

**MINUTES OF THE MT OWEN COMPLEX
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, 4th March 2005 at Mt Owen Mine

Meeting opened by Chairperson Mary Robinson at 10.15am.

Present:

Community: P Bestic, A Schmierer, W Williams, D Olofsson, L Cramp, Alan Noble
Singleton Council: M Robinson (Chairperson), B Thomas, V Scott
Mt Owen Mine: G Marschke, N Charnock, T Walls, P Grosvenor, T Morris

1. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Julie Clydesdale (Community Rep.), Gillian Holmes (Community Rep.) and Derek Walls (Hunter Valley Coal Corporation – General Manager.)

2. Introduction of New Members

In light of the new amalgamated Mt Owen Complex Community Consultative Committee, Nigel Charnock suggested that everyone present introduce themselves.

Mary Robinson welcomed all new members to the Committee.

In order to update the Committee on the function of the Mt Owen Complex CCC and specific role of community members on the Committee, Nigel Charnock gave a presentation which was based on Singleton Council Guidelines for CCCs. These points were reiterated by Mary Robinson and Brian Thomas.

Leanne Cramp asked if issues for discussion at CCC meetings must be posed in advance and in writing. Brian Thomas stated that only agenda items must be raised in advance and that general comments could be made under the General Business Section or in relevant points of the meeting.

Brian Thomas apologised to the new CCC members for not being formally notified in writing of their appointment to the CCC and undertook to send a letter with a copy of the guidelines to the new CCC members.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Mary Robinson asked Committee members to declare any pecuniary interests. There were no such declarations from the Committee.

4. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 26th Nov 2004 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Alex Schmierer, seconded Patricia Bestic. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

5.1 *Relocating Giveway Sign on Bowmans Creek Bridge*

Brian Thomas advised that following the last meeting he had received feedback from the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting and reported that it was agreed that changes would be made, however it was not as simple as just moving signs as it may involve some road widening in light of safety issues. Brian noted that he would continue to report back to the Committee on the issue.

5.2 *Singleton Coal Information Centre*

Nigel Charnock reported back to the Committee on the outcome of a meeting with the Centre and noted that HVCC offered its support for any careers initiatives and indicated that it would be willing to host educational mine tours. The Coal Information Centre has made no further contact with the mine.

6. Overview of the Mt Owen Development Consent

Nigel Charnock provided the Committee with a presentation which outlined the new Mt Owen Development Consent (DA14-1-2004.) The presentation included details of the general structure of the Consent, with discussion of each Schedule within the Consent.

Patricia Bestic asked if Ravensworth East's Consent was also going to be relinquished. Nigel Charnock stated that this was not the case and that Mt Owen operations would continue to operate in accordance with both Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consents.

Copies of the new Mt Owen Consent were also made available at the close of the meeting for CCC members.

A copy of the Consent can also be obtained from the DIPNR website at www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au

7. Mt Owen Mine Community Information Session

Nigel stated that a similar presentation, to the overview he has just provided on Mt Owen's new Consent, would be given at the Community Information Session at Mt Olive Hall on 16th March 2005. Nigel also stated that a representative from DIPNR and an acoustic expert would be attending the session to provide information and answer questions. Approximately 150 residents surrounding Mt Owen Mine and other key stakeholders had been invited to attend.

Val Scott enquired as to when the invites for the Community Information Session were sent out. Nigel confirmed that they were sent out mid-end February.

Leanne Cramp stated that she felt some residents were not aware of their rights to request mitigation measures under Mt Owen's new Consent. Nigel confirmed that, as required by the Development

Consent, a letter was sent to all applicable residents in early January 2005 advising them of their rights for acquisition under the Consent and rights to request additional mitigation measures.

Deidre Olofsson asked if all tenants of mine owned property were allowed to attend the Community Meeting. Nigel stated that everyone in the local community was welcome.

Alex Schmierer asked if the Session was open to the general public. Nigel stated that whilst the session was not open to the 'general public' any local residents were welcome. Geoff Marschke added that the intention of the Meeting was to provide information to the local community on Mt Owen's new Development Consent and was not a general public meeting. Nigel asked if any interested persons would make contact, so that sufficient numbers could be catered for.

Leanne Cramp inquired whether Mt Pleasant School and the P&C had been notified of the information session. Nigel confirmed that an invitation had been sent to the School. Leanne agreed to ensure that the information had been received. Leanne also expressed her concern about the notification procedure. Leanne believes that residents were being hand picked to attend and that other community members who missed out on notification in the initial consultation process would be missing out again.

