



MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Title: Bulga Complex CCC Meeting
Date: 21/05/10
Location: Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room
Time: 9.00am
Chairperson: Alison Howlett (AH)
Present: Stephen Shoesmith (SS), Nathan Lane (NL), Ralph Northey (RN), Ned Stephenson (NS), Stewart Mitchell (SM), Bruce Russell (BR), Richard Pickles (RP)

Apologies: Terry Everett, Brian Thomas, Liz Watts, Greg Pawley, Nigel Wood, Helen Sharrock, Michael Lloyd and Godfrey Adamthwaite

Minutes: Toni Rankin (TR)

Copies To: All attendees

Next Meeting: Friday 2010 at 9am
Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room

Chairperson declared the meeting open at 9:10am

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: Nil



Item	Description	Action
1	Business arising	
1.1	Previous minutes distributed to committee members	Note only
2	Presentation from Beltana on Activities During 2009	
2.1	RN presented overview from 2009 AEMR	
2.2	<p>Compliance</p> <p>BR asked if we have a high or higher level of compliance</p> <p>RN advised that our level of compliance is High – some things continue to demand our attentions such as, noise attenuation and administrative/housekeeping issues. Noise, hydrocarbons, administration and housekeeping are our largest issues</p> <p>RN confirmed that results of the Compliance Audits are in the back of the AEMR</p> <p>AH advised that Bulga have been given some brownie points on how well we've handled noise complaints but there is a concern that the underground may exacerbate water issues. AH asked if we have any communications with AGL.</p> <p>RN advised that the mine will continue to address community concerns as best we can, such as spending \$50,000 on redoing the ground water model and understanding the implications of further underground workings.</p> <p>RN is disappointed about AGL's behaviour.</p> <p>AH advised that AGL have arranged for an independent expert to identify problems regarding water and underground mining.</p> <p>AH advised that Gavin Mudd was concerned about subsidence and showed him the Ron Fenwick Property.</p> <p>RN the mine has supplied information to Gavin Mudd and understands that it is easy to become concerned, it is a challenge.</p>	Note Only
2.3	<p>Wollombi Brook</p> <p>BR asked if RN feels mining will impact on Wollombi Brook.</p> <p>RN advised that Wollombi Brook will always be impacted on, this was identified in the EIS where water from coal seams will discharge into the Brook, however when the brook is high, flow will be the other way. Permian isn't measureable, change in water levels may see something in the north area but monitors put there in 2008 have provided no definitive answer to date. NSW Office of Water has asked to have a look at the findings.</p> <p>AH sits on both Committees at Bulga and all members are concerned about water.</p> <p>RN advised that he is sharing data with AGL. There are piezometers on their land which we put there prior to their ownership, we are allowing them to use that data and we will also know what their impacts will be from using that data.</p> <p>AH will speak with Pam Allen – not sure how much information on the underground and mining is getting back to local Committees.</p> <p>RN advised that a community BBQ will be organised soon at which issues will be discussed. RN has spoken to Hunter Valley Protection Alliance (HVPA) and has been to their meetings.</p> <p>RN advised that he does not actively talk with AGL.</p> <p>AH advised that if there is any information RN would like the Committee's to know regarding Wollombi Brook he can pass it on through her.</p>	AH



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	<p>RN confirmed that he needs to try and communicate more clearly to all and sundry, has been to HVPA as a community member as well as an Xstrata representative.</p> <p>BR asked if there were any reports done before the underground mining started that recognised possible impact on Wollombi Brook.</p> <p>RN advised that impact on water levels of the brook is not allowed. Low flow in dry times and flood of the brook are larger impacts than a miniscule amount of leakage.</p> <p>BR asked how much is a miniscule amount?</p> <p>RN – can't tell you. There is 0.9 mega litres per day from coal seams, a small proportion of that is leakage. There is a hydraulic difference. A theoretical leakage really.</p> <p>RN asked if we want to continue this conversation now. It is best if RN can show the committee in a presentation.</p> <p>RN to put together a presentation on the impacts of underground workings on water and Wollombi Brook – may present at Community BBQ</p> <p>AH asked when the next Community BBQ will be</p> <p>RN advised it would be in June</p> <p>RN advised that the Appendices of the AEMR include Col Mackie's independent reviews, he is an industry specialist.</p> <p>RN advised that the biggest impact on water are the lucerne farmers and the vineyards.</p> <p>SM agreed but said that they have a licence to pump water, do you?</p> <p>RN advised that the mine does have a licence to pump.</p> <p>SM asked how it is possible that mining so close to the Brook can't have an impact.</p> <p>RN advised that there is no impact. Maybe 100th of a percent.</p> <p>AH advised that the community is concerned about the cumulative impact, when the impact is seen in total. We need to start a dialog for a collaborative approach.</p> <p>RN to put together a communication package of the impact on water and present a balanced discussion.</p> <p>AH suggested that if the Committee has any questions they are to be put in writing and emailed to RN</p> <p>BR asked if Fergus Hancock is involved.</p> <p>RN Yes</p> <p>BR advised he will discuss his issues with Fergus. BR asked how often the BBQ's are held.</p> <p>RN confirmed there was one BBQ held last year.</p> <p>BR asked to be invited to every BBQ, he has only received one invitation to date.</p> <p>RN advised that there has only been one BBQ held since we started inviting the CCC.</p> <p>BR is concerned that if the CCC Members aren't invited we don't know what's going and RN won't inform us.</p> <p>RN advised that is not correct.</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>RN</p>



