



BENGALLA MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Minutes of Meeting No. 89

Location: Bengalla Mining Company Board Room

Date: Wednesday 24 February 2010

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Karen Portolan	Councillor/Chairperson
Malcolm Ogg	Councillor
Craig Flemming	Councillor
Colin Bates	CCC member
Noel Downs	CCC member
Andrea Sutton	Bengalla Mining Company (General Manager)
Sharon Green	Bengalla Mining Company (Environmental Specialist)
Debbie Day	Bengalla Mining Company (Community Relations)

Meeting opened: 4.10pm

1. APOLOGIES:

Kevin Lecky CCC member

Moved: Andrea Sutton

Seconded: Colin Bates

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Sharon Green

Seconded: Colin Bates

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNARY INTEREST

Nil

4. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Cattle signs on new Bengalla Link Road. Sharon Green advised that the signs are standard RTA signs on a new road. It does not necessary mean that the road is going to be used for cattle crossing.
- CCC Guidelines. All members were provided with a copy of the draft revised Guidelines prior to the meeting. Revised pages 9 and 10 of the draft guidelines were provided to the members at the meeting. Karen Portolan advised that the main clarification was the complaint procedures and the role of the committee. In essence if there was a complaint that all CCC's have the same procedures in place and are dealt with in a consistent manner. It is not the CCC's role to get involved in the rectification of those complaints. Part of the guidelines specifies that CCC members be provided with training. Karen advised that if any member would like training to advise Craig Flemming or Karen who will arrange the training. Karen also highlighted the need for communication if any member is planning an extended absence from the committee. Debbie Day to provide to Karen an analysis of changes between the 2005 and the draft revised version of the CCC Guidelines. Committee members to provide comments on the revised CCC Guidelines back to Debbie Day within two weeks following which they will be collated and provided to Karen Portolan

5. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 10 February 2010 – Letter from Muswellbrook Shire Council re: Draft CCC Guidelines for comment.
- 24 February 2010 – Email from Craig Flemming, Muswellbrook Shire Council re: revised pages 9 and 10 of the draft guidelines

7. COMMUNITY REPORT

Debbie Day presented the slides outlining Bengalla's community involvement for the period December 2009 to February 2010.

- A break down of the 2009 Bengalla Community Relations sponsorship was discussed.
- A number of events were supported by Bengalla over the reporting period including local schools (presentation awards), Red Cross Christmas display, Muswellbrook Vegetable Festival. Korean students on exchange with Scone High School visited Bengalla for a mine tour. A tour was also provided to Coal & Allied vacation students.
- It was noted that Bengalla announced the recipient of the Bengalla Engineering Scholarship being Chris Sampson.
- Upcoming events for Bengalla are Upper Hunter Show and Bursting with Energy Expo, MCCI Business Awards, Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair.
- An update was provided to the meeting on the Coal & Allied Community Development Fund and the Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee.

8. MONITORING RESULTS

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

- Water Use:
 - For the current water year commencing 1 July Bengalla has used 474ML of its 1000ML licence.
- Air Quality –
 - Two Bengalla air quality monitors exceeded their long term PM10 criteria being the monitors located at Racecourse Road and St James Primary School. The exceedance was reported to the Department of Environment and Climate Change however to date a response had not been received. An investigation was completed by Bengalla. Whilst Bengalla is seeing an increase in cumulative background dust the focus will remain on those activities that the operation can influence such as reviewing the ability to temporarily seed exposed land and windrows to reduce disturbed areas. The operation is also reviewing the operating guidelines during windy periods and assessment of those guidelines on the overall dust generation. Production and support staff have been briefed to ensure they are aware that everyone is accountable if they see a dust issue.
 - Noel Downs enquired at what height the wind monitoring was carried out.

Craig Flemming joined the meeting.

- Noise Management
 - Slides on Quarter 4 2009 Noise Monitoring were presented.
- Rehabilitation
 - Sharon provided a slide which highlighted the planned rehabilitation areas for 2010 and advised that Bengalla is also looking to do the first lift on the ROM infill. It was acknowledged that due to noise, infill would only occur during daytime only at some periods during the year. It is expected that by the end of 2012 rehabilitation would be completed on the front face.
 - Rehabilitation has been discussed with Muswellbrook Shire Council.
 - A photomontage of the 2012 landscape prepared by consultants was presented.
- Environmental Incidents
 - Nine environmental incidents had occurred in the period between November 2009 and January 2010. Three incidents were reported as a damage with environmental impacts, five incidents related to hydrocarbon spills and four were “other” incidents which included recycled water quality, the PM10 criteria, failure to notify a near neighbour prior to a blast and spontaneous combustion at the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant.
 - A video of the fuel hose (VR300) failure at the out of pit refuelling bay was viewed.
- Community Concerns:
 - 56 complaints were received in 2009 against a target of 43
 - Nil complaints were received in January 2010 and one complaint in February 2010.
 - Noel Downs queried how complaints relate to the same period the previous year. Sharon advised that there is generally no trend, some are related to weather patterns and some are relevant to blasting. Long term, proportionately our dust complaints dropped when we came out of periods of drought. All complaints are reviewed on an annual basis with the management team with the only identifiable trend being blasting complaints during the period where we blast the Vaux seams of the operation.
- Environmental Targets for 2010
 - The Environment department is tracking a number of targets as shown in the slide. New targets include hydrocarbon spills over 100 litres and 500 litres and new greenhouse metrics.
 - Discussion on fugitive coal seam methane. Andrea Sutton reported on the pilot work being carried out at Mount Thorley Warkworth in drilling and coal seam methane testing. On the success of that pilot the plan is to do the work at the other Coal & Allied sites in 2011 and 2012. Mount Thorley Warkworth project is to see how you measure the methane and how it can be harvested. In New South Wales often the seams do not produce enough gas to enable harvesting of the gas.

- Environmental Projects
 - Groundwater studies to understand effect on alluvials.
 - Annual environmental management report.
 - Implementation of a new HSEQ management system.
 - Implementation of a Legal compliance database for environment and approvals.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Outlook reminder to be sent for CCC meetings in 2010.
- CCC members confirmed that they would like a mine tour focussing on rehabilitation. An invitation to be sent to CCC members to attend a mine tour prior to the next meeting.
- Bengalla will hold its Community Open Day on 30 October 2010.

10. CCC NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Denman Little Athletics Club
- Water Studies - Groundwater

11. 2010 MEETING DATES

- Wednesday 26 May
- Wednesday 25 August
- Wednesday 17 November

Attachments:

- Meeting Presentation Slides

Meeting closed at 5.30pm

ACTION LIST

Meeting No. 89– Wednesday 24 February 2010

ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1.	Analysis of revised CCC Guidelines to be provided to Karen Portolan	D Day
2.	Committee members to provide comments on the revised CCC Guidelines back to Debbie Day within two weeks following which they will be collated and provided to Karen Portolan	All committee members D Day
3.	Meeting planners for 2010 CCC meetings to be sent to committee members	D Day
4	Mine tour to be organised prior to May CCC meeting	D Day