Residents were not hand picked by Mt Owen for the meeting. As stated above, an invitation was mailed to approximately 150 residents surrounding Mt Owen Mine within an approximate 8km radius and other key stakeholders. It is considered that this area of distribution covers all private residents potentially impacted by the on-going operation of the Mine. The initial consultation process for the recent Mt Owen Operations Project that Leanne referred to covered a similar radius and therefore provided the same residents within the local community and other stakeholders the opportunity to be involved in the Project.

Wendy Williams also made the point to the Committee, that it was an information session, as the DA had now been approved.

8. Development of the new Mt Owen Blast Management Plan

Geoff Marschke gave a presentation on the considerations for the development of a Blast Management Plan, which is required under the new Mt Owen Consent. The plan must be prepared in consultation with the CCC. The presentation outlined:

- Requirements from Consent and approvals
- Safety Aspects
- Notification of Residents
- Communication protocol with neighboring mines
- Blast limits & industry standards
- Reportable incidents
- Approved blasting hours & frequency
- Management of dust and fume
- Blast monitoring program
- Weather
- Cumulative impacts
- Management plans

- Consultation, which will include the Mt Owen Complex CCC, DIPNR, neighboring residents and Glennies Creek Colliery (when required)

A copy of the presentation was provided to all members.

Mary Robinson asked if the Mt Owen blasting hotline number was recently published. Nigel stated that the contact number for Mt Owen's Blasting Information Line was recently published in the Singleton Argus and would continue to be advertised in both the Argus and the Hunter Valley News.

Leanne stated that she receives the blasting schedule and expressed her dissatisfaction with the current procedure as there are sometimes too many inconsistencies with the weekly to daily notification placements and times. Leanne was concerned that the new blasting hotline would not be serving an efficient purpose if people were not going to be advised of more specific blast time details. Tony Morris and Peter Grosvenor explained operational and safety constraints associated with blasting. Geoff added that if there is a definite change in the schedule, the hotline is updated. The commitment was made to investigate whether there was further scope to advise Leanne of any changes to the weekly blasting schedule as soon as possible after changes were affected.

Wendy reiterated the unpredictable nature of the weather and how hard it would be to stick to the schedule, given the safety concerns regarding operations.

Deidre asked who was currently notified of blasting over the phone. Nigel stated that the mine contacts a number of residents that have requested to be called.

Nigel discussed a blasting trial that was permitted under the Mt Owen Mine's new Consent that would investigate earlier blasting at certain times of the year to take advantage of calmer earlier morning weather conditions known to prevail in the area. The intention of the trial was to reduce the potential for dust impacts on neighbouring private residences.

Deirdre stated that Coal & Allied (close to her home) had a similar plan in place, and that she had found there to be an improvement with earlier blasts, in relation to dust impacts.

Nigel stated that all CCC members would have the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Plan and that the mine would prepare a draft plan and attempt to distribute the plan to all CCC members prior to the next meeting. Nigel suggested that further discussion of the plan be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mary agreed that it should be included.

9. Review of Operational Performance

Peter Grosvenor gave an update on the operational performance of both Mt Owen and Ravensworth East since the last meeting, including:

Mt Owen

- Top soil stripping activities
- Current mining locations
- Update on the depths being worked in the mine
- Low wall dump failure and the new haul road around it
- New equipment – the roll out of the new noise attenuated fleet

Ravensworth East

- Re-orientation of the pit to enable mining from north to south
- Completion of mining tailings pit 1 – now being used for tailings storage
- Progression of mining tailings pit 2

Leanne stated that works in Tailings pit 2 at Ravensworth East had been particularly noisy. Leanne also expressed her concerns with the current visual dust levels coming from the new repositioned haul road. Allan Noble also noted that Ravensworth East had been quite dusty in recent times. Peter explained that the pit was very shallow, but that surface blasting was now complete and that the pit is scheduled to be finished in Aug/Sept 2005. Nigel added that recent topsoil stripping operations could have resulted in additional visible dust due to the fine nature of the topsoil and poor structure. Peter and Tony Morris explained that there are four water carts operational across the Mt Owen and Ravensworth East, with continued vigilance in relation to dust control. Peter also explained how operations are modified or ceased under adverse weather conditions.

Tony Morris gave a presentation on the recent low wall failure at Mt Owen, focusing on the systems and technology used to manage the situation effectively. Tony congratulated Thiess on their management of the situation.

