

Mount Pleasant Project Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held 2 July 2009

Present:

Karen Portolen	Chair – Muswellbrook Shire Council – Councillor
Jennifer Lecky	Muswellbrook Shire Council – Councillor
Trevor Parkinson	Community Representative
Patricia Watts	Community Representative
Antony Bijok	Coal & Allied General Manager – Project Studies
Richard Bailey	Coal & Allied Manager Mining – Project Studies
Mark Nolan	Coal & Allied Environmental Specialist –Project Approvals
Jennifer Bowcock	Coal & Allied Community Relations Specialist

Apologies:

Tim Troon	Community Representative
Ken Weekes	Community Representative
Chris Gidney	Muswellbrook Shire Council

Minute Taker:

Laura Harkins	Coal & Allied Community Relations - Graduate
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- 1. Meeting Opened at 1pm:** Chairperson: Cr Karen Portolen opened the meeting
- 2. Emergency Procedures and Housekeeping:** Presented by Antony Bijok. Antony indicated the three emergency exits, the top car park emergency muster point and building amenities.
- 3. Apologies:** From Chris Gidney, Tim Troon & Ken Weekes: Moved Jennifer Lecky, seconded Patricia Watts
- 4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** No interests declared.
- 5. Confirmation of Minutes:** *Motion:* The minutes of the previous meeting held 5 March 2009 are accepted. *Moved:* Jennifer Lecky, *Seconded:* Trevor Parkinson
- 6. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 7. Previous meeting actions:** Mt Pleasant Project Site Tour arranged after today's meeting
- 8. Community Representative Feedback:** Nil
- 9. Project Update – Antony Bijok**

As previously discussed Coal and Allied, and more broadly Rio Tinto, had a growth strategy last year but due to the Global Financial Crisis this has changed to a strategy of review and consolidation. This week a key announcement was made around port and rail infrastructure. The port will be moving to a 'take or pay' system which is a significant thing for the Hunter Valley industry as it will shift the focus on delivering on estimates and may help reduce the cyclical patterns of supply notwithstanding global affects.

Rio Tinto, more broadly, has restriction on capital for development which means the Mount Pleasant work agenda for the rest of the year is to revisit the project plan and reshape it to fit better with economic circumstances.

Jennifer Lecky	Were you expecting the decision on infrastructure?
Antony Bijok	It has been in planning for some time
Trevor Parkinson	Is the system of long term contracts seen as a positive move?
Antony Bijok	Yes, along with the construction of the new terminal.

10. Land Management – Richard Bailey

Recent activities in regards to land management include the lane closure of Skippens Lane, with Coal and Allied resuming maintenance responsibilities from Muswellbrook Shire Council, a review of all licensed properties completed and actioning repairs, completed pre-winter slashing and weeding (mainly of box-thorn) Authorisation 459 has been renewed until 2012, which part of the normal three year process including a six-monthly report.

- Mark Nolan Does that cover just the tenement?
- Richard Bailey It covers a slightly larger area than the lease
- Jennifer Lecky I know Bengalla is looking at weed eradication without chemicals and I know of John Priestley at Maitland who has had quite successful results from using non-chemical, organic means for weed eradication, would it be an option for Mt Pleasant?
- Mark Nolan It ultimately depends on the weeds and soils types
- Jennifer Lecky I know there is a particular problem with Galenia and if you are looking for some projects it might be possible to use organic techniques on it?
- Mark Nolan The issue with Galenia is the mixing of it in topsoil, which is particularly relevant to rehabilitation. There are many schools of thought, but really the only way is to out-compete it, which some say use cattle-grazing, however, I believe in using the original ecology to do this.
- Karen Portolen Just querying a safety issue in regards to controls about when slashing takes place and causing fires
- Richard Bailey I'm pretty sure this would be covered off in the risk assessment but be sure to ask Ian Webber this afternoon on the tour and he will know the answer

11. Environmental Performance Update – Mark Nolan

Distributed contact details and urged the committee to contact him at anytime with any questions. Presented results from dust, climate and water monitoring sites for last 12 months, with no significant variance from previous trends and weather conditions. This data will be able to provide a baseline for when operations begin to see the impacts of MTP.

- Trevor Parkinson The heavy dust that was around yesterday would that affect and appear on the results coming though?
- Richard Bailey The dust gauges are collecting on a monthly basis so you would need to have 24hour real time monitoring to pick up a one-day occurrence.
- Trevor Parkinson If it doesn't register then what is the point in having the monitoring?
- Mark Nolan The dust a mine produces is mostly heavier than the dust that was around yesterday Yesterday's dust was PM10. The lighter dust, for example diesel at 2.5pm, you can't actually see and is more concentrated in the city than the country.
- Trevor Parkinson I know Bengalla shuts operations when the weather is too bad, but operations only make up 35-40% of the dust created and 50% come from the spoils so does this really help?

Mark Nolan That is true, but usually there is a crust of rehabilitation on the dumps and if all the mines shut down at the same time it makes a big difference. It's also important to remember that the dust criteria are for amenity dust, not health-affecting dust.

 The government sets quite difficult, strict, pre-determined limits so that if you are going to exceed those limits you need to acquire the land. So with dust and weather modeling a site can determine when it needs to shut down and use water to combat dust in adverse weather conditions.

12. Community Relations - Jen Bowcock

There have been a number of community activities which Mount Pleasant or Coal and Allied are involved with in the Muswellbrook community including:

- Bursting with Energy Expo held in March along with colleagues from the mining industry. Questacon attended and the Coal & Allied stand featured the energy bike as a learning tool.
- The Muswellbrook Community Newsletter will be distributed in July via letterbox to all residences and business in the Muswellbrook and Aberdeen.
- The Shopfronts are still being well utilised by the community. Recently the Muswellbrook office hosted the Hunter Valley Youth Express and Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation.
- Muswellbrook Council Shire Council attended a business update and a Bengalla site tour on April 6.
- Expressions of interests were called for Muswellbrook Community Reference Group throughout May. The group will consider the recommendations of the ACARP Cumulative Impacts Study released in December 2008.
- Also supported a number of community events such as the Muswellbrook Polocrosse Club, Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Upper Hunter Pathways Awards for Indigenous Education and UHIVEN which rewards high achievers at local schools.
- The Community Development Fund (formerly Trust) had its first meeting in March. Approved projects include the Upper Hunter Science and Engineering Challenge, Beef Bonanza and CVA project around Muscle Creek.
- The ADCC also had meetings in March and June.

13. General Business

Karen Portolen Things seem to be going well, how will the cash flow problems impact the project timeline?

Antony Bijok At this stage it's not an approved project but a lot of things have happening. The increase in port capacity will be happening in sync with any development so even if the project started today it would be three to four years before for operation.

13. Meeting Closed 2.50pm