Item	Description	Action
	<p>BR disagreed and said his previous statement was correct. AH confirmed that in future RN will ensure that all CCC Members are invited. NL confirmed that the next BBQ will be held on 24.06.10.</p>	
3	NS Presentation on Blakefield South Subsidence	
3.1	<p>Rehabilitation BR asked if after floods do you try and get ahead in good times. NS confirmed, yes we do, but weather conditions can't be predicted so some rehabilitation has to have supplementary watering or simply be done twice.</p>	Note Only
3.2	<p>Subsidence. SM commented that the excavation in the northern drainage line for applying PUR into a subsidence crack looks very deep from the photo. NS advised that it looks deeper than it actually is. RN confirmed that it had to be dug down, couldn't be fixed without doing excavations. AH recalled when she was first on the committee that 2010 was predicted to be a particularly bad year for subsidence. RN advised that Blakefield South may mean more work is needed. SM asked why trees will be planted at Cobcroft Road. NS advised that there are no trees on the site at all at present and new growth will provide a visual amenity. BR asked what is done with the dirt between the seams underground. NS advised that they are not mined, there is approximately 80 metres between the Whybrow and Blakefield seams. RN advised that Ted McInerny and Charlton Road are the big ticket items for 2010.</p>	Note Only



Item	Description	Action
3.3	<p>Subsidence and Road Repairs</p> <p>NS advised that a civil engineer and contractors have been engaged to carry out temporary repairs. Charlton Road start date will be 18th June.</p> <p>RN confirmed that as we are creating the impact and we are doing the monitoring, and MSB we will do the repairs.</p> <p>BR asked if any dams will be affected when they are undermined.</p> <p>NS advised that 2 dams will be affected, one on Ted's property and one at the Lewis property. Ted doesn't want his dam drained; he doesn't see a need for it.</p> <p>SM commented that at the last meeting it was foreseen that a further 1.5 metres of subsidence will occur on top of the previous 1.5 metres, meaning that Ted's house will be 3 metres lower in total.</p> <p>NS advised that Ted's house will not be undermined this time around as it is on the edge of a chain pillar. It will however experience a limited amount of subsidence (around 30cm) but without the high tilts and strains it had when the Whybrow seam was mined.</p> <p>RN confirmed that part of Charlton Road will essentially be 3 metres lower.</p> <p>AH advised that there is frustration within the community about the length of time it's taken for MSB to complete the road works.</p> <p>RP advised that RHM Engineers have been hired as Project Managers to get the job done better. There will be a much better response time this year as there are measures in place based on mining works planned. The MSB will meet to secure funding to get work done.</p> <p>BR asked where the funds come from.</p>	



