

# BULGA COAL

A  
GLENCORE  
MANAGED OPERATION

## Bulga Complex CCC Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Bulga Coal Administration Meeting Room

Present: Stewart Mitchell (SM), John Krey (JK), Ben Harrison (BH), Helen Sharrock (HS), Paul Amidy (PA), Tom Scott (TS), Lucy Stuart (LS) Ned Stephenson (NS), Ralph Northey (RN), Scott Wolfenden (SW), Teegan Hayward (TH)

Apologies: Terry Everett, Monique Meyer

Chairperson Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA)

Meeting opened: 9.15am

Meeting closed: 11.39am

Declaration of pecuniary interest: none

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### Previous minutes

The previous minutes were moved as true and correct by SM and seconded by RN.

### Actions arising from the previous meeting

**Item 1:** Follow up with Mark Ihlein at Council regarding John Krey's appointment on the CCC

JK has received a letter from Singleton Council advising of his appointment

**Item 2:** In the AEMR, table 5.1 on page 80 and table 5.8 on page 90 will be amended and appendicised to the AEMR

PA We have amended the rehabilitation table. The table now shows the correct figures for 2012 and 2013. The 2<sup>nd</sup> table referenced incorrect numbers from the Mine Operating plan (MOP). We have been working through new figures in MOP with DRE and Planning. We will send the amended rehabilitation table to CCC. **ACTION**

**Item 3:** Consider adding PM2.5 monitor to the existing PM10 monitor in Bulga

SW We have budgeted to add a PM2.5 monitor to the existing monitor in our 2014 budget.

#### 1. Presentation by Ben Harrison, Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DOPI)

BH Updated the committee on the areas covered by DOPI and resources in the Singleton office.

Gave an overview of dust performance in 2012 and 2013. It was noted that 97% of blasts have minimal fume.

Discussed the biodiversity offset review, DOPI are looking at goals for offset areas and will monitor against that. There was a discussion around bushfire management in offset areas.

Gave an overview of complaints management, noise is the main issue.

DOPI's main activities have been giving feedback to community regarding concerns, reviewing management plans – continual improvement; fines; prosecution.

- BH Mentioned the outcomes of the annual site visit to Bulga Complex with DOPI and DRE. RN noted these outcomes will be reported in the AEMR.
- JK There is some confusion between EPA and DOPI. How did you work with EPA?
- BH Mines have development consent and EPL conditions which are imposed under different legislation. The EPA is doing a lot of work around dust and PRP. DOPI will continue to work with these agencies. DOPI recognised the need for an increased focus on compliance which has resulted in the employment of Singleton-based compliance officers.
- SM Said the EPA used to have someone based in Broke many years ago who was not replaced and believed the position had been let go. There was discussion around resourcing.
- PA Said the EPA are adding more officers on the ground. RN said there had been a change within the EPA due to community pressure.
- HS Can we have a copy of the presentation attached to the minutes? BH to take the photos out of the presentation and re-send. **ACTION**
- SM Have you noticed improvement in plume management? BH wasn't sure what the rates were, but generally had seen an improvement in plume management. SM asked whether it was related to explosives quality. RN said that there is a heightened focus on blast management. PA: If we get a plume we do a full incident report and go back to supplier, who we are making more accountable. SM noted there were no plumes prior to 20 years ago. It will be interesting to see if there has been an improvement in the figures of blast plume and how that has been achieved. BH: There will be another round of data next year.
- SM The community wants to know that what is coming out of those plumes is not dangerous to their health. RN: We are working to prevent the generation of plume.

## 2. Presentation from Bulga Underground – Ned Stephenson

- NS Gave an overview of mining for 2013, undermining private properties, roads, power lines, water, PID, Telstra optic fibre; soil stabilisation through drainage lines.
- Exploration drilling planned for 2013 will continue into next year. Holes planned are for fault delineation; geotechnical holes, gas drainage, roadways and conveyors for the North Blakefield mine plan. There is no infrastructure associated with these holes and we have tried to avoid private land where we can.
- SM Why is there a concentration of holes in certain areas? NS: fault delineation, i.e. how wide the fault zones are at different depths, and where the faulting has occurred so they can design the underground workings to accommodate changes in rock strength, also looking for planned mines underneath the Blakefield seam. We may not need as many holes as predicted if we get enough information.
- JK: How deep do you go? NS: most are only around 300-350m but some go as far as 420-450m. The depth is determined by the seams we are planning to mine until 2031. It is important to understand the composition of the coal seams as gas from a seam underneath where we are actively mining may enter the seam above during the mining process.

