

# **Mt Pleasant Project Community Consultative Committee**

## **Meeting Held 07th September 2006**

### **Present:**

Ken Weekes	Chairman – Community Representative
Stephen Sneddon	Coal & Allied Environmental Specialist
Trevor Parkinson	Community Representative
Jim Lonergan	Community Representative
Ebony Duggan	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Richard Bailey	Coal & Allied
Dion Lucke	Coal & Allied

### **Minute Taker:**

Joan Spooner	Hunter Valley Admin
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- 1. Meeting Opened at 1:03 pm:** Chairperson Ken Weekes opened the meeting.
- 2. Emergency Procedures and Housekeeping:** Presented by Ebony Duggan.
- 3. Safety Tip:** When working around equipment be aware of the dangers of wearing jewellery that can be caught up and cause serious injury.
- 4. Apologies:** Chris Gidney, Sam Spicer & Mark Trevan who has retired from the business.
- 5. Declaration of pecuniary interests:** Nil.
- 6. Confirmation of Minutes:** Moved T Parkinson seconded J Lonergan, the minutes of the previous meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be accepted.
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:**  
Nil
- 6. Community Representative Feedback:**  
Ken Weekes - Just a question about the numbering on the gates. Richard Bailey: I will be answering that in the Project update.

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7. **Operations update:** Presented by Richard Bailey.  
Mark Trevan and Andrew Woodcock have both resigned from the business. Mark has gone to a small Coal Mine in Qld this is a real loss for the Mt Pleasant project and the Committee. We wish him well.  
The other members of the project team and our approach to the project remain unchanged. David Lamb will fill in a caretaker role until the General Manager position is filled.

Mt Pleasant is in study phase so it is an important time in the business. The work leading up to March / April 2006 was largely technical in nature considering options for development of the mine. This included both stand alone and integrated options and formed the basis for the pre feasibility study. This work provided the basis on which commercial decisions could be made. Decisions on financial options – integration or stand-alone are not yet resolved.

**Looking Forward:**

The next major phase of the project will require the completion of a full feasibility study, which will involve detailed design for the selected development path.

The Key project milestones are:

- Approval to move to Feasibility for the selected single option.
- Completion of the Feasibility Study.
- Approval for project implementation.

**Continuing Mine Planning Work:**

Drilling program, currently 2 drill rigs on site

1 core rig (core coal samples)

1 Chip rig (open holes for geophysical logging)

On track to date. Drills started in July and will finish mid October.

The drill rigs are a final result, a lot of activity which goes in before the drillers arrive on site.

- Inductions and education about site safety and environmental requirements
- Surveyors set out location of holes
- Archeological survey for artifacts
- Ground disturbance survey for environmental issues
- Close out process
- Managing the process with the local People

The numbers on the gates are to ensure we can give clear directions to people, where to enter and what to look for. This is to control access.

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R Bailey then presented a plan of the area showing the drill points. All the data the geologists collect show the quality, depth & extent of the coal seam.

Dion Lucke gave an update on Marketing, showing current spot prices and contract price long term from 1996. Prices have been good recently, which benefits current producers.

D Lucke also gave an update on the Coal Chain.

- NCIG have released a proposal to build a 3<sup>rd</sup> port, across from the old BHP steel works. This could result in a 66 mtpa upgrade in port capacity but has not yet been approved.

T Parkinson: When will the coal terminal be built? D Lucke: Timing will be dependent on progress on the EA and demand. There is also an investment decision to be made by NCIG. It may never happen.

- Modifications to Track infrastructure. Where coal lines cross passenger lines at Sandgate, the coal trains must give way to passenger trains. This is a bottleneck for trains going to Koorangang Island. ARTC planning to improve this by completing the grade separation project in November.

K Weekes: What sort of improvement? D Lucke: It will resolve a key bottleneck by providing better access for coal trains to Koorangang, which is where the new port capacity will be built by PWCS and possibly NCIG. The capacity benefit could be as much as 10 million tonnes initially but will be far higher in the long term as other bottlenecks are removed.

K Weekes: Where to with Milestones for Mt Pleasant? R Bailey: First thing is to go into full feasibility then to the financial approval process. Earliest start would be the last quarter. Shortest feasibility study would be around 12 months, could take 1 ½ to 2 years though.

J Lonergan: What happens to the stock route that goes through there?

D Lucke: There has been some work put into this will bring some information to the next meeting.

T Parkinson: How many gates do you have? R Bailey: Not sure about 30 or so. K Weekes: it's actually 13 or 14.

J Lonergan: What is happening about the roads?

E Duggan: I'm not sure, I can get Sam to contact you.

T Parkinson: That's CNA's isn't it? S Sneddon: I believe Council is managing the overall road strategy as per the plans shown by Chris at an

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earlier meeting. The roads to be built by Mt Pleasant are in accordance with Councils Western Roads Strategy.

- 8. Monitoring Presentation:** S Sneddon presented the monitoring information for the period, including rainfall, temperatures, dust, wind and water.

Several things:

- Reports from property agistees of a significant drop in water levels in wells due to dry weather.
- Western groundwater bores remain quite saline.

S Sneddon then presented the EMS Information for the period: Hunter Valley Operations result on the Periodic Audit was 88%.

A Rio Tinto Health Safety and Environment Audit was undertaken at MTW in August. The site is audited by a team of Rio Tinto Experts who audit for compliance with Rio Tinto HS & E standards.

Two areas for improvement were highlighted, 1 Health and 1 Environmental. The site also received two commendations in those categories (commendations being practices recognized as best practice and should be shared across Rio Tinto).

Work is continuing on AMD and Spontaneous Combustion procedures. Aspects & Impacts are being reviewed to continually improve and develop Environmental Management Plans (EMP's) for 2007.

No Complaints for Mount Pleasant in this period. (the six months ending 30/6/06). A six monthly report on complaints was lodged with Council, DoP, DEC, DPI, and reported in this meeting.

1 complaint for August regarding a truck accessing site creating dust. Calls made on the hotline number (which is advertised routinely in the local papers) go to a paging service. The pager is carried by one of the environmental specialists. The information is also sent to each environmentalist's mobile phone and an email is automatically generated and forwarded to their computers. Phone number for the Coal & Allied Environmental Hotline is: 1800 656 892

- 9. General Business:** Nil: all covered previously

- 10. Next Meeting:**      **Date:**            7<sup>th</sup> December at 1 pm  
                                 **Venue:**            To be decided.

**Meeting Closed:** At 1:55 pm by Ken Weekes who thanked everyone for attending.

Copy of the monitoring presentation handed out at the meeting