



BENGALLA MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Minutes of Meeting No. 88

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Board Room

Date: Wednesday 25 November 2009

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Karen Portolan	Councillor/Chairperson
Colin Bates	CCC member
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: 4.20pm

1. APOLOGIES:

Malcolm Ogg	Councillor/ Deputy Chairperson
Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Kevin Lecky	CCC member

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved:	Colin Bates
Seconded:	Sharon Green

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNARY INTEREST

Nil

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- February minutes reissued.
- At the previous meeting Bengalla advised that the new bioremediation farm was now in operation. Craig Flemming advised that under SEPP 55 Bengalla is required to notify Council of any Category 1 remediation. Bengalla has been discussing this with Craig Flemming over the three month period since the last meeting. Bengalla's initial advice is that mining consent approvals cover this requirement and Bengalla is not required to register with Council but Bengalla is confirming. Bengalla will continue to liaise with Craig Flemming.

5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 13 October 2009 – Letter from Muswellbrook Shire Council re: Guidelines for the operation of Community Consultative Committees.
- 12 November 2009 – Letter from NSW Office of Water re: Bengalla's updated Water Management Plan.

7. MONITORING RESULTS

Environmental monitoring review was presented by Sharon Green, Bengalla Environmental Specialist.

- Water Use:
 - Water on site has been depleted due to dry weather and will now need to take from the Hunter River. The staged discharge dam which is the main site water storage is at 5% capacity. Expecting, over the next few months of summer to withdraw from the Hunter River approx. 90 – 100ML per month.
 - For the current water year commencing 1 July Bengalla has only used 183ML of its 1000ML licence.
- Air Quality –
 - Air quality graphs were presented.
 - Significant change in wind direction back to summer wind with more wind coming from the south south east.
 - Bengalla received a couple of isolated elevated dust readings which are being investigated.
 - High volume air sampling & PM10 results are meeting long term criteria.
 - August and September saw extremely windy weather which caused a large proportion of pit down time. The first control is to move out of exposed areas - to stop dumping on top of the dump and ROM infill and move down to less exposed areas and if dust still cannot be controlled operation is stopped in the area. The dragline's first response to dust is to drop the bucket so that it does not throw as high or change the swing or move slower. If dust still cannot be controlled the dragline is stopped.
 - On day of dust storm on 23 September (which was recorded as worst dust storm seen in Sydney in 70 years) pit was shut down due to health and safety reasons.
- Noise Management
 - Slides on Noise Monitoring Q3 and Noise Management Overview presented.
 - Extensive work carried out on noise monitoring in 2009. Fortnightly attended monitoring is not reported to Government. This monitoring is done to ensure Bengalla understands what noise is being produced on site and to ensure Bengalla is managing noise effectively.
 - Sound Power testing is carried out each year to ensure mobile equipment is running as quietly as it should be. Testing is done on the machines on the flat, an uphill run and down hill run, put to high rev and also loaded and unloaded.
 - In 2009 Bengalla carried out noise monitoring studies on the ROM infill area. Based on that study a number of changes have been made on site to ensure noise is minimised whilst Bengalla fill in the old ROM area.
 - The new ROM was built with a sand skinned lining which has not been used on any other site. Vibration studies were carried out on the old and new ROM with the

report showing that the sand skinned lining has made a positive reduction to noise at the new ROM.

