



Bulga Complex CCC Meeting

5th June 2013

Bulga Complex Administration Meeting Room

Present: Terry Everett (TE), Stewart Mitchell (SM), Ralph Northey (RN), Ned Stephenson (NS), Paul Amidy (PA), Scott Wolfenden (SW), Martin Salm (MS), Lucy Stuart (LS), Tim Walls (TW), Teegan Hayward (TH)

Apologies: Godfrey Adamthwaite, Helen Sharrock, John Krey, Monique Meyer, Ben Harrison

Chairperson: Hollee Jenkins (HJ)

Meeting opened: 9.26am

Meeting closed: 11.03am

Declaration of pecuniary interest: none

1. Previous minutes

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

Actions arising from the last meeting

Item 1: Provide a correlation between noise complaints and temperature inversions at the time of complaint

SW Prepared graphs from the data to identify any trends between wind speed and air temperature against complaints. It was noted there is no correlation between weather conditions and complaints.

SM We believe that the noise levels are more noticeable during temperature inversions, why aren't inversions included in the graphs?

PA Noted most complaints are during temperature inversions. PA said that compliance monitoring eliminates inversions but our real time monitoring take inversions into consideration.

Item 2: Investigate making the interactive final landform model publicly available

TH said the staged landform video files were currently being looked at for suitability for the Bulga website. The viewing frame was quite small which made the text difficult to read. Increasing the size of the frame was being considered by the IT team.

Item 3: Consider distributing the plants and animal identification booklet to local tourist accommodation

NS We considered this option but we did not have enough of the books printed to place into tourist accommodation. When we re-print or update the book, we will consider getting extra copies for the local accommodation houses, unless cost prohibitive.

Item 4: Check DOPI/EPA guidelines for sensitive receptors for depositional dust

RN We have depositional gauges within our mining lease that are not near sensitive receptors on Broke Road. A public road is not considered a sensitive receptor for depositional dust.

- SW We manage dust from our operation before visible dust comes across Broke Road and close roads when the blasting potentially impacts on the road.
- PA There is an increased awareness for impacts on the road, especially blasting and the frequency that the road is closed has increased. The early warning dust units will let us know of increased dust levels in the pit which we will manage.

Item 5: Advertise to replace Bruce Russell on the CCC

- RN The position has been filled by John Krey from Bulga.
HJ to follow up with Mark Ihlein at Council regarding John Krey's appointment on the CCC.
ACTION

Item 6: Distribute health study from blasting to CCC members

- PA The summary report was distributed via email.

1. Presentation from the Bulga Open Cut on 2012 Annual Environmental Management Report

- PA Gave an overview of the open cut operations for 2012 including mining, rehabilitation and run of mine production
- PA Gave an overview of incidents and complaints from 2012. There were 59 complaints during 2012 of which 25 were for noise, 22 for blasting, 7 for lighting, 3 for dust and 2 others. 55% of complaints came from 7 individuals. There is no real trend as to where they are located geographically.
- PA Gave an overview of the approvals – DA approval for Western Limit; Mt Thorley Mining Operations Plan and Ramp 22 dam modification; and EPL variation discharge limit application. PA said the ecological assessment of Nine Mile Creek is underway for the EPL Variation Discharge Limit application.
- SW Gave a summary of dust results from 2012. All within annual average criteria, except for E1 (Between Coal Handling and Preparation Plant boundary and Army boundary at back of the surge dam), H1B (core shed) and Broke Hall. Internal investigations were undertaken for each. E1 is located next to an army unsealed access road so the reading may have been influenced by army vehicles along that road. We are looking to relocate the monitor as there are no sensitive receptors. Broke Hall monitor is a due diligence monitor; the elevated reading showed a localised impact as other receptors did not record elevated levels at the time. We are engaging an air quality consultant to review the data recorded at the H1B High Volume Air Sampler during 2012.
- SW Gave an overview of dust management strategies. New water carts, shut operation down due to challenging weather conditions. The graph shows the number of times we have shut down equipment to minimise dust which is available on our website.
PA mentioned the graphs re-emphasise that we do shut down the operations like we say we do.
- PA Gave an overview of noise management for 2012. Two noise exceedances: 20 March and 13 December. No non compliances. PA mentioned the real time monitoring is what we use to manage the operations. PA explained the graph that shows the number of times we shut down equipment for noise.
- PA Provided an overview of rehabilitation for 2012. 33 hectares of primary rehabilitation is planned for this year.
- SM Referred to the table on page 80 of AEMR: total disturbed area is 1423 hectares and total rehab was 60 hectares – that's not a very big percentage compared with disturbed. PA

- pointed out that most of the disturbance area is active mining area. PA noted an incorrect number in the table on page 80.
- SM Referred to the table on page 93 and the predicted disturbed area figure. PA noted the figure is incorrect as it refers to the wrong Mining Operations Plan (MOP) figures. Table 5.1 on page 80 and table 5.8 on page 90 will be amended and appendicised to the AEMR. **ACTION**
- TE Asked if the intention is to move the monitor at Broke Hall. RN: it doesn't meet the Australian standards where it is. RN noted it would be pulled out and we will use the existing Hill Street monitor.
- SM Asked whether the PM2.5 monitor is your own? SM said the community is generally concerned about PM2.5, have you considered putting a PM2.5 monitor at Bulga? SM noted it would be nice to know what is landing in the community. Consider adding PM2.5 monitor to the existing PM10 monitor in Bulga. **ACTION**
- RN mentioned the air quality meeting held by Department of Health, EPA, DPI and the community in Singleton last week where they noted the results of a study into the composition of PM2.5 particles would become available to community later in the year. We are looking to review longer term dust trends with an independent consultant and will consider adding PM2.5 to the data. The health department is assessing health impacts.

