

Mount Pleasant Project

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

From the General Manager Studies

Welcome to the second edition of the Mount Pleasant Project Community Newsletter.



The feasibility study into the viability of the Mount Pleasant Mine is progressing well. The Coal & Allied team has completed the mine design work, finalised the mine plan and the location and

design of the supporting infrastructure including the coal handling and preparation plant, office buildings and workshops.

The final mine plan is similar to that outlined in previous project documents and will consist of two pits so coal can be blended from both pits to meet market demand.

With the design work complete, the team is now focused on identifying the cost of the project and clarifying port capacity.

The Mount Pleasant Mine would supply coal

to the export market. While we are encouraged by the strong global demand for thermal coal, we are also operating in an environment which sees a very high demand for the people and other resources we need to develop the mine. These issues will need to be resolved over the coming months before we can make a decision on whether to proceed with development of the Mount Pleasant Mine at this time.

If you have visited our Muswellbrook shopfront recently, you may have noticed the expansion of our project team. We continue to be involved in a number of community sponsorship and engagement activities throughout the region.

I encourage members of the community to contact us with any questions or concerns about our activities.

Antony Bijok
General Manager Studies
Mount Pleasant Project

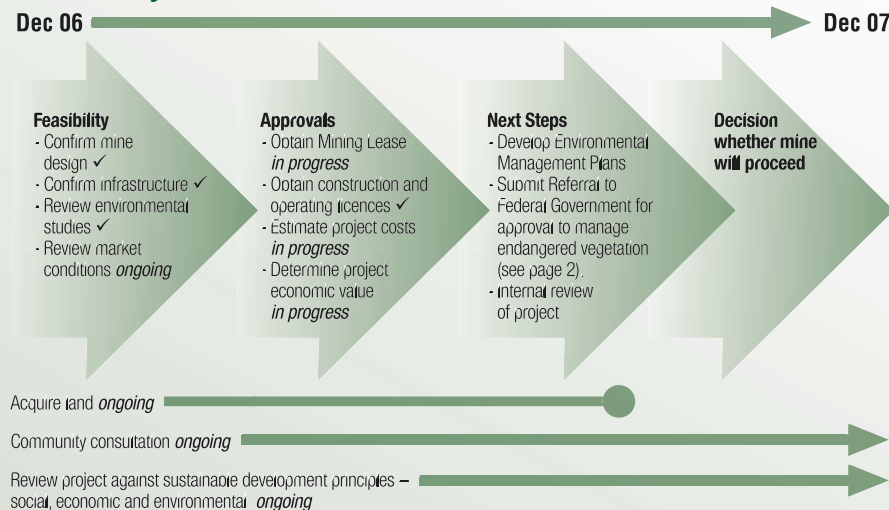
About us

In late 2006, Coal & Allied announced the start of a feasibility study into the development of the Mount Pleasant Project near Muswellbrook.

The Mount Pleasant Project is 100 per cent owned by Coal & Allied, a major coal producer in the Hunter Valley. Coal & Allied is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and is 75 per cent owned by Rio Tinto. It is managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia.

With annual coal production of around 30 million tonnes, Coal & Allied employs more than 1,500 people across three operations – Bengalla, Hunter Valley Operations and Mount Thorley Warkworth.

Feasibility to decision



Fact File

Location:	Three kilometres west of Muswellbrook
Lease size:	3,985 hectares
Ownership:	100 per cent Coal & Allied
Product:	Thermal coal for export markets
Production:	10.5 million tonnes per annum Run of Mine
Reserves:	459 million tonnes
Development Consent granted:	December 1999
Feasibility Phase:	12 months to end 2007
Construction	
Duration:	2.5 years
Employment:	Approximately 700 at peak
Proposed Operations	
Duration:	The Development Consent is valid for 21 years (from December 1999)
Employment:	340
Mining type:	Combination dragline and truck and excavator
Infrastructure:	Coal handling preparation plant rail loop office and workshop complex
Mining equipment:	Dragline Excavators Truck fleet Ancillary equipment



History of Mount Pleasant

1992	Authorisation to Prospect granted
1992 – 1997	Exploration, Mine Planning and Environmental Studies
Sep 1997	Environmental Impact Statement completed
1998 – 1999	Commission of Inquiry
Dec 1999	Development Consent granted
2001	Order of Magnitude Study
2002 – 2006	Pre-Feasibility Studies
Nov 2004	First Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting
Nov 2004	Construction of dam on site
Nov 2006	Feasibility Study announced
Apr 2007	Muswellbrook Office opened

Environmental impacts reviewed

Additional environmental assessments are being completed for the proposed Mount Pleasant Mine.

Coal & Allied conducted the initial environmental assessments before the Development Consent was granted in 1999. Coal & Allied's General Manager Studies Antony Bijok said the studies had been reviewed because laws and community expectations have changed over the past eight years.

Antony said the review of these assessments found that levels of dust, noise, vibration and light anticipated in 1999 are generally within the limits set by current legislation.

However, the review of the environmental impacts has raised an issue about endangered vegetation on the site.

"There is a Grassy Box Woodland community on the site that is now considered to be a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under Federal Legislation and is considered significant by the NSW Government," Antony said.

"This vegetation was identified on the site in 1999 but was not then classified as endangered under relevant legislation."

Ecowise Environmental Pty Ltd's Adam Murone and Mount Pleasant Project Environmental Specialist Leah Cook at the dust sample collection site, on land surrounding the Mount Pleasant site.

"We are collating various studies in order to prepare a submission for approval by the Federal Government about mitigation strategies."

In addition to the environmental impacts review, the team has also built further environmental considerations into final mine plans and infrastructure design.

Rainwater collected from building roofs and treated effluent would be used on site gardens and a range of energy saving options have also been considered.

"We would install energy efficient motors in the coal handling and preparation plant and solar hot water for the bathhouse as well as reviewing a range of other energy saving technologies," Antony said.

Input sought on environmental management plans

Coal & Allied will produce a series of plans to address its environmental impacts.

Mount Pleasant Project Environmental Specialist Leah Cook said 13 environmental management plans (EMPs) will be prepared to appropriately manage land, flora and fauna, waste, water, air quality, noise and cultural heritage.

"We are going to ask the community for input over the next few months to prepare the EMPs," Leah said.

"While some aspects of environmental management are mandated, there are many things that are able to be tailored to the site."

Leah said representatives from government bodies, interest groups, experts and the community will be asked to form five focus groups to participate in a series of workshops.

"We are very keen to engage with the community so they have a clear understanding of our operations and we can fully consider all the options for mitigating our environmental impacts."





Yunaga Mine Services employees fencing the tree planting areas on the Mount Pleasant site.

Tree planting to screen mine operations

Yunaga Mine Services has started tree planting and fencing on the Mount Pleasant site to create a visual buffer around the perimeter of the proposed mine.

Yunaga Mine Services has an extensive history of land care management in the Hunter Valley and Co-Director Laurie Perry is proud of his links to the site as a member of the Wonnarua people, the Traditional Owners of the land.

"We currently have four local Aboriginal People working on this project and with help from Coal & Allied's Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee there is even more potential to expand it into the future," Laurie said.

"This project is a positive step towards more Aboriginal employment in the mining industry."

"Coal & Allied is committed to both local employment and supporting indigenous employment directly and indirectly," Coal & Allied Landcare Specialist Brian Medhurst said.

Thank you

Thank you to Muswellbrook Public School who assisted with the loan of some office furniture during the set up of the Mount Pleasant Project office in Bridge Street.



Hunter Regional Landcare Network's Pierre Louys and Coal & Allied Community Trust Executive Officer Charlene Murdock.

Knights lend a hand

The Coal & Allied sponsored Newcastle Knights have been lending a hand to Aboriginal primary school students in the community.

This year Knights players Milton Thaiday, Stephen Gordon and Mat Cooper became regulars at the Muswellbrook Youth Centre, teaching Aboriginal students about rugby league and supervising them in reading and literacy lessons.

The players were participating in the community-based 'On Track' programme which provides numeracy, literacy, life skills, health and exercise awareness for Aboriginal children who have been identified as at risk of leaving school early.

The programme was designed by Police, the Police Citizens Youth Club, Aboriginal community members and Upper Hunter Youth Services and funded by Coal & Allied.



Knights players Milton Thaiday and Mat Cooper proudly display a gift from 'On Track' graduates, (l-r) Nathan Matthews, Travis Edwards and Justin Raven.

Coal & Allied funds community projects

Coal & Allied is funding a project to help farmers make better decisions and increase their long term sustainability.

The Coal & Allied Community Trust will provide \$24,400 to the Hunter Region Landcare Network to help land owners measure changes in temperatures on various plots of land to see whether they follow a standard pattern.

Hunter Region Landcare Network Executive Officer Pierre Louys said the work is important and will help farmers make decisions.

"The project is a type of risk management for farmers. It allows us to map possible temperature variations and determine the best way to manage crops given these scenarios," Pierre said.

"This project will help farmers make better, more informed decisions by using real data from their land rather than relying on historical data about old weather patterns."

This was one of five projects funded in June by the Coal & Allied Community Trust, bringing its latest contribution to the local community to \$218,800.

Other projects include:

- \$43,000 to the Australian Museum to assist efforts to establish plant diversification and healthy waterways in the Hunter Valley.
- \$60,000 in scholarships to first year University of Newcastle students entering engineering, science or medicine.
- \$26,000 to determine the feasibility of a Hunter regional brand.
- \$50,000 to the Hunter Valley Vineyard Association to fund the development of a marketing strategy to promote Hunter Valley wines.
- \$15,400 to the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council to provide furniture for the Recreation and Learning Centre in Metford to start community development programmes.



Mount Pleasant Project team members Jen Bowcock, Leah Cook and Richard Bailey in the Bridge Street office.

New team members

The Mount Pleasant Project team has expanded with the recruitment of Environmental Specialist Leah Cook and Community Relations Officer Jen Bowcock.

Leah joined the team in April from Rio Tinto Aluminium's Yarwun refinery in Gladstone, Queensland. She is responsible for developing the Environmental Management Plan and obtaining the many environmental approvals required to operate the mine.

Jen, an Upper Hunter resident, joined Coal & Allied in May from a role with the Australian Stock Horse Society. As Community Relations Officer, Jen's role is to facilitate the information flow between the community and the project team and work with the community to identify opportunities for Coal & Allied to contribute to the long term sustainability of the region.

Both Leah and Jen are based in the Mount Pleasant Project office on Bridge Street, Muswellbrook.

"While we are running a formal community consultation programme about the proposed Mount Pleasant development, we also encourage people to talk to us individually if they have any specific questions or concerns," Jen said.

The office is open between 10am and 2pm weekdays and other times by appointment. Local contractors and suppliers are welcome to register their details but expressions of interest in employment cannot be recorded at the office.

CCC members learn about industry

The Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee (CCC) recently visited Coal & Allied's Hunter Valley Operations – Riverview pit to learn more about the coal industry.

The CCC members had the opportunity to watch a dragline in operation and see the different stages of mining.



Pat Watts is the newest member of the CCC.

Mount Pleasant Project Community Relations Officer Jen Bowcock said the mine visit was designed to raise the level of awareness about coal mining among Mount Pleasant CCC members.

"The Mount Pleasant CCC is another important point of contact for the community with Coal & Allied. CCC representatives are available to talk to community members about Coal & Allied's Mount Pleasant Project and any issues of concern," Jen said.

"It is very important the CCC community members have a good understanding of the mining process and therefore the potential impacts upon the community."

Tours of mine operations have become a regular feature of future CCC meetings, with a visit to a coal handling and preparation plant planned for November.

The Mount Pleasant CCC also welcomed a new member in May when Pat Watts was nominated to the Committee. Pat is a long time resident of the region and a member of the local Minewatch group.

Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee

Cr John Douglas (Chair)	22 Skellatar Street, Muswellbrook 2333	65 433128
Chris Gidney	Muswellbrook Shire Council PO Box 122, Muswellbrook 2333	65 493770
Jim Lonergan	"Marylands" Kayuga Road, Kayuga 2333	65 431934
Trevor Parkinson	71 Brecht Street, Muswellbrook 2333	65 432445
Kenneth Weekes	"Mirrabooka" 1071 Castlerock Road, Muswellbrook 2333	65 479212
Pat Watts	"Warrabee" 186 Castlerock Road, Muswellbrook 2333	65 431782
Coal & Allied Representatives		
Antony Bijok	General Manager Studies	65 490504
Leah Cook	Environmental Specialist	65 490503
Jen Bowcock	Community Relations Officer	65 490506

Mount Pleasant Project Team

- **Antony Bijok**, General Manager Studies
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- **Robin Herringe**, Study Manager
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- **Richard Bailey**, Mining Manager
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- **Dion Lucke**, Manager Coal Chain and Services
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- **Leah Cook**, Environment Specialist
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- **Jennifer Bowcock**, Community Relations Officer
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Muswellbrook Office
19 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook**

**Freecall: 1800 727 745
community.relations@rtca.riotinto.com.au**

Business advice available

The Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (BEC) now has a presence in Muswellbrook, joining Coal & Allied employees in the Mount Pleasant Project Muswellbrook office.

A BEC representative is available for appointments in the Bridge Street office every Tuesday. To make an appointment or for further details, please call the Hunter Region BEC on 1300 304 794

*Photographic contribution - Roger Skinner Photography
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