- Waste Management
 - New initiative to raise awareness and encourage people to secure loads in the back of utes and reduce the amount of rubbish on the Bengalla Link Road.
- Rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation of 7 hectares planned for completion in November 2009. An additional three hectares was achieved making 10 hectares for November and a total of 13 hectares for 2009. In 2010, a further 10 hectares is planned for rehabilitation. In 2011 rehabilitation of large areas of the ROM infill areas will commence.
 - Bengalla engaged an agronomist to assist with rehabilitating the south area (10Ha). Recommendations were to remove broad leaf to assist with weed control (specifically galenia), seed to native vegetation and slash south rehab (which mimics grazing).
 - Col Bates enquired whether Bengalla was using the tropical grass Consol lovegrass in its seed mix. Col advised that Consol Lovegrass is a hardy grass and the cattle like it.
- Environmental Incidents
 - Nine environmental incidents had occurred since August, seven of which were related to hydrocarbon spills and the other two being an inconsistency in the environmental monitoring plan and a blast fume event.
 - Two incidents were discussed in detail being:
 - the Oil leak on Excavator 3 where a hose on the hydraulic cooler circuit failed internally causing between 750 to 1000 litres of oil to leak. A taproot investigation has been completed and the root cause found that a hose was scheduled for maintenance in a shutdown prior to the event but due to other critical work Maintenance was unable to change the hose and the shutdown process did not pick up that the hose had not been changed. There was no indication the hose was worn. Shutdown process is being reviewed to ensure work that is scheduled and not completed is not missed in process.
 - An error was found in a monitoring plan approved by Government. The plan contains a table stating that Bengalla operates 11 monitors. Bengalla only has 10 real time blast monitors. Plan to be amended and resubmitted to Government.
- Community Concerns:
 - 44 complaints year to date;
 - Target is < 43.
 - Blasting is appearing to be more of a concern to a different set of residence as we move to the west.
 - Karen enquired whether there were environmental factors that impact on how much vibration travels. Sharon advised that vibration is related to the ground conditions and blast design. Geology is the same therefore ground vibration is not affected by environmental conditions. Overpressure from blasting can be affected by wind speed and direction and therefore can be affected by environmental conditions.
 - The complaint on 28 October was investigated by the environmental department and found no dust coming from the dragline at the time the environment team went offsite to assess.

- Bengalla now has three water carts and hires additional water carts when required. Major maintenance is carried out on the water carts in winter when it is cooler and wetter. In summer the water carts work constantly.
- Bengalla Homestead
 - Sharon provided an update on the work being undertaken at the homestead.
 - The roof has been replaced and drainage works carried out. Fire and security systems have been installed. Regular pest inspections and cleaning.
 - At end of mine life the homestead will be restored for habitation.
- Environmental Projects
 - Tree planting on the Link Road near Wantana
 - Involvement in Energy efficiency opportunity assessments and first set of National Greenhouse energy reporting scheme which will be the basis of Bengalla's emissions for any carbon trading scheme that may be implemented

8 COMMUNITY REPORT

- Debbie Day presented the slides outlining Bengalla's community involvement between September 2009 and November 2009;
- A number of events were supported by Bengalla over the reporting period including Bengalla's Bird watching event, School mock interviews, Black Coal Cup Challenge, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry breakfast at the Coal & Allied office.
- It was noted that Bengalla announced the recipients of the Bengalla Undergraduate Scholarships at the Muswellbrook High School Graduation Dinner. Recipients of the Scholarship for 2009 are Michael Duck, Kate Thornton, Jessie May Hayne & Hannah Rivers. Katie Andrews was the recipient of the scholarship awarded to a Bengalla employee's child.
- Upcoming events for Bengalla are the announcement of the recipient of the Bengalla Engineering Scholarship, the second edition of the Coal & Allied newsletter – Muswellbrook edition, Red Cross Christmas Tree and Wreath display and Integrated Living – Country Fair to celebrate International Disability Day. The new year will see sponsorship of the Muswellbrook Show and Bursting with Energy Expo
- A review of Muswellbrook Council CCC Guidelines took place in November. Karen was asked to bring to the next meeting the new Guidelines marked up so that the committee can see what changes have been made.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Col Bates questioned why there are cattle signs erected on the new Bengalla Link Road. Environment will refer the question to James Davison, for feedback. It was however noted that signage tends to be RTA so that if they designate it as a cattle area then certain parameters need to be met. A second seal on the road needs to be completed before it reverts back to Muswellbrook Council for consideration of the speed limit being increased to 100km/h.
- Committee members were asked to provide any feedback on suggested dates for 2010 committee meetings being:
 - Wednesday 24 February
 - Wednesday 26 May
 - Wednesday 25 August
 - Wednesday 17 November

10. CCC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Dust management
- CPRS/Greenhouse emissions
- Water usage
- Bengalla scholarships
- Community support

11. 2010 MEETING DATES

Wednesday 24 February 2010

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation Slides

Meeting closed at 5.30pm

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 88– Wednesday 25 November 2009

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1.	Cattle signs on Bengalla Link Road – refer to James Davison for feedback at next meeting	Environment
2.	Revised version of Muswellbrook Council CCC Guidelines to be reviewed at next meeting.	K Portolan