

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

Thursday 25 May 2006 at Mt Owen Mine

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened by Mary Robinson at 10:10am.

Present:

Community: Alec Schmierer, Patricia Bestic, Jenny Marshall, Gillian Holmes, Sam Deaves

Singleton Council: Mary Robinson (Chairperson), Val Scott, Fiona Scanes

Mt Owen Mine: Nigel Charnock, Trevor Wells, Linda Dunn, Sarah Caruana, Geoff Marschke

2. Introduction of New Members

Nigel introduced Linda Dunn (Graduate Environmental Officer from Thiess), and Trevor Wells (Operations Manager, Xstrata Mt Owen). Nigel introduced Eve Hassett from HLA Envirosiences who was in attendance to take the minutes of the meeting. Nigel also noted that Victor Perry from the Upper Hunter Tribal Council was invited to attend to provide a presentation on the Mt Owen Complex Yorks Creek Cultural Landscape Remediation Project and a general presentation on Cultural Awareness. Victor would arrive at 10.30 am.

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Diedre Olofsson, Wendy Williams, Alan Noble (Community Representatives), Brian Thomas (Singleton Council), Gerrie Jordaan (Mt Owen Mine) and David O'Brien (Xstrata Coal NSW).

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 Tuesday 7 March 2006 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Alec Schmierer, seconded by Gillian Holmes.

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

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

- Progressive development of continuous noise and air quality monitoring systems. All units are in place.
- A trailer mounted noise unit is now operational.
- One attenuated overburden excavator and two fleets of attenuated overburden trucks are operational. A second attenuated excavator will be operational by end of May 2006. This compares to Mt Owen's EIS target of one attenuated excavator and one fleet of trucks by Year Three (end of 2007). Geoff Marschke noted that a third attenuated excavator would be up and running by September/October this year. Nigel added that the attenuated overburden excavators were about 250% quieter than a conventional non-attenuated excavator, which has a significant influence on the overall noise output from the operation.
- An archaeological survey of the Mt Owen Biodiversity Offset areas is complete and a management plan is being prepared in consultation with local Aboriginal Groups and the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC).
- Native forest restoration trials have commenced in the South East, South East Corridor and Forest East Offset Biodiversity Offset Areas. This includes the forest topsoil transfer and plantings. Over 30,000 plants are to be planted by end of 2006 in addition to areas of direct seeding.
- Betty's Creek diversion – construction of lower diversion is to commence in early June 2006. A brief description of the diversion was given. Fergus Hancock from the Department of Natural Resources has expressed an interest to attend the next CCC meeting to explain the principles of stream diversions further and the Department's role in the regulation of stream diversions.
- The Mt Owen Complex Flora and Fauna Management Plan was approved by the Department of Planning (DoP) in March 2006 following consultation with Mt Owen Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee (acting in the capacity of the Hunter Coalfields Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee (HCFFAC)). There has been no feedback on the other draft Mt Owen Complex EMP's, Programs and Strategies submitted to DoP, including Environmental Management Strategy, Noise, Air Quality, Blasting, Water and Environmental Monitoring Programs.
- Mt Owen has commenced preparation of "conservation sensitive" Bushfire Management Plan for the Mt Owen complex – consultation is proposed with both the Mt Owen Complex CCC & the HCFFAC. Consultation with the Mt Owen Complex CCC on the Plan is proposed for the next meeting.
- Construction has commenced on alternative Green and Golden Bellfrog (GGBF) habitat dams within Biodiversity Offset Areas at Mt Owen. Rubble piles are to be provided as breeding areas around the dams, which will enhance the habitat. Cattle have been excluded from Biodiversity Offset Areas.

Nigel Charnock provided the CCC with an update on the Glendell project area. Key points of his presentation were:

- Installation of groundwater monitoring bores was completed in February 2006 to obtain baseline information on groundwater quality and quantity prior to mining.
- No other site activities have been undertaken at Glendell since the last CCC meeting.
- Trevor Wells added that a capital expenditure application for the expansion of the existing Mt Owen Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) had been submitted to the Xstrata Board for consideration. The expansion would enable the future integration of Glendell into the Mt Owen Complex in line with the Mt Owen development consent.

