

**Mount Pleasant Project
Community Consultative Committee**

Minutes of Meeting Held 10 May 2007

Present:

John Douglas	Chair – Muswellbrook Shire Council - Councillor
Trevor Parkinson	Community Representative
Jim Lonergan	Community Representative
Ken Weekes	Community Representative
Patricia Watts	Community Representative
Chris Gidney	Director Environmental Services - Muswellbrook Shire Council
Antony Bijok	Coal & Allied General Manager - Mount Pleasant Project
Stephen Sneddon	Coal & Allied Community Relations Specialist
Richard Bailey	Coal & Allied Manager Mining - Mount Pleasant Project
Leah Cook	Coal & Allied Environment Specialist
Jennifer Bowcock	Coal & Allied Community Relations Officer – Mount Pleasant Project

Minute Taker:

Julie Fibbins	Mining & Earthmoving Services – Mount Pleasant Project
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- 1. Meeting Opened at 1pm:** Chairperson: Cr John Douglas opened the meeting and welcomed Patricia Watts as a new Community Representative.
- 2. Emergency Procedures and Housekeeping:** Presented by Richard Bailey. Richard indicated where the three emergency exits, the top car park emergency muster point, toilets, and tea and coffee making facilities were. If using the front exit for emergencies, please do not use the side path but walk around the block on the high side and meet in the top car park.
- 3. Apologies:** Nil
- 4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** No additional interests.
- 5. Confirmation of Minutes:** *Motion:* The minutes of the previous meeting held 8 March 2007 are accepted. *Moved:* Ken Weekes, *Seconded:* John Douglas.
- 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Trevor Parkinson	Commented on the high standard of the previous minutes prepared by Katherine Addinall, saying they were easy to read and could we keep a similar format.
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- 7. Community Representative Feedback**

Ken Weekes	The plastic around the trees on Castlerock Road is not good aesthetically, nor is it biodegradable.
Jim Lonergan	Will you continue to use mesh, as the plastic blows away?
Stephen Sneddon (Action)	Said they are starting additional tree planting now and I am not sure what type of guards they have ordered as the contractors are on site ready to go. I will pass this along to the property department so they can take it on board in the future.

8. Status Report:

- 8.1 Antony Bijok New team members introduced themselves.
- Jennifer Bowcock Industry background is communications and marketing with Australian Stock Horse Society, events and programs management. Prior to that, I was a part-time communications teacher with TAFE at Forbes, and also worked for Rural Press with print media. I am looking forward to building relationships in the community.
- Leah Cook I have worked for Rio Tinto for seven years in coal, uranium and alumina. I will be managing the environmental aspects of the project.
- Patricia Watts I have lived in Muswellbrook all my life and am a member of Minewatch.

8.2 Richard Bailey

- The **Feasibility Study** is continuing with the team working on it and approximately two thirds of the way through. The engineering design has been completed and plans and layouts are consistent with the EIS but in more detail. We are now into the cost estimation and valuation phase. The construction market and costs are moving quickly. When we have them, we will put them against revenue of coal and evaluate using the net present value of the project.
- The further **environmental monitoring** studies have been mostly completed. The industry legislation and internal Rio Tinto standards have changed and we want to make sure we are compliant with current expectations. Through these studies we have identified one issue relating to a woodland community which, Leah Cook will take you through later in the meeting.
- We are doing more detailed **cultural heritage studies** with archaeologist, particularly on the C&A properties.
- **Mining Lease Application** is continuing and is progressing as a “Swiss cheese” application to ensure we have an appropriate mining title over the coal. Where land is owned by C&A, the lease will cover coal reserves from surface to unlimited depth. Where land is privately owned, C&A is seeking subsurface rights but no lease over the surface.
- The **office** has opened at 19 Bridge Street, with more furniture and displays to come. The nominal hours are between 10.00am and 2.00pm for community to come in and ask questions and meet the team. It is an open office for input and interaction. Outside these hours, by appointment. An 1800 information number has been established and will be advertised again, shortly by Stephen Sneddon. **(Action)**
- There was a recent visit in April by **Preston Chiaro**, Rio Tinto Head of Energy Group worldwide to review progress of the Mount Pleasant project.
- We are following the same **project schedule** as discussed previously with CCC and are still targeting towards the end of November 2007 to present, to the Rio Tinto investment committee in London. We are still on track to meet the timeframe. It will be further reviewed prior to that, but that is the committee to approve funds.

- We recognise that **water** is an important issue for the project and the broader community. We had a Water Diagnostic meeting (a Rio Tinto tool, used at many of the operations around the world), to go through issues relating to the water assurance, the Hunter River and what we can do to use water more efficiently.

Trevor Parkinson Water management, have we employed the right expertise to manage water? Do we get advice from other countries?

