



## Bulga Complex CCC Meeting

31 October 2011

Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room

Present: Terry Everett (TE), Helen Sharrock (HS), Stewart Mitchell (SM), Ben Harrison (BH), Brian Thomas (BT), Bruce Devonport (BD), Gary Boland (GB), Bret Jenkins (BJ); Ned Stephenson (NS), Ralph Northey (RN), Nathan Lane (NL), Paul Amidy (PA), Steve Shoosmith (SS), Trescinda French (TF)

Apologies: Alison Howlett (AH), Bruce Russell (BR)

Chairperson: Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)

Meeting opened: 9.07am

Meeting closed: 12.04pm

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: Brian Thomas: Son currently employed at Bulga Mine

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### 1. Previous minutes

The previous minutes were moved as true and correct by BT and seconded by TE. SM noted the incorrect spelling of Mount Leonard in the previous minutes.

### Actions arising from the last meeting

**Item 1:** RN spoke with Stewart Ewen regarding the spike in piezometer data in question. There was nothing untoward.

**Item 2:** PA updated SM on the location of the real time noise monitor at Mt Leonard.

**Item 3:** RN indicated that the level of consultation presently includes community barbeques, one on one consultation and focus groups. Our contact details are advertised in the Cockfigher newsletter.

GA Asked whether the results of meetings were taken back to the community. RN said Bulga is keen to put the CCC member contact details on the web as well as minutes of the meeting.

SM Suggested educating the community about using our website at the next community barbeque.

**Item 4:** PA said that additional blast signage has been ordered. The signs will appear on the corner of Broke and Charlton Roads and Broke and Putty Road indicating an alternate route if there are delays due to blasting.

SM Asked about the findings of the blast health study? PA said we have the study and it needs to be reviewed. There is no significant community risk from 13 blasts. The study will be distributed to CCC members at the end of November. **ACTION**

SM Asked whether calculations are done so that plumes do not leave mine property. PA said the weather station is checked on the website prior to blasting.

## **1. Presentation from Bulga Underground Operations on 2011 Activities**

- NS Gave an overview of the Bulga Underground Operations for 2011
- NL Gave an overview of works on the McInerney property which was subsided last year.
- NS Gave an overview on the installation of wells and bores on private property - Talgarth Farm and Hungerfords (pre drainage for Longwall 7 and 8). NS provided an overview of the visual and noise screening for both properties. It was noted that some dewatering bores will be in place for life of mine. The dewatering bores are not in the alluvials.
- NS Said that vertical wells on the Johnstone property (mine owned land) may be required
- NS Recent angle drilling on Cobcroft Road included real time monitoring due to proximity to the community. There were significant delays while the mine adhered to consent levels. Immediate neighbours entered into compensation agreements.
- There was a discussion about the power station being connected to the grid. NS noted the 9MW will be used on site for internal use. The 30MW station will be the same situation – however any surplus above the mine requirements may be supplied to the grid.
- NS Gave an update on rehabilitation. The focus has been on visual screening, Talgarth Farm, River Red Gum planting and exposed areas. It was noted that there has been 27 hectares of River Red Gum planting in total.
- NS Gave an update on erosion and sediment control.
- NS Outlined the application for approval for Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) for Longwalls 7, 8 and 9. Longwalls 7 and 8 are partly under Commonwealth land. The application should be lodged in November.
- It was noted that 1700m, almost half longwall panel 1 was mined. Longwall 1 is sealed from the rest of the mine and has an inert atmosphere. Real time monitoring is in place at the seals. The surface is inspected and any cracks are remediated. There are no plans at this stage to complete longwall 1. The intention is to commence longwall 2 early to mid-2012 instead.
- NS Outlined the application for modification to the development consent for Blakefield North.
- SM Asked about whether the dewatering wells on Bird property requires water licences. RN said yes, the water comes from the mine (coal seam water) and goes back to the mine. The water is saline and of poor quality. The bores produce around 300 – 400ML per year. Excess water is used by the open cut as the underground doesn't have discharge points.
- RN Gave an overview on community projects including History of Broke, sponsorships, Corporate Social Involvement program and the Bulga complex website.

## **2. Presentation from Bulga Coal on 2011 Activities**

- PA Gave an overview of the Surface Operations including YTD performance, complaints and incidents. Main issues were dust, noise, blast, visual.
- PA Gave an overview of the recent tailings incident, response and actions. An update will be provided to the CCC at the next meeting.
- PA Gave an overview on noise management.
- PA Gave an overview on dust and the dust implementation program (new water carts, surveillance cameras, real time monitoring, suppressants). There are increased inspections from government.
- PA Gave an overview on water and erosion and sediment control management.

- PA Gave an overview on training aimed at increasing awareness of environment and community issues for all staff.
- PA Gave an overview on site landscaping projects, including use of compost blanket.
- SS Gave an overview on rehabilitation. A significant program of self-review, industry base-learning and scientific assessment was undertaken to determine how Bulga can achieve an improved rehabilitation outcome.
- SS Gave an overview on hydrocarbon management.

### 3. Bulga Coal Optimisation Project

- GB Gave an overview of Bulga Coal Optimisation Project. The CCC were handed the feedback newsletter response from previous consultation.
- BJ Gave an overview of stakeholder consultation. There will be a series of workshops and information sessions to address key issues and the Community Visioning program.
- SM Expressed doubts about the effectiveness of bund wall for noise mitigation. BJ indicated that noise is difficult to interpret. BJ noted workshops on noise and dust will be held in late November where a modeller will be available for questions.
- PA Noted the Whybrow spoil is similar to the proposed noise bund in its ability to reduce the amount of noise leaving the pit. GB said the challenge is in building the bund, staying within consent conditions during construction. It was noted that the location of the bund can't be further north due to Warkworth Sands ecological community.

### 4. General Business

- TE On 15 September as he drove along Broke Road, a blast resulted in huge plume of dust and chemicals limiting capacity to drive.
- PA The pre-blast weather check was OK, but after the blast the wind changed direction. It was noted that Bulga Coal needs to better manage the blasting aspects. PA will look into this blast.  
**ACTION**
- HS Noted the clean up on Broke Road is impressive.
- BH Will come to meetings for specific issues, won't attend every meeting.
- GA The possibility of a mine tour at the 2nd meeting in 2012 will be discussed at the next CCC meeting.

#### Actions from this meeting

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	SM	Distribute health study from blasting to CCC members	PA	Actions from previous meeting
2	TE	Look into blast from 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	PA	General Business

**Next meeting scheduled for May 2012**