Tony discussed progress on the construction of a new Run of mine Coal Receiving Facility within the Ravensworth East Development area which will allow coal from Ravensworth East and Glendell to be crushed and transported to the Mt Owen CHPP for processing. An update was also provided on the Glendell project. Tony noted that further mine planning is being undertaken.

Upon seeing an aerial photograph, Alex asked why such a large area at Ravensworth East was unvegetated. Tony responded that this was an old photo and discussed that now that the last strip had been taken, the mine would now be worked as a truck and excavator operation from north to south similar to Mt Owen, which would provide the opportunity for progressive rehabilitation.

Peter discussed some of the features of the new noise attenuating trucks and the modifications over the standard truck to reduce running noise.

Mary asked if there were any improvements to the reversing beepers. Peter explained that the new trucks have 'smart beepers' fitted that take the ambient noise level into account and adjust the volume accordingly. These smart alarms were fitted to all existing fleet at Mt Owen and Ravensworth East during 2003 and 2004.

Patricia asked what was the additional cost for the noise attenuating fleet, over the cost of standard equipment. Tony responded that it was approximately \$10 million.

Val Scott had a number of queries regarding occupational health aspects for the truck drivers. Peter discussed some of the ergonomic features of the seats and cabins.

10. Review of Environmental Performance

Geoff gave a presentation on the environmental performance of the operations, which included:

Dust

- Dust Deposition Gauges – Explanation, gauge locations, approval limits and results in 2004
- PM10 – Explanation of PM10, monitor locations, approval limits and results in 2004.
- TSP - Explanation of TSP, monitor locations, approval limits and results in 2004.

Noise

- Methods of analysis, assessment criteria, difficulties in assessment and approval limits.

Blasting

- Explanation of monitoring network, monitoring locations and approval limits.

Complaints

- Overview of complaints in 2004, with comparison to previous years.

Water Management

- No discharges, discussion of water use by source and water measurement.

Other

- Brief discussion on bushfires, flora & fauna and Aboriginal and Heritage monitoring in 2004.

A copy of the presentation, which includes a summary of results, was provided to all members.

11. General Business

Nigel distributed a copy of the Glendell AEMR for 2004 to all CCC members.

Nigel also handed out a letter that he had received on the morning of the meeting from the Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources (DPI-MR) regarding new Draft Principals for Engagement with Communities and Stakeholders. The principals were put together by the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, which is an intergovernmental council of Commonwealth, State and Territory Resources Ministers with responsibilities for promoting progressive and sustainable development by the Australian mining industry. The principals address five key issues for effective engagement, namely communication, transparency, collaboration, inclusiveness and integrity.

The DPI-MR are inviting feedback on the draft Principals, by Friday 18th March 2005. All CCC members were invited to provide comment directly to the DPI-MR.

Nigel stated that copies of the letter and the AEMR will be distributed to absent Committee members.

Site Inspection

A site inspection was offered to all Committee members present. Two community members accepted this offer and were provided with a tour of the operations.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for **1 pm Tuesday 31st May 2005** at Mt Owen Mine. The meeting is to start with a tour to look out on Tank Mountain to the north of Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed: 2.00 PM

Minutes prepared by Nigel Charnock

Action Items next page

Action Items:

Item	Responsible	Raised at CCC meeting on:	Status
Report back to CCC on progress of relocating signs on Bowmans Creek Bridge.	Council	26/11/04	
Contact the Singleton Coal Information Centre to discuss possibility of providing careers information/job opportunities within the mining industry.	HVCC	26/11/04	Complete
Formally advise Singleton Council and DIPNR in writing of the CCC's decision to amalgamate Mt Owen, Rav East and Glendell CCC's.	HVCC	26/11/2004	Complete
Advertise three vacant community positions on new amalgamated Mt Owen Complex CCC	Council & HVCC	26/11/2004	Complete – 3 new Community member on the Council.
Provide presentation on Mt Owen Complex Biodiversity and Land management Plan, which was delayed at meeting on 26/11/04,	HVCC	26/11/04	
Provide Draft copy Blast Management Plan to CCC members for review at next meeting.	HVCC	04/03/05	To be provided to all CCC members at least 2 weeks prior to next CCC meeting on 31 st May 2005
Discuss Draft Blast Management Plan for Mt Owen at next CCC meeting	All CCC members	04/03/05	To be provided to all CCC members at least 2 weeks prior to next CCC meeting on 31 st May 2005
Review current Blasting Notification Protocol to determine if there is further scope to notify residents upon changes to the weekly blasting schedule	Thiess	04/03/05	