

# **Mt Pleasant Project Community Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Held 16 March 2006**

**Present:**

Mark Trevan	General Manager Mt Pleasant Project
Rod Cameron	Coal & Allied Environmental Manager
Stephen Sneddon	Coal & Allied Environmental Specialist
Trevor Parkinson	Community Representative
Jim Lonergan	Community Representative
Andrew Woodcock	Community Relations Specialist CNA
Sam Spicer	Muswellbrook Shire Council
John Douglas	Chairman – Councilor Muswellbrook Shire Council

**Minute Taker:**

Joan Spooner	Hunter Valley Admin
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Stephen Sneddon presented a safety tip on Heat Stress: With the hot weather well upon us it is important to be aware of heat-induced conditions. Prevention is better than cure so remember to drink water regularly, keep out of the sun between 11am & 3pm where possible, wear long sleeved shirts & trousers, sunscreen and a hat.

- 1. Meeting Opened at 12:58 pm:** Chairperson Cr J Douglas opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and giving the general housekeeping and emergency procedures.
- 2. Apologies:** Kenneth Weekes and Dawn Morris. Moved S Sneddon, Seconded J Lonergan all apologies be accepted.  
Carried
- 3. Declaration of pecuniary interests:** Nil.
- 4. Confirmation of Minutes:** Moved J Lonergan, seconded T Parkinson, the minutes of the previous meeting held 07 December 2005 be accepted.  
Carried
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:**  
Nil
- 6. Community Representative Feedback:**  
Nil

**7. Status Report:**

M Trevan presented the project status report:

The Pre feasibility is nearly complete.

The financial analysis is to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Each owner or joint venture party will then assess their interest in integration.

If the answer is positive commercial negotiations will begin

If negative then RTCA (Rio Tinto Coal Australia) will seek endorsement from CNA (Coal & Allied) and Rio Tinto to conduct a full feasibility study for the consented development. Neither path is certain.

If the decision is to proceed with the current consented development then construction could start by mid 2007.

J Douglas: If construction started mid 2007 how long would it take?

M Trevan: approx 2 years.

M.Trevan: With an integrated development construction would be delayed by the requirement of new development consent and commercial negotiations.

Integrated or stand alone the Mt Pleasant mining footprint would be basically the same.

A new CHPP plant would have to be built regardless of whether the project was integrated or stand alone. Bengalla's present facilities are not adequate.

T. Parkinson: Do you have a preference, integrated or stand alone?

M.Trevan: That is for the various owners to decide.

T Parkinson: What do you mean by the footprint stays the same?

M.Trevan: It means the area of mining wouldn't change whether integrated or stand alone.

J Lonergan: Getting a new Development Consent will delay the operation.

M.Trevan: Yes. The consent process would take time including a likely new EIS.

J Douglas: A new Coal Preparation Plant would have to raise the costs.

M.Trevan: Yes, the capital costs will be an important consideration for the owners in their assessment.

Spot-price index

J. Douglas: I see you have put in a line for the Australian dollar as discussed. M.Trevan: Yes and as you can see back in December the prices had reduced, but have now rebounded strongly. J Douglas: each mark on the gap is it weekly, monthly? M.Trevan: That would be weekly.

**9. Environmental Monitoring:**

S. Sneddon presented the environmental report, comprising of meteorological data including rainfall, temperature and wind speed and direction. Other data presented included air quality, surface and groundwater summary and an introduction to the Environmental Management System (EMS)

The rainfall for January (36.6mm), February (62.8mm) with the YTD figure now 99.4mm. Wind was predominantly from the SE coming up the valley from Muswellbrook. The temperature consistent for this time of year with both months having days in excess of 40 degrees Celsius.

Dust Isopleths showed not much difference between Jan/Feb. Though an area over to the east shows a peak in January, which could be attributed to farming or another isolated activity. Many activities cause dust and the depositional gauges collect all the airborne dust deposited in the gauge..

J Douglas: After you start construction of Mt Pleasant will this create twice the amount of dust than is out there now? R Cameron: The dust will have to be kept within the consent limits and the gauges will show difference in trends.

S Sneddon: W4 (Muscle Creek near the pool )is higher in EC than the Hunter River monitoring points. These results are consistent with trends for the previous twelve months. S Spicer: What do you test the water for?

S.Sneddon: Surface waters are tested monthly for Electrical Conductivity, pH and Total Suspended Solids. We also do a modified Schedule 2 annually of surface water site to develop background information around our site.

If you would like to zoom in closer to develop a farm plan we can do that.

JDouglas: Is W 3 monitor yours? S.Sneddon: Yes it is shown as one of ours on the plan, however it is an automatic station within the Hunter River from which we can source the data. It is a NSW department gauging station.

S Sneddon: Went on to explain the Environmental Management System (EMS), and the different types of audits CNA have. T Parkinson: At the end of the day what does it prove? S.Sneddon: It is a tool for us to measure our performance and gives people within our business a consistent way to work. We need the process to measure where we are and by knowing where you are you then have an opportunity to improve. We have a lot of operational and reporting expectations and the EMS acts, as a tool to ensure the way we work is consistent to our plan.

T Parkinson: Why did you not raise the bar or the target? S.Sneddon: we did, last years target was 80% and 2006 is now 84%. R.Cameron: The whole idea is continued improvement. T.Parkinson: Can you give the target for next year? S.Sneddon: The targets are reviewed annually during the annual EMS review process where the overall yearly

performance is reviewed and next years target setting is undertaken. For example if no one makes the target of 84% it would stay at 84% and that would still be a stretch next year. S.Sneddon then went on to explain the EMS functions in more detail.

A Woodcock: to address the question on what does it prove, we would be able to tell you what the Auditors have said, and what actions have been put into place to fix them.

S Sneddon: Just to share with you CNA entered the Total Waste Management (TWMS) in the Hunter-Central River Catchments - Coal Industry Environmental awards, This is the first time a waste system has entered and we received the Highly Commended award.

S. Sneddon: This is the overview of monitoring if you would like any further information let me know.

T Parkinson: Just would like to comment that the EMS information was quite interesting. S.Sneddon: I could bring in a laptop to the next meeting and show you the tool and how it can be used. R Cameron: This is the mechanism to ensure we meet our conditions.

#### **10. General Business:**

A Woodcock: A quick update on the community trust. Grants have just been awarded to 3 projects

- Upper Hunter Science and Engineering Challenge. Science & Engineering based activity that will be coupled with the experiment fest. This will encourage students to look at careers in Science & Engineering.
- Experiment Fest
- Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza.  
This is a school steer challenge, which will culminate into a Steer show.

J Douglas: Since we went out to visit the ED1 Dam has there been anything else done out there? S.Sneddon: No nothing except ongoing environmental monitoring and property inspections where appropriate.

J Douglas: No more general business.

#### **11. Next Meeting: Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm.**

Meeting closed at 1:58pm

**Copies of presentations handed out at the meeting.**