keen to do the permanent repairs to Charlton Road. They were scheduled for September originally but believe that the MSB have been delayed because of other works requiring attention. Now that we had finished undermining Broke Road the Charlton Road permanent repairs can start
- SM The surface of Charlton Road is terrible. I am not happy with the rate of repair on Charlton Road
- RN We will pass on a letter to the MSB that the CCC has expressed disappointment in how long it has taken to repair Charlton Road. **ACTION**

#### Subsidence repairs on private land

- NS Gave an overview of repairs on private property Talgarth Farm including repairing ponding area and increasing dam capacity

#### Blakefield North Surface Disturbance

- NS Gave an overview of planned and actual activity for Blakefield North surface disturbance (gas wells, access roads, pipelines). Access roads are on mine owned land so that all traffic like drill rigs, pipes and vehicles will travel on our land only in the future

- RN There was concern from residents on Milbrodale Road about the visual impact of a white gravel road, pipelines and construction activities on the Fordwich sill. We met with those residents and have taken on board their suggestion of visual screening with trees and appropriate patterning of the tree planting to blend in with existing landscape
- NS Showed a figure of the completed wells and those planned for Blakefield North
- SM What is the life of these gas wells? NS: Around 4 years. They are sealed prior to mining
- TE: Has the technology changed? NS: We have a better understanding of the seam due to exploration drilling. RN: we have had a change in our approach and we are using our experience from Blakefield South
- SM: What percentage of the gas is drained? NS: Not sure of the actual percentage but we have to drop levels to allow safe development rates, and to maintain our production targets. RN: We pre drain about a third, the rest of the gas comes out of our ventilation

#### Laydown areas

- NS Noted that a project to clean up our laydown areas is nearing completion

#### Planning for undermining Army land (longwalls 7 and 8)

- NS We are speaking with the Army about mining longwalls 7 and 8 and access which is required in 2015

#### Mining Operations Plan (MOP)

- NS We are updating our Mine Operations Plan. Rehabilitation reported in the AEMR will be measured against our MOP
- RN We have gained approval from DRE to submit the revised MOP the same time as Bulga Optimisation Project MOP if we get approval

#### **General Business**

- JK Said that members of the CCC could present updates on both Bulga Coal and Mt Thorley Warkworth to the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association members meeting. The next meeting is in November

RN We have a draft consent requirement to update the community on our rehabilitation. How can we best consult with the community about rehabilitation? JK to find out from the Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association what format the mine can use to consult with residents about rehabilitation **ACTION**

RN We will invite the CCC to present at our community barbeques and note any feedback on how people would like to be consulted on our rehabilitation

TE Newsletters and community barbeques are the best methods

SM: What is the timeline on final approval for the project? RN: The last draft of consent conditions went back to DOP on Monday; the DOP report is one signature away from going back to the PAC. We think one month away

SM: If you get approval, will there be any special consent conditions that the CCC needs to be aware of? RN: when we get approval we will send out summary of the approval and conditions with an offer of a meeting **ACTION**

#### **Actions arising from the meeting**

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	JK	Contact Singleton Council regarding Jim Davies and consultation he has been undertaking in Broke, Bulga and Jerrys Plains and whether this is associated with our proposed VPA	RN	1
2	SM	Write a letter/email to the MSB saying that the CCC has expressed disappointment in how long it has taken to repair Charlton Road	NS	3
3	RN	Ask the members of BMPA what is the best way the mine can consult with residents about rehabilitation	JK	General Business
4	SM	When the BOP is approved we will send out summary of the approval and conditions with an offer of a meeting	RN	General Business

Next meeting: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 9am at the Bulga Coal Administration Room