

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

Tuesday 22 November 2005 at Mt Owen Mine

Meeting opened by Mary Robinson at 11:00am.

Present:

Community: Patricia Bestic, Alan Noble, Jenny Marshall, Gillian Holmes, Sam Deaves

Singleton Council: Mary Robinson (Chairperson), Brian Thomas,

Mt Owen Mine: Nigel Charnock, Derek Walls, Gerrie Jordaan, Lisa Richards

1. Site Inspection/Demonstration of Continuous Noise and Dust Monitoring Equipment

A site inspection commenced at 9am at Alan Noble's Property along Glennies Creek Rd. The purpose of the inspection was to demonstrate the operation of a continuous PM10 dust monitoring unit (TEOM) and a continuous noise monitoring station operated by Mt Owen Complex. Jeremy Pola of Advitech attended the inspection and explained the operation of the continuous dust and noise monitoring units to CCC members present.

2. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Alec Schmierer, Wendy Williams, Diedre Olofsson, Val Scott. Brian Thomas noted that he had received a call from Leanne Cramp regarding her resignation from the Committee. Nigel Charnock confirmed that he had received a letter from Leanne confirming her resignation.

3. Introduction of New Members

Nigel introduced Sarah Harvey from HLA Envirosiences. Nigel noted that Sarah is now taking minutes, replacing Julie McMillan of HLA.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

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

5. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 August 2005 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Patricia Bestic, seconded by Brian Thomas.

6. Update on the implementation of key Mt Owen and Ravensworth Consent Conditions

Nigel Charnock provided the CCC with an update on the implementation of key Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consent Conditions. Key points of his presentation were:

- By 8 December 2005, Mt Owen will surrender all existing Development Consents held for Mt Owen Mine and operate solely under DA14-1-2004.
- The field excursion highlighted the progressive development of the real time noise and dust monitoring technology.
- There has been no feedback from DEC to date regarding the Mt Owen's Blasting Trial Program, which was submitted to the DEC following the last CCC meeting.
- Survey and geotechnical investigations have been completed for the Betty's Creek diversions. Design plans are being developed in consultation with Department of Planning (DoP) and DPI- Mineral Resources. It is anticipated that construction of the diversions will commence in early 2006.
- A draft proposal for the implementation of the Mt Owen Biodiversity Offset Strategy has been prepared and distributed to the Mt Owen Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee for review. Involves a 5 year research program in conjunction with Newcastle University.
- Mt Pleasant School Enhancement Program developed in consultation with School Principal and P&C and was recently approved by the DoP.
- Archaeological salvage of the Mt Owen mine extension area was completed during October 2005.
- Archival records of 5 heritage sites located at Mt Owen Mine has been completed under permits issued by the NSW Heritage Office.
- A dust health brochure is being prepared and will be distributed to potentially affected residents and made available on the Mt Owen Website. This process has been delayed, but will hopefully be completed over the next month.
- A template for monitoring data to be provided on the Mt Owen Website has been submitted to the DoP for approval. However, Mt Owen plans to commence making monitoring data available on the website over the next month.
- The Mt Owen Website is currently being updated to include Ravensworth East Mine, given that both operations are owned by Xstrata and operated by Thiess.
- No feedback has been received on draft environmental management plans, programs and strategies that were submitted to the DoP for approval in June 2005. Despite this, environmental monitoring programs are in place and the Mine will continue to operate under existing Plans until the new Plans are approved...

- A Draft Flora and Fauna Management Plan has been prepared and distributed to the Mt Owen Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee for review, prior to submission to the DoP for approval.

7. Update on the Mt Owen Complex Continuous Noise and Dust Monitoring Network

Lisa Richards provided an update on the Mt Owen Complex Continuous Noise and Dust Monitoring Network. Key points included:

- All loggers are in and operating. There is also one mobile noise logger monitor.
- One TSP and PM10 HVAS unit and one continuous PM10 TEOM dust unit will be moved to an alternative nearby location at the request of the resident.
- A 24 hr noise and dust summary report is emailed every morning to Lisa and Nigel for review. Data from these units can also be accessed remotely by the Company at any time (e.g. following receipt of complaints).
- J. Marshall – Where is the unit on Hebden Rd?
- N. Charnock – Opposite the Hebden Hall (school block)
- What is happening with the High Volume Air Sampler at Ashton?
- L. Richards - A new location is currently being sought.
- S. Deaves - what is happening with the noise logger proposed for Jim Reid's property?
- N. Charnock – cannot force resident to have logger on their property. The unit will now be used as a mobile logger and used in response to complaints and to calibrate stationary units.