Richard Bailey We had a group of Rio Tinto specialized experts lead the Diagnostic and they have performed these across many of Rio's global operations. The group we had here has done 28 sites world wide with maybe a third in Australia. We have also utilised external specialists but there is still a lot to learn. We must be focused and see how we can manage each process better.

Trevor Parkinson It could hold up projects in future.

Richard Bailey Yes it is an important issue; however there is an ever increasing demand for power

Antony Bijok Tarong Power Station in Queensland has cut back production on the basis of water restrictions.

Leah Cook Rio shares learning across projects world wide from global operations.

Leah showed an air photo showing Mount Pleasant location between Muswellbrook, Bengalla, Castlerock, Dorset Road.

John Douglas Is the drilling across from Dorset Road, Anglo? It is a Mitchell Drilling rig.

Richard Bailey Showed area on map and said it is not our drilling.

Trevor Parkinson What are the double lines?

Richard Bailey It is an easement for proposed rail line. Showed the loop, Bengalla Link Road, and to link up with Wybong Road.

Trevor Parkinson Bengalla has always been "in the road". If it wasn't there, people would not be complaining. I'm hearing lots of negatives.

John Douglas We will move on to Mount Pleasant. Where are the first mining areas?

Richard Bailey Showed the area on the map.

John Douglas Is there more than one pit face?

Richard Bailey Will work two faces.

John Douglas How will you cart coal to the preparation plant?

Richard Bailey By trucks not conveyor belt. Richard showed an area to the east of the lease to construct a visual bund.

John Douglas Would it go full length?

Richard Bailey Yes, but it gets constructed over a long period. The tailings facility area was shown on the map, the Sandy Creek

catchment area, as well as the Western Link Road hooking into Castlerock and Dorset Roads.

8.3 Further Activities Planned on Site - Richard Bailey

- The **Archaeological surveys** continue with local groups and the C&A supervisor.
- **Tree planting** has started at Wybong, Kayuga and Dorset Roads to replenish dead trees and to fill in gaps. We will need six months of maintenance water to get a reasonable strike with trees as we lost a lot previously.
- **Mining Lease Application** – Before the mining lease is finally granted the Department of Primary Industries issue instructions. We have to have a detailed survey as a cadastral survey for a piece of land. Surveyors have been out getting boundaries and detailed information before we submit and the formal lease is granted.
- The **environmental monitoring** continues as does visits on site from Rio Tinto and community groups in future.

Trevor Parkinson Will the archaeological be ongoing for years?

Richard Bailey We are trying to do a thorough walk through to methodically identify all artifacts and record even isolated scatters with the use of GPS.

Trevor Parkinson You won't know until you disturb the earth.

Stephen Sneddon We have a rigorous ground disturbance permit process (GDP) within Coal and Allied. This process ensures all aspects including archaeological, environmental etc are fully investigated for prior to the disturbance of the surface.

Leah Cook We are just walking now, however, there may be areas selected to do a more detailed excavation program.

9. Environmental Monitoring – Leah Cook

9.1 Leah Cook **Water Monitoring** locations issued on A3, showed locations on Hunter River – W1, W2, above and W6, W3 below future discharge point.

John Douglas Will you discharge direct into the river?

Leah Cook Any discharges from our sites are only undertaken in accordance with the rules of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme (HRSTS). Yes when operational and all approvals in place we would discharge into the river in accordance with the HRSTS..

W4 site is in Muscle Creek near the swimming pool. This site is historically saline.. The blue triangles are surface water sampling sites W9, W5, W7, W10, which are on site and have been typically dry.

9.2 Leah Cook **Dust gauges** are the pink diamonds and will show longer term trends of mining and give pre-mining as comparative information.

John Douglas Do you have to get approval to move the gauges?

Leah Cook We would need to go to EPA to get approval to move them.

- John Douglas What are the light blue triangles?
- 9.3 Leah Cook **Groundwater monitoring.** Leah showed the tailings area, results of monitoring, and provided a dust isopleths. The red shading represents higher dust concentrations through to lower collections shown in blue. Showed Bengalla and Mount Pleasant collective data taken in March. The concentration area was shown together with the wind rose and predominant wind direction from the south east. Leah showed how the wind rose works and said the winds were usually from the north-west and south-east in this region.
- John Douglas Can this type of presentation be put into the agenda in future so people can review before the meeting?
- Leah Cook (**Action**) Yes it could.
- Leah Cook The Hunter River water data was shown from January 2003 to March 2007 with a results graph. PH – upper and lower limits and Muscle Creek. W1, W2, W6 are similar but Muscle Creek is distinct and may have an influence on the Hunter River salinity.
- Trevor Parkinson Where does Muscle Creek run into the Hunter?
- John Douglas Near the bridge.
- Richard Bailey Comes in below Mount Pleasant – shown on map.
- Leah Cook Offered to go through the monitoring program in more detail with anyone.
- Trevor Parkinson Why doesn't anyone do anything with Muscle Creek it is that bad?
- Richard Bailey It is common for local surface waters to have that level.
- Trevor Parkinson It needs a couple of good floods.
- Leah Cook Groundwater EC trend is high. The bores within tailings dam region have a high natural salinity level.
- 9.4 Leah Cook The **ecology survey work** we have done, has found a white box woodland community. A general information brochure was issued to CCC members, this from the government web page. The woodland was identified in the EIS however, it has now been listed as a critically endangered community. The community was quite widespread from Victoria and New South Wales and is scattered through the Hunter and not much left due largely to agriculture clearing. This is not one tree but an assemblage of grasses/herbs, shrubs and trees which provide habitat for birds, bats and small animals. We also have ecologists mapping the area to see how extensive the community is within the lease area.