7. Review of Operational Performance

Trevor Wells provided an overview of operational performance since the last meeting. Key points included:

- Mining has progressed in to the C mining block in the North Pit (Mt Owen Main Pit).
- Mining is still being undertaken within B mining block (B4) in North Pit, through difficult geological conditions.
- West Pit is in line to meet mining targets for coal supply. Further discussions are planned with Macquarie Generation to extend the domestic coal supply contract for West Pit.
- Eastern Rail Pit – works are scheduled to commence in June/July 2006 to extract this shallow coal resource with completion in 2007.
- Water Management – a regional pipeline network is in place linking Xstrata's operations in the greater Ravensworth area. Saline mine water can be pumped from the West Pit Southern void to Narama Mine. From Narama, water can then be transferred to Cumnock or Liddell mines or back to West Pit. Mt Owen can also receive water via the Liddell bore, which extracts saline mine water from old Liddell underground workings. This reduces sites reliance on river water.
- Geoff Marschke added that since the last CCC meeting about 40 hectares of topsoil had been moved to the top of the Mt Owen main overburden dump ready for seeding in September 2006. More topsoil will be moved later this year.
- Nigel Charnock advised the Committee that a tour of rehabilitation areas was available following the meeting for those wishing to attend.

8. Review of Environmental Performance

Linda Dunn provided an overview of environmental performance since the last meeting using PowerPoint presentation figures. Key points included:

- Environmental monitoring locations were explained.
- Monthly Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) and PM10 High Volume Air Sampling (HVAS) results were presented for the period 03.02.06 to 22.04.06

- The PM10 HVAS near Ashton has been moved to a location more representative of the Mt Owen Complex along middle Falbrook Road and away from the influence of an adjacent mining operation.
- HVAS TSP results for 2005/06 are running below 2004/05 results.
- Gillian Holmes pointed out that one of the HVAS PM10 results for the Middle Falbrook monitor was high in comparison to the other results.
- Mary Robinson asked whether the monitor is close to other mines.
- Nigel Charnock advised that the PM10 monitor in question is central to a number of mines and not far from a disused council quarry site, which could have affected the result. Nigel added that it could be expected that Mt Owen's HVAS PM10 monitor much closer to the mine along Falbrook Road would also be high if Mt Owen was a significant contributor to this result. However, for the same period results from this monitor were much lower and below compliance levels. Nigel added that the annual average for the monitor was below compliance criteria.
- A new dust deposition gauge (D19) has been installed along Falbrook Rd on private property at resident's request.
- Sam Deaves pointed out that dust deposition gauge D16 on private property along Falbrook Road is above compliance criteria. Sam asked what the mine has been doing to bring the dust deposition levels down.
- Nigel Charnock clarified that although the result was elevated, the result is now below the annual average criteria and trending downwards. Nigel added that the affected resident and the DoP had been advised in writing and the resident offered dust mitigation measures in accordance with the Mt Owen Consent. Nigel added that the resident is also entitled to request the mine to acquire their property in accordance with the Mt Owen Consent.
- Geoff Marschke added that the exceedance was reported in the 2004/05 Mt Owen Annual Environmental Management Report and discussed at a previous CCC meeting.
- Sam Deaves: What measures have been offered to the resident?
- Nigel Charnock: air conditioning and first flush systems on rain water tanks have been installed at the residence at the request of the resident. These options were available to the resident under the Mt Owen development consent.
- Sam Deaves: What other measures are taken?
- Val Scott: Is it happening the same time each year? What measures are taken?
- Nigel Charnock: In addition to standard dust mitigation practices, a number of other dust mitigation options are available to Mt Owen during adverse weather conditions such as lower level dumps and dumping behind barriers.
- Trevor Wells added that operational protocols for dust mitigation are in place and these are followed by Shift Supervisors. This includes water carts running through crib break during adverse weather, regular inspections and modifying operations as appropriate.