2. Presentation from Bulga Underground on 2012 Annual Environmental Management Report

- NS Gave an overview of mining in 2012. BUO recommenced mining in May due to fire in 2011. The main focus was undermining a small section of private land, Charlton Road and mine owned land.
- NS Gave an overview of visual mitigation, drilling on private land, using visual and noise barriers around the wells. Rehabilitation is undertaken very quickly. NS showed visual screening that has been applied to gas wells on the Hungerford property.
- NS Gave an overview of subsidence in 2012 which included Charlton Road, optic fibre, and powerpoles. Observed subsidence was within predications with average subsidence of 85%.
- SM Why is the dewatering bore on Talgarth Farm? NS: the bore draws water that is released by the coal seam being mined. As we mine uphill, we need to take the water out. The water drawn is reused by underground machinery for dust control. Water not reused then reports to the mine water system at the surface operations. The underground does not import water from the Hunter River.
- SM Asked if the dark blue on the map was ponding on Charlton Road. NS: dark blue is earthworks associated with reinstating the southern drainage line so it will be free flowing after longwall 1 subsidence. We will need to do similar work for longwall 3 this year to make it wider and deeper.
- SM Asked why the subsidence on Broke Road is not as obvious as Charlton Road. NS: Broke Road is on the chain pillar from the South Bulga workings, therefore this is the first time we've undermined the Broke Road. Also Broke Road is undermined at an oblique angle so it appears to subside slowly compared to Charlton Road which is mined almost perpendicular to the road so it subsides faster. Also there are only temporary repairs on Charlton Road; the re-profiling of the road is still yet to happen after further mining of Charlton Road.
- NS Charlton Road subsidence is very slow at only 5-10mm per hour. Our management actions and monitoring programmes are all designed to cope with the prediction for maximum subsidence.
- NS Gave an overview of incidents and complaints. Three complaints: two for noise due to surface infrastructure construction, 1 lighting complaint.

- NS Gave an overview of permits and approvals. Blakefield South Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) 7, 8 and 9; Blakefield North DA modification have both been submitted to government; Blakefield North SMP 1-7 will commence assessments in 2014.
- NS Provided an overview of planned activities for 2013. Mining under Broke Road twice, Charlton Road once, powerlines, pipelines and Telstra assets. Expect to mine under Charlton Road by September and Broke Road by November. Gas drainage for post mining longwall 3 will be installed this year. Exploration drilling for Blakefield North mine plan will also be conducted. The exploration program will extend into next year. The BUO Mining Operations Plan (MOP) is due for renewal next year so will bring forward to this year, in line with the Blakefield North modification, and it will see us out until 2020.
- SM Asked about the exploration drilling clusters on the map. NS said they are fault delineation holes as we need to clarify what is happening in the lower seams. Others are for gas coal reserves and future underground conveyors.
- SM What is a typical separation of a seam? NS: the biggest was around 10 metres, the rest are around 2 metres, and they vary.

Bulga Optimisation Project update

- TW Gave an overview of the Bulga Optimisation Project - mining an additional 200MT of coal until 2035. We finalised the technical studies for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the end of last year. We held noise sessions for people in management zone and open sessions at Broke and Bulga Halls. We produced a summary EIS document and distributed it to letterboxes in Bulga, Broke and Milbrodale.
- TW The EIS went on display on the 3rd May for 6 weeks, closing 14th June. The community can contact us at any time for information on the EIS. There are opportunities to make a submission on the Department of Planning website.

General Business

- SM Referred to the AEMR and stream flows in the Wollombi Brook on page 45. RN said there is no measureable impact on the alluvial aquifers. We measure at two stream gauging stations and compare the readings.
- SM There are tributaries feeding into the Wollombi Brook between the two stations, where are the other inflows if the readings are the same? RN: We make the comparison between stream flow recessions between Paynes Crossing and Wollombi Brook at the stream gauging stations. It is a broad assessment.
- SM Asked whether we experience inflows into our workings in high rainfall times. RN: Not from the Wollombi Brook but there has been an occasion when a small amount of surface water intercepted shallow depth of cover subsidence cracks which created a small puddle in the underground workings.
- SM Do you invite government representatives to attend the CCC? RN: they are on the invitation list. The Department of Industry and Investment and Department of Planning were on site yesterday at an annual review presentation and site tour. PA: Ben Harrison indicated he would come to a CCC meeting once a year.

The meeting was followed by a tour to the Bulga Open Cut control room.

Item	Raised by	Action	Responsibility	Item No.
1	HJ	Follow up with Mark Ihlein at Council regarding John Krey's appointment on the CCC	HJ	Previous minutes
2	SM	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	1
3	SM	Consider adding PM2.5 monitor to the existing PM10 monitor in Bulga	SW	1

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 30th October 2013 – 9am – 1pm