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	<p>RP advised that the MSB collect a levy from collieries for each tonne of coal removed from the ground.</p> <p>SM asked why repair works aren't carried out by the MSB for blasting damage when they take the same levies from the open cut mines.</p> <p>RP advised that the MSB will only do subsidence repairs, MSB will be responsible for the open cut land post mining.</p> <p>AH asked how long the time of each road closure will be.</p> <p>RN advised between 5 & 10 minutes at any one time with 4 months potential impact on Broke Road during each of Longwall 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>BR recalled that at the last Community BBQ when attendees were getting upset with RN, RN said that money was ready to go for road issues.</p> <p>RN advised that more problems were found when further investigations were done and MSB had to apply for further funding.</p> <p>RN advised that he'd received no direct complaints. There was not enough engineering up front meant issues and a need for more funding. An MSB board meeting was needed to secure the funding which meant further delays.</p> <p>AH advised that there is a frustration that MSB take levies, puts that money in an investment account of some kind. Because of that money being tied up work can't be done when it's needed and the mines get the flack, communities suffer and the MSB don't appear to understand the community's frustration.</p> <p>RP confirmed that there is simply not enough communication between Council, Mines and MSB.</p> <p>RN confirmed that mining will occur underneath Charlton Rd in late June 2010.</p> <p>NS to prepare a presentation on the proposed Management Plan of Broke Road subsidence repairs</p> <p>RN would like to arrange an electric billboard to advise of delays. RN asked for feedback and suggestions from the Committee.</p> <p>SM advised that he wasn't sure about the idea.</p> <p>BR asked if MSB meeting could be brought forward.</p> <p>RN advised that if there is no MSB funding available he is happy to confirm in this meeting now that the mine will expedite repairs and sort out the payment later with the MSB.</p> <p>RP advised that funding issues have been looked at and shouldn't happen again.</p> <p>SM asked why Charlton Road is so undulating after the repairs, it is obvious where it's been repairs, is that to do with cost cutting?</p> <p>RN advised that it is not a function of cost cutting, simply trying to maintain a sympathetic land form.</p> <p>RN advised that the next Community BBQ will involve people who will be affected by the subsidence repairs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NS</p>
4	Presentation on Bulga Coal on Activities During 2009	
4.1	<p>Oil Spills</p> <p>BR mentioned that he has heard from a man he knows that any oil spill is always 1 litre below the reportable amount and the mines make sure of this by not letting the total amount be known.</p> <p>RN advised that we don't do that but acknowledges that it may happen elsewhere.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Note Only</p>



Item	Description	Action
4.2	<p>Warkworth Sands Area & Mt Thorley Extension</p> <p>BR asked what the intentions are with the Warkworth Sand area.</p> <p>SS confirmed that it comes under the Biodiversity and Land Management Plan.</p> <p>NS confirmed that it is outside the underground mine layout.</p> <p>AH asked if the Mt Thorley extension will impact on Bulga.</p> <p>RN advised not directly but will dump on Charlton Road. RN is actively talking with Mt Thorley.</p>	Note Only
4.3	<p>Community Complaints</p> <p>BR asked who the complainants are. He wants to know the names as he would put his name against any complaint he made.</p> <p>AH advised it is a Privacy issue, it is legislation. Names can't be released but understands BR's frustration.</p> <p>BR asked if waste oils are used in drill holes.</p> <p>RN advised that only diesel is used.</p> <p>AH asked if BR is concerned about the orange plume.</p> <p>BR advised he's not really concerned about that.</p>	Note Only
5	Community and Environment Monitoring and Management 2009	
5.1	<p>Noise Monitors</p> <p>BR asked if noise experts could not pick up the frogs and insects on the monitors.</p> <p>RN advised that frogs and insects are at a higher frequency and we can omit them but not completely. They will always impact.</p> <p>AH advised that the sound of reversing alarms make up a large number of the complaints she receives.</p> <p>RN advised that we don't receive any complaints about our reversing alarms. We have "Smart Reversing Alarms" which monitor the surrounding noise and only sound 5 decibels higher than that surrounding noise.</p> <p>SM advised that he can hear the alarms 5kms away.</p> <p>RN advised that they would be Mt Thorley's alarms.</p> <p>RN advised that if there is a noise exceedance at a property 5 or 10 times per year it doesn't meet the Industrial Noise Policy but we will buy the property, BR asked if we will be using real time 24 hour monitors.</p> <p>RN advised that anywhere where mining effects a community real time monitors should be used.</p> <p>SM asked if it is a consent requirement that the real time noise monitors be installed.</p> <p>RN confirmed that it is not a consent requirement however we have chosen for it to be part of our consent therefore it is.</p> <p>RN will evaluate noise data from 2008 from all 8 noise monitors and release data to CCC</p>	RN