- Trevor added that Mt Owen is in the process of establishing alarming protocols, which will alert supervisors of elevated dust or noise results based on results from its continuous noise and dust monitoring network. This is a proactive measure and will enable operations to be relocated or modified as required based on alarming.
- Blasting results – no exceedances of criteria since the last meeting.
- Sam Deaves: I would like to make you aware that my children and I visited hospital in April as a result of blasting at Mt Owen. Complaints are serious.
- Mary Robinson: A blast caused a medical emergency?
- Sam Deaves: Yes.
- Nigel Charnock advised the Committee that a report on the incident had been provided to the DoP and the DEC. Since the CCC meeting a response was received by Mt Owen from the DoP. After reviewing information provided by the company, including video footage of the blast, the DoP stated that it was generally satisfied that the blast was initiated in accordance with the site blast management protocol, and did not exceed blasting criteria outlined in the Mt Owen Development Consent. The DoP has asked Mt Owen to review its site blasting procedures and report back to the Department.

Geoff Marschke advised that he was standing in for Lisa Richards who was on maternity leave. Geoff gave a presentation on Mt Owen's continuous noise and dust monitoring network, including a presentation of continuous monitoring noise and PM10 dust results for 2006.

Geoff asked for suggestions as to what data the committee would like to see presented at future meetings and in what format.

- Sam Deaves: Summary would be preferred to show compliance with noise criteria for private properties.
- A preference was stated for the continuous noise distribution curve, which shows monitored noise levels against the EIS predictions. An example for the summer period was shown at the meeting.
- Trevor Wells: What do regulators want?
- Geoff Marschke: No guidance is available as to reporting guidelines. The proposed approach has been submitted to the DoP and we are awaiting their response.
- Nigel Charnock added that the mine would be guided by the Department.
- It was agreed that a continuous noise distribution curve would be presented at future meetings.

9. Early Morning Blasting Trial

Geoff Marschke gave an update on the Mt Owen early morning blast trial. Key points were:

- The early morning Blasting Trial is expected to commence shortly following approval of trial methodology by DoP.

- Residents within 4 km are to be notified of trial commencing and offered opportunity for pre-blast notification.
- Approval is expected soon and will provide the opportunity for a limited number of blasts per year (maximum of 12) between 7 am and 9 am. This will enable the mine to take advantage of calmer early morning weather conditions.
- If the trial is successful, it may be approved permanently, allowing up to 12 early morning blasts per year.
- Jenny Marshall: Has approval been held up?
- Geoff Marschke: Yes, the trial was submitted to the DoP in March 2006.

10. Presentation on Yorks Creek Cultural Remediation Project & Cultural Awareness by Victor Perry of the Upper Hunter Tribal Council.

Nigel Charnock introduced Victor Perry from the Upper Hunter Tribal Council. Victor displayed Aboriginal tools and weapons, and explained their manufacture and use. The movements of the local Aboriginal tribes within the region was explained (i.e. capitalizing on resources in different areas, meetings of tribes for ceremonies, exchanging of ideas and trade etc). Movement of tribes was generally along “local highways” which allowed the tribes to move without interfering with other peoples regional rights.

Nigel thanked Victor for a very interesting presentation and invited him to join the CCC for lunch and further discussion.

11. Update on Community Projects

11.1 Xstrata Coal NSW Community Survey

Nigel Charnock provided an update on the Xstrata Coal NSW (XCN) Community Survey (ViewPoint). Key points of his presentation were

- The ViewPoint survey commenced late March 2005 and is being undertaken with the upper hunter, lower hunter and western coalfields in communities surrounding XCN’s operations.
- Coakes consulting has been engaged by XCN to co-ordinate the survey.
- Emphasis on understanding community perceptions ‘up front’ in the program.
- There are 5 key phases in the program- Planning, Scoping, Indicator and Instrument Development, Baseline Assessment and Strategy Refinement and Monitoring.
- A pilot (scoping) study has just been completed (Phase 2). This involved interviews with 73 stakeholders, who were selected by the consultant. The purpose of the pilot study was to identify key issues to enable the consultant to ask more specific questions on stakeholder views in the next phase of the program.
- Both positive and negative feedback was received during the pilot study.

- The next phase is to conduct further interviews with stakeholders and ask more targeted questions based on quantitative indicators that will be established to allow the company to monitor its performance over time.
- Nigel told CCC members that they could contact Coakes Consulting if they wanted to participate in the program as sites do not have any involvement in the stakeholder interviews. Nigel noted that some CCC members may have already been contacted by Coakes consulting.
- Nigel advised that feedback on the Viewpoint program will be provided to participants in the program and via further presentations to the CCC.
- Nigel made a copy of a Viewpoint Information Sheet available for all attendees at the conclusion of the meeting.