8. Review of operational Performance

Derek Walls provided an overview of operational performance since the last meeting. Key points included:

- Mining operations continued in Pit B.
- Mining has moved into Pit C.
- The current mining areas are very complex geologically.
- Full time laser and radar to monitor stability of low wall dumps given the steep surface that dumping occurs on.
- Rehabilitation of the top of the main overburden dump will commence shortly, with a view to rehabilitation being completed on the top of the dump in next 12 months, which is approximately 12 months ahead of schedule.
- L. Richards – this will enable us to place fresh forest topsoil currently being cleared from the next mining block on this area.

- Mining at Ravensworth East is progressing well in a southerly direction. The new mining method is similar to the mining method being employed at Mt Owen and will result in a much reduced final void.
- Ravensworth East has a remaining mining life of approximately 10 years.

9. Review of Environmental Performance

Lisa Richards provided an overview of environmental performance since the last meeting. Key points included:

- Discussion of monitoring locations and operating schedule of all monitoring equipment.
- Explanation of compliance levels for TSP and comparison of these levels with actual levels from 2004-05.
- PM₁₀ – explanation of compliance levels and comparison with actual data. Peaks measured at one unit along Glennies Creek Road believed to be caused by an adjacent mining operation, not Mount Owen. This unit is located at a mine owned property and will be relocated to an area that is representative of Mt Owen. It was noted that there are no single event limits for PM10 dust, only 24 hr limits.
- Depositional dust gauges require rationalizing as there is some double-up due to gauges being installed prior to Mt Owen, Ravensworth East and Glendell being under common ownership.
- Explanation of EPA Assessment Criteria for depositional dust (4g/m²/month) and performance against criteria at residential gauges. It was noted that there was an exceedence of EPA criteria at one private residence. The resident has been notified and is being provided with dust results. The resident is entitled to dust mitigation measures and acquisition under the Mt Owen Consent.
- Explanation and examples of blast monitoring limits (115dB) and results. Blasts can exceed the 115dB limit 5% of the time, but can never exceed 120dB.
- Complaints – data displayed and follow up action discussed. Discussion included complaints by type, complainant and month.

10. Mt Owen Draft Biodiversity and Land Management Plan

Given time constraints, it was agreed that this presentation would be deferred until the next meeting. Nigel advised the Committee that he would invite a representative from Newcastle University to come along to the next meeting and provide a presentation on the native forest research work being undertaken at Mt Owen.

11. General Business

Department of Planning Draft CCC Guidelines

Nigel Charnock provided a presentation the DoP's Draft Guidelines for CCC's. Key points included:

- Presentation & workshop on draft guidelines held on 11 October 2005 – approx 50 people attended representing the community, mining companies, local council and NSW Minerals Council.
- There was a good balance of community and mining representatives and the meeting was facilitated by Margaret McDonald Hill from Mining Related Councils.
- The intention is for the guidelines to coincide with the new planning reforms.
- There are two overriding objectives of the new guidelines:
 1. Consistency across the industry
 2. Identify and encourage the adoption of “best practice”.
- Guidelines intended to encourage mining companies and the community to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes and continuous improvement in performance.
- Key points of DoP's presentation at the recent workshop at Singleton included:
 - There a number of existing guidelines in place:
 - Muswellbrook Council (2001 and 2005)
 - Singleton Council (2001)
 - DPI-MR (2004)
 - NSWMC Guidelines for Community Consultation (1998)
 - Guidelines are quite comprehensive and provide guidance for existing CCC's, but do not promote consistency as none of these guidelines apply across the State and to all major new mines.
 - DoP have attempted to take the best from all existing guidelines to include in new guidelines.
 - The new guidelines will apply to all new mines across the State as a condition of new approvals, or modifications to existing approvals.
 - The guidelines cannot be forced on existing mines unless the mine seeks a new approval or modification but mines can voluntarily adopt the new Guidelines in consultation with the DoP
 - It was reinforced that CCC's are not an audit or compliance Committee. This responsibility lies with DoP.
 - Despite this, the new guidelines will effectively empower the community as DoP have adopted the approach.....the mine “shall”....the community “may”.