- NS: Gave an overview of undermining Broke Road. Broke Road subsidence is around 1.5-1.9m as it hasn't been mined before. South Bulga colliery mined either side of the road. Charlton Road has been mined before so the surface effects from subsidence are more.
- NS: Gave an overview of the observed and predicted subsidence. There was a general discussion about measurement of subsidence - observed and predicted tilts, strains and subsidence.
- JK: Asked if there is long term settlement. RN: Within a fortnight you get about 90% of subsidence, 98% within the first few months. The rate at which the subsidence occurs is also influenced by the rate of mining.
- NS: Gave an overview of works in drainage line beside Charlton Road. We are currently cutting a drain on our own land; we have done this before from the South Bulga mine and for the Blakefield seam at Longwall 1.
- NS: Gave an approvals update. Subsidence Management Plan for longwalls 7-9 has been approved. Blakefield North DA modification has been approved and has requirements for a few new management plans.
- NS: Gave an update on sustainable development statistics for 2013. 3 minor incidents, no complaints, environmental monitoring year to date reports for surface water, ground water, air quality and noise emissions are compliant.
- NS: Mentioned that the underground Mine Operations Plan (MOP) is up for review late 2014. But because of the recent DA modification the MOP is being reviewed ahead of time. During the update we are working with the open cut to make sure the boundaries match, and with the DRE who have new guidelines. The MOP will form the basis of what we report on rehabilitation in the AEMR.
- GA: Asked BUO whether JK could go underground if he was interested. NS: just need 4 weeks' notice to put it into the mine plan.

### **3. Presentation from Bulga Open Cut – Paul Amidy**

- PA: Gave an overview of current mining and rehabilitation. HS: what about terracing? It has been successful at Boggabri. PA: We are trialling no contours on the North West corner and we are disappointed with results.
- PA: Discussed dumping on Mt Thorley land and working together to form a common landform between the boundaries.
- SM: Have you lost some rehabilitated ground? PA: we have stripped about 20 hectares which we are using on our current rehabilitation. This will be included in next year's AEMR. RN: we are keeping our footprint low and creating a natural landform.
- SM: Are you moving spoil 3 times, is that economical? There was a discussion about moving the spoil and final void.
- JK: Is your rehabilitation based on getting grass down or more focus on ecological outcomes. PA explained that we are trying to maintain stability and move towards our closure plan.

Working towards a sustainable outcome. This year the seed mix has been readjusted more towards our closure plan.

- PA: Gave an overview of past and planned rehabilitation.
- PA: Gave an update on the real time environmental monitoring system. PA: Happy to take JK and HS to our dispatch centre. PA discussed forecasting with weather conditions and how this is integrated into mine planning.
- PA: Gave an overview of dust management, surveillance cameras.
- PA: Gave an overview of PM10 results, can show the PM 2.5 results if the CCC are interested.
- PA Updated on sustainable development statistics for 2013: 15 complaints year to date with 3 months complaint free
- PA: Gave an overview of approvals: Western Limits modification is approved; Mt Thorley Warkworth MOP /common boundary rehabilitation agreement is approved; Mt Thorley Warkworth Ramp 22 dam – awaiting final approval; EPL variation discharge limit – awaiting approval; MOP is being updated.

There was a discussion about Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme, salt credits and discharge.

#### 4. Overview of Bulga Optimisation Project - Ralph Northey

- RN Gave an overview of the revised and amended project including predicted noise and dust results.
- JK When will you receive the Director's General report? RN explained that there were a few options regarding the potential approval process and that he did not believe DOPI had provided clarification on the proposed process yet. The CCC will be informed of the process once it has been clarified by DOPI. **ACTION**
- SM Why didn't the revised project go on public exhibition? RN: believed DOPI decided not to put the revised and amended project on public exhibition (made available for the community to make submissions) as the revised and amended Project was largely consistent with the application and that the overall impacts were consistent or less. It should be noted that the "Response to Submission and Revised and Amended Project Application Assessment" is available on the DOPI and Bulga Coal websites.
- HS: Said she was pleased to see a reduction in impacts, especially protecting Warkworth Sands, Charlton Road and adding offsets.
- SM: The PAC will be looking at objections to a different proposal. As per the action above, RN to get back to the CCC on the approvals process for the revised project.
- TH: Gave an overview of the community engagement for 2013

## 5. General Business

- SM: What are you doing with Dargins Farm? PA: It is managed by Colinta; the houses are leased to Colinta employees. Colinta is owned by Glencore.
- SM: Warkworth Mine has a water discharge point via Doctors Gully to Loders Creek through Dargins Farm. Clarify Bulga and Coal and Allied's Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme's discharge and monitoring points on Loders Creek and report back to CCC. **ACTION**
- JK: Asked about ploughing activity on Charlton Road. LS: tree screening in preparation for Blakefield North.
- JK: Could an alternate CCC member be considered if one of the CCC members cannot make the meeting. There was another applicant for the position so perhaps that person could be the alternate. GA will look into using alternates. **ACTION**

The meeting was followed by a tour to the Bulga Coal Handling and Preparation Plant for interested CCC members.

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	SM	Send the amended table (Table 5.1) from the AEMR to the CCC – <i>ATTACHED</i>	PA	Previous minutes
2	HS	Provide a copy of the Department of Planning presentation with the minutes – <i>ATTACHED</i>	TH	1
3	JK	Clarify the approvals process for the Bulga Optimisation Project to the CCC – <i>SEE COVERING LETTER</i>	RN	4
4	SM	Clarify Bulga and Coal and Allied's Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme's discharge and monitoring points on Loders Creek and report back to CCC	PA	General business
5	JK	Look into use of alternate members of the CCC	GA	General business

Next meeting; **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014** at 9am at the Bulga Open Cut Administration Building.