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5.2	<p>Groundwater</p> <p>SM asked about the 409MI of water coming in. SM was told by RN that it was going into the underground goafs.</p> <p>RN advised that it can go into the goafs. But it is probably being used for dust suppression and washing coal.</p> <p>BR advised that he has been told by RN that the water for dust suppression and washing coal had to be of a good quality.</p> <p>RN advised that filters have been installed for the underground water.</p> <p>SM asked if 409MI is removed from old workings does it get replenished from surrounding ground?</p> <p>RN advised that South Bulga Operations stopped in 2003. RN dipped piezometers in those old workings in 2007 and they were effectively dry. RN confirmed there is very little leakage.</p> <p>SM asked if dewatering of old workings occurs in the future what would happen there.</p> <p>RN advised that the old workings have to be dry to allow mining under them..</p> <p>RN advised that work has been undertaken by Col Mackie.</p> <p>RN advised that longwall 13 will be completed in August.</p>	Note Only
5.3	<p>Flora & Fauna</p> <p>NS explained monitoring events and variations due to seasonal fluctuations</p>	Note Only
5.4	<p>Archaeology</p> <p>NS advised of 3 salvage permits have been undertaken in 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grader scrapes for flood levee - CHPP dam and fire trail - Also that application was underway for a permit to salvage over longwall 1 and 2 at Blakefield South <p>SM enquired about stakeholder consultation process and are there any significant sites to be destroyed.</p> <p>NS advised that the permits to destroy is what Section 90 is called, artefacts are collected not destroyed.</p>	Note Only
5.5	<p>Lighting and Visual Mitigation</p> <p>SM advised that the largest problem is lighting on top of the peaks. They can be seen from a great distance.</p> <p>SS advised that he has recently undertaken a lighting audit and showed the OCE what the problem lights looked like from a community perspective.</p>	Note Only



6	General Business	
6.1	<p>Wanaruah Cultural Centre</p> <p>RN advised that the Cultural Centre will be on the agenda for discussion at the Community BBQ on 24th June.</p> <p>SM asked why the house and shed near where the Aboriginal Training Center is to be located isn't listed on the heritage sites.</p> <p>RN advised he did not know why they would be missed.</p> <p>AH confirmed that all heritage sites are important.</p> <p>NS to look into the conservation/heritage areas to ensure that all sites are listed.</p>	NS
6.2	<p>Proposed Power Station</p> <p>SM asked if the proposed power station on the site (approx 25MW), if given consent to go ahead will there be sufficient power to meet the needs of the entire site.</p> <p>RN confirmed that 25MW would be sufficient. At present the site uses 19MW. RN advised that there is more opportunity to produce more power.</p> <p>SM asked if the plan to pipe gas from the site to Macquarie Generation had been hit on the head.</p> <p>RN advised that it hasn't completely been hit on the head, at least not by us. We are doing our own thing at the moment.</p> <p>RN to chase up gas pipeline with Xstrata Coal NSW (XCN) that will go through Bulga village. SM wants to make sure that it won't go under properties.</p> <p>RN advised that we have no control over the Macquarie Generation project, it is being looked after by XCN.</p> <p>AH to chase up with Rod Cooper and ask him to contact SM to discuss the pipeline.</p>	<p>RN</p> <p>AH</p>
6.3	<p>Long Wall Panels</p> <p>SM asked if long walls 13 and 14 are finished</p> <p>RN advised no, only half of 13 is completed. Mid way through June Blakefield South will be started.</p> <p>SM asked if panels 13 and 14 extent through to Charlton Road.</p> <p>RN advised that they do not.</p> <p>NS will provide a thorough update on undermining Charlton Road at the next CCC Meeting</p>	NS



Actions From This Meeting		Who's Responsible	Item No.
1.1	AH will speak with Pam Allen – not sure how much information on the underground and mining is getting back to local Committees.	AH	2.3
1.2	RN to put together a presentation on the impacts of underground on water and Wollombi Brook – may present at Community BBQ	RN	2.3
1.3	NS to prepare a presentation on the proposed Management Plan of Broke Road subsidence repairs	NS	3.3
1.4	RN will evaluate noise data from 2008 from all 8 noise monitors and release data to CCC	RN	5.1
1.5	NS to look into the conservation/heritage areas to ensure that all sites are listed.	NS	6.1
1.6	RN to chase up gas pipeline with Xstrata Coal NSW (XCN) that will go through Bulga village. SM wants to make sure that it won't go under properties.	RN	6.2
1.7	AH to chase up with Rod Cooper and ask him to contact SM to discuss the pipeline.	AH	6.2
1.8	NS will provide a thorough update on Charlton Road at the next CCC Meeting	NS	6.3
1.9	RN to have final blast fume investigation sent to CCC Members..	RN	6.4
2.0	RN to include discussion on final blast fume report at the next CCC meeting	RN	6.4

The Chairperson called for the Minutes from previous meeting be moved as a true and correct record – RN seconded AH – (Minutes moved at 1:25pm following the meeting)

Actions Arising from Previous Meeting:

AH read through actions and all Committee Members were satisfied that all actions had been met.

Meeting Closed at 1:25pm

Please Note:

Please respond with any changes or corrections within 7 days.

Final minutes will be produced and distributed in 14 days from the date of this meeting.