10. Community Relations - Stephen Sneddon

10.1 The **information line** number is 1800 727 745 and will be advertised soon. It currently goes to my phone and will then come to this office when available.

10.2 Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee (ADCC) has been established and grants have been made to the following

- There are educational assistant grants for 30 students in High School when they are at risk of dropping out.
- There are two business plans; one promoting the work of local artists and another to establish a cultural education centre.
- Coal and Allied has committed to \$10M over 20 years to ADCC to establish future funds.

The Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) a trust partner with Coal and Allied have been offered office space with the Mount Pleasant Project . They are also looking at enhancing aboriginal employment and business opportunities and educational programs. It will help Aboriginals understand the systems and what they can do for them. It will involve a mentoring process and a pilot training program for recruiting in the mining industry and some of this may well involve Mount Pleasant.

- Trevor Parkinson Must people be Aboriginal to apply for these funds?
- Stephen Sneddon The ADCC is focussed towards indigenous people however the CNA Community Trust covers all cultures.
- Trevor Parkinson Not for non-Aboriginal. I have debated with people within the trust and there is no money.
- Stephen Sneddon **(Action)** The trust is meeting this week and I will have feedback from that meeting at the next CCC

11. General Business

- 11.1** Ken Weekes What happened to the **publication** with our photos in it?
- Stephen Sneddon**(Action)** The newsletter will go out next week, hopefully as soon as the phone lines are available within the office.
- 11.2** Ken Weekes Will we get the **dust data** with minutes?
- Leah Cook **(Action)** Yes, all the slides will be provided with the minutes.
- Stephen Sneddon The isopleths do present a regional picture and we would like to thank our neighbours for allowing us to use their data. All of this data is available in the annual reports submitted to Council and regulatory agencies.
- Antony Bijok **(Action)** The newsletter **(green)** is available and we will be given out after the meeting. We are interested in feedback from the community. There will be two waves of this, the first to a select smaller group and then the wider community.
- John Douglas Don't put them in post boxes, they tend to fill the bin outside the PO.
- Trevor Parkinson I filled in survey three weeks ago. It goes to Brisbane and we never get feedback.
- 11.3** Patricia Watts Problems with **stock** on Castlerock Road. Need to ensure that Mt Pleasant lands have stockproof fencing if they are to be leased out.
- Stephen Sneddon **(Action)** I will pass this along to the property department so they can take it on board in the future.

- 11.4 Jim Lonergan The environmental studies have already been done. Has anything been discovered on how prolonged lack of **rain** will effect **rehabilitation**?
- Richard Bailey Specific species of trees have been investigated but specific work on effects of drought has not been done. We will apply knowledge already obtained from other sites and use drought tolerant trees but it is still quite weather dependent.
- Jim Lonergan Do you plan to do anything specific?
- Stephen Sneddon We will run with the weather and will rehabilitate as soon as practically possible. Like all dry land farming the germination will be rain dependant.
- Jim Lonergan Will you just go on regardless and have bare ground.
- Richard Bailey The mine will follow normal agriculture practice. There is two key sowing seasons. We will sow and get what we can to get coverage.
- Stephen Sneddon All operations are inspected on their rehabilitation performance annually. This check against the approved plans and feedback will be provided to the CCC. When mining commences the inspector will most likely attend the CCC and provide this feedback independently.
- 11.5 Jim Lonergan Infrastructure. Can we go on tour to see where it will go and have a site inspection to get a better perspective?
- Stephen Sneddon **(Action)** Yes, we can mark out key locations for better definition and do an inspection.
- 11.6 John Douglas Would it be possible for a report on the **fence** on Castlerock Road?
- Richard Bailey **(Action)** We can do the repairs.
- John Douglas Any signs for “Beware of Stock”
- Antony Bijok Need to fix the problem with the fence.
- John Douglas **Isopleths** of the dust, it is good combining this information with the wind rose.

12. Date and time of next meeting

Date: Thursday 1pm, 5 July – visit a mine area and meeting.

Venue: 19 Bridge Street Muswellbrook.

Proposed dates for remainder of 2007:

6 September 1pm (19 Bridge Street)

8 November 1pm (CPP visit)

Meeting closed: Meeting closed at 2.18pm by Cr John Douglas.