



BENGALLA MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Minutes of Meeting No. 86

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Board Room

Date: Wednesday 27th May 2009

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Karen Portolan	Councillor/Chairperson
Colin Bates	CCC member
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Andrea Sutton	Bengalla Mining Company (General Manager)
Craig Ypinazar	Bengalla Mining Company (Services Manager)
Sharon Green	Bengalla Mining Company (Environmental Specialist)
Debbie Day	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations)

Meeting opened: 4.10pm

1. APOLOGIES:

Malcolm Ogg Councillor/ Deputy Chairperson
Kevin Lecky CCC member

Apologies moved: Colin Bates

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved Colin Bates with amendments

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNARY INTEREST

Nil

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

All actions from previous meeting have been completed.

- An action from the previous meeting was to invite a staff member from the Technical Services department to inform the Committee on blasting procedures and requirements at Bengalla. Tony Davis, Mine Manager joined the meeting and provided a presentation on blasting at Bengalla.

Status: Completed

5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Colin Bates advised that the February minutes had been misreported by the quote “he felt he had seen evidence of practices in the mine” and also “Tipping of overburden in southerly winds”

. Colin required a stronger reporting of his comments on dust and requested an amendment.

“Colin said that he had seen evidence of practices in the mine”. Decision made to amend February minutes and reissue with these minutes.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from NSW Department of Planning dated 14 April 2009 confirming Director General's approval of appointment of new Community Consultative Committee members.

7. CCC MEMBERSHIP

- Clarity required on whether all Committee roles have been filled. Bengalla to confirm development consent requirements for members of the Community Consultative Committee.

8. MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental Review was presented by Sharon Green, Bengalla Environmental Specialist.

- Water Use graph presented which showed very low rainfall in May.
- Water management
 - Installation of seven additional bores at Wantana Pit to help measure effect from Wantana and to assess water levels in the alluvial soils.
- Air Quality –
 - One PM10 exceedance of the short term impact assessment criteria occurred on the 1st March which was the day prior to the red dust storm.
- Noise Management
 - Extensive noise modelling or monitoring work completed in Q1 2009;
 - Purchase of new noise monitor for Racecourse area;
 - Monitoring completed in Q1;
 - Additional monitoring carried out on Link Road to assess potential construction noise;
 - Risk assessment and additional monitoring for night work on ROM;
 - New ROM under construction has been built with a sand liner to reduce vibration and noise;
 - Quarterly noise monitoring data provided;
 - In general Bengalla has received less noise complaints;
 - Environmental Department working with Production Department to ensure noise impacts are kept to minimum in mining of Wantana and infill of old ROM.
- Blasting
 - 53 blasts year to date
 - Maximum over pressure at end of April was 112.9 (dBA);
 - Blasts > 1.8mm/s related to Vaux shots in the south of the pit with elevated results obtained from the Edinglassie blast monitor;
 - Awareness of community concern when blasting Vaux shots as they are large shots.
- Greenhouse and Energy

- Bengalla tracks both greenhouse emissions and energy use.
- Rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation target for 2009 is 10 hectares. 3.7 hectares has been shaped and Bengalla will trial the use of biosolids on the area when completing the rehabilitation
- Environmental Incidents
 - 14 environmental incidents since February, 13 of which were related to hydrocarbon spills, one related to incorrect implementation of procedures and six >100 litre spills which have been subject to detailed investigation;
 - Two serious incidents were discussed in detail being the out-of-pit refueller and, secondly, a hose failure on Excavator 1.
- Community Concerns:
 - 17 complaints year to date;
 - 2009 target is <43 which is lowest target since commencement of operation;
 - 12 complaints during reporting period – 8 related to blasting; 2 related to dust and 2 related to noise;
 - Noise complaints came from Roxburgh area, noise was investigated however the source was unable to be determined;
 - Encouraging community to use complaints hotline rather than call Bengalla direct so that an immediate response can be actioned.
 - Craig Flemming noted that complaints do not necessarily reflect blasting monitoring data;
 - 11 monitors positioned around site. Any complainant is offered data from the relevant blast;
 - Blast monitors are stationary and generally not relocated;
 - Col Bates noted that blasting concerns from neighbours was understandable as it is their home that is affected;
 - 2008 data showed an increase in complaints from Muswellbrook and Roxburgh Road. In 2009 complaints have increased from Roxburgh Road area;
 - Karen Portolan requested additional information in relation to complaint received on 15 April from Racecourse Road.
- Environmental Projects
 - Construction of new bioremediation farm;
 - Decommissioning of old in-pit refueller which is located in old ROM area
 - Commissioning of new in-pit refueller;
 - Energy efficiency workshop to assist with new Government reporting requirements;
 - 2009 tree planting program commenced;
 - ClimateCam program commenced with Bengalla sponsoring two schools. Sharon to present on ClimateCam program at next meeting.

9. COMMUNITY REPORT

- Debbie Day presented the slides outlining Bengalla's community involvement between March 2009 and May 2009;
- A number of events were supported by Bengalla over the reporting period including Bursting with Energy, Denman Food and Wine Affair, Black Coal Cup Ball, Muswellbrook Poultry Club, Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod and others;
- It was noted that Coal & Allied Community Trust had made a further commitment of funds for three years;
- The Aboriginal Development Consultative committee had supported four projects in the period;
- Muswellbrook Shire counsellors and staff visited Bengalla in April;
- The Bengalla Community Support team provided support to numerous community groups and organisations over period;
- Upcoming events for Bengalla are the Bengalla Family Day on 4 July; Kids to Kangaroos Junior Development Clinic in July as well as continuation of near neighbour visits;
- Colin Bates raised discussion on a viewing area for community to view a mine. Andrea Sutton advised that Bengalla did not have an area off the mining lease where a viewing area could be set up. Andrea also advised that Hunter Valley Operations did have a view area which looked over part of the operation.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Craig Flemming requested his name replace Chris Gidney as the Council contact on the CCC Newsletter;
- Karen Portolan requested an article be inserted in the May CCC newsletter on the Eisteddfod focussing on the instrumental section and Bengalla's support. It was acknowledged that to include this article the Bengalla Projects articles would need to be reduced.

11. CCC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Koala population at Muswellbrook;
- ClimateCam.

12. 2009 MEETING DATES

Wednesday 26th August
Wednesday 25th November

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation Slides

Meeting closed at 6.20pm

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 86– Wednesday 27th May 2009

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1.	February minutes to be amended and reissued with May minutes	Debbie Day
2.	Blasting guidebook to be provided to Craig Flemming	Environment
3.	Bengalla to confirm development consent requirements for members of the Community Consultative Committee.	Environment
4.	ClimateCam programme to be presented at next meeting	Environment
5.	Craig Flemming requested his name replace Chris Gidney as the Council contact on the CCC Newsletter	Debbie Day
6.	Article on Eisteddfod to be included in May CCC newsletter	Debbie Day