- Attendees were broken into groups comprising a balance of mining and community representatives.
- Each group was facilitated by a DoP representative. The groups were asked to record their thoughts on:
 - What they like about the new guidelines
 - What they do not like about the new guidelines
 - Other opportunities to improve the guidelines.
- It was the intention of the DoP to have each group present their findings, however, given time constraints notes from each group were collected by DoP for review and consideration.
- DoP announced that receipt of written submissions on the draft guidelines due by **Friday 11 November 2005**.
- M. Robinson – mine related councils meeting on 11th – 2 week extension granted for submission to DoP on the draft guidelines.
- B. Thomas – this new deadline expired last Friday.
- M. Robinson – people attending the workshop wouldn't listen, and others were getting annoyed and walking out.
- N. Charnock – I wasn't aware of that. Thanks.
- M. Robinson – everyone on the committee is paid, there are no volunteers. I know the community and the mine. Someone from elsewhere lacks local knowledge.
- M. Robinson – It isn't good that they're paid.
- P. Bestic – Agreed – it is in their interests to hold more meetings.
- N. Charnock – explained why the flexibility is there – we can decide as a committee how often we want to meet.
- M. Robinson – Mine Councils are against this. A letter will be sent to DoP.
- B. Thomas – Other Government agencies (e.g. EPA, Department of Mineral Resources) should be included in meetings as they add valuable input.
- B. Thomas – The current number of guidelines creates confusion. The new way also creates a problem as some mines will continue to operate under the old Guidelines and some under the new Guidelines.

Mt Owen Complex Complaints Management Protocol

Lisa Richards explained the Mt Owen Complex Complaints Management Protocol. Key points included:

- Professional answering service in place – message relayed to mine personnel to respond.
- Details of each complaint and follow up action taken maintained in database.
- Details of each complaint relayed to Xstrata and Thiess management. N. Charnock – re-enforced that all complaints, regardless of their nature are regarded seriously.

- M. Robinson - Potential problem with call centres in general – she can't understand people she's talking to.
- S. Deaves - highlighted problems with the call centre staff
- L. Richards - Seems to be working well. We have performed dummy calls to check.
- S. Deaves - Even at 2 am?
- L. Richards - Yes.
- L. Richards - 24 hour Emergency Contact Number for fires, accidents near the mine etc to be established in coming weeks – reduced to easier process
- J. Marshall - logical way of doing it.
- All agreed
- N. Charnock – offered to detail the new process in the next Community Newsletter to be released in December as this will reach local people. It was agreed that this was a good idea.
- Will the company advertise for a new CCC member following the resignation of Leanne Cramp?
- B. Thomas -Yes should advertise through Mt Owen newsletter as per last vacancy.
- N. Charnock – Accepted this approach.
- All – Yes
- N. Charnock - a sign is being constructed and will be placed along Hebden Road in the coming weeks to advise road users of who to call if there are cattle on the road, or for any other land management related issue.

Update on Ravensworth Homestead

Nigel gave an update on the Ravensworth Homestead, which was discussed at the last meeting. Key points included:

- HVCC have engaged EJE Architecture to prepare a structural and material condition report for the Homestead.
- Stage 1 of the work includes identify items suffering deterioration/damage and providing recommendations for appropriate repair methods for each building component.
- HVCC are expecting to receive a Report from EJE in December 2005.
- This is the same company that were engaged to prepare a condition report on the Homestead in 1997.
- P. Bestic – What is the future of the Homestead?
- N. Charnock – Can't really answer at this stage. We have scheduled a meeting in mid December to discuss options following receipt of EJE's report.
- J. Marshall – I am pleased EJE are doing it.
- N. Charnock – It was an easy choice given their experience with historic structures and the fact that they are familiar with the Homestead.

Hebden Road Line Markings

Mary Robinson advised the Committee that she had raised the issue of line markings along Hebden Road with Council. It was agreed that she would report back on this issue at the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday 21, February 2006** at Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed - 12:20 pm by M. Robinson

Minutes prepared by – Sarah Harvey

Action Items:

Item	Responsible	Raised at CCC meeting on:	Status
Provide presentation on Mt Owen Complex Biodiversity and Land management Plan, which was delayed at meeting on 26/11/04,	HVCC	26/11/04 & 22/11/05	Agenda for next meeting. Nigel to invite Newcastle University rep along to present
Discussion of Complaints Management Protocol –	All CCC members	31/05/05	Completed at meeting on 22/11/2005
24 hour contact number for mine	HVCC & Thiess	30/08/05	Completed at meeting on 22/11/2005
24 hour contact number for mine	HVCC & Thiess	22/11/05	Advertise number and provide details of process in upcoming Community Newsletter
Letter to Singleton Council regarding line markings on local roads	SSC	22/11/2005	Mary Robinson to provide update at next meeting
Advertise for community rep to fill vacant CCC position following departure of Leanne Cramp	HVCC	22/11/2005	Advertise in next Mt Owen Community Newsletter