11.2 Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project

Nigel Charnock provided a presentation on the Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project. Key points of his presentation were:

- Glennies Creek Catchment Total Management Strategy/Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Hunter Catchment 2002 (HCMT) – launched 2004 and 2002.
- Glennies Creek Rivercare Plan (Glennies Creek Dam to Hunter River) co-ordinated by the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA) – finalized March 2005.

Glennies Creek TCM Strategy 2005:

- Glennies Ck TCM developed by landholders with facilitation of the HCRCMA in the early 2000's.
- Focused on broad catchment issues such as erosion, salinity, land use, native vegetation and vertebrate pests.
- Developed recommendations for priority projects such as Glennies Ck Rivercare Plan.
- Highlighted riparian weed management and revegetation as high priority for trunk streams and tributaries within the catchment.

Integrated Catchment Management Plan for Hunter Catchment 2002:

- HCRCMA is working towards the Integrated Catchment Management Plan 2002 which highlights natural resource management targets.
- Xstrata Mt Owen's (XMO) project falls under both Aquatic Health and Native Vegetation and Biodiversity with the Glennies Ck catchment being classified as a High Hazard catchment.

Glennies Creek Rivercare Plan (Glennies Creek Dam to Hunter River):

- Finalised in March 05, as a recommendation of the Glennies Ck TCM Strategy by Hunter Land Management on behalf of the HCRCMA.

- Provides site specific and broad recommendations for management of the Glennies Ck riparian zone along with landholder education and awareness of riparian management issues such as weeds, erosion and native vegetation.
- Outcomes include Aerial photo GIS Map and Companion Booklet.
- XMO was a participant in this planning process as a significant riparian landholder.

Development of Detailed Project Program (DPP):

- DPP was undertaken for all of Xstrata Coal's Glennies Ck Frontage (managed by XMO) in August 2005.
- Uses recommendations of the Rivercare Plan to divide Xstrata Coal's riparian lands into Project Areas which require similar management action or are of a similar geomorphic unit (e.g. outside bend/bench etc).
- Each Project Area was evaluated (identification, mgt action, materials and labour) for:
 - Total Area (in ha)
 - Stock Management (fencing etc)
 - Weed Infestations (initial follow up and on-going maintenance)
 - Native Vegetation (ability to regenerate naturally and required revegetation)
 - Site Preparation required for planning
 - Monitoring and Performance Indicators (Photo references and vegetation plots)
 - Site Specific Management Issues for each site (OHS, Access, First Aid etc).

Prioritisation of Works – Year 1

- Each Project Area was prioritized as either High, Medium or Low during the development of the DPP.
- 3 sites were chosen on Glennies Ck (Project Areas 1, 2 & 3) at the upstream extremity of the riparian frontage for weed control & plantings in 2006.
- An erosion control structure will also be built in year 1, including total fencing of Main Ck, which is actively eroding and is a contributor to sediment entering lower Glennies Ck.
- Two tree belts will be planted (Areas 14 and 15) along Glennies Ck Road.
- Each Project Area requires follow up maintenance for at least 3 years.

Role of Hunter Land Management and Conservation Volunteers Australia:

Project involves 3 year partnership between XMO and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) under XC's "Good Neighbours Program".

- HLM will supply Project Management and Site Supervision Services on behalf of XMO throughout project.
- CVA to supply labour for Weed Control and Revegetation Works which will include tasks such as:

- Bush Regeneration – removal of noxious & environmental weeds
- Tree Planting (Longstem and Standards)
- Installation of Stakes and Guards.
- Project inception meeting held May 2006 with site works to commence in August 2006.
- Consultation with key stakeholders to commence in late May 2006.
- Gillian Holmes inquired about what works were being done on the other side of the Creek.
- Nigel advised that he understood that Glennies Ck Mine had recently been doing some weed control works on their land on the other side of Glennies Creek.
- Patricia Bestic asked whether subsidence from the Glennies Creek underground mine could affect the Creek.
- Nigel Charnock: You would have to direct that question to Glennies Creek Mine.

12. General Business

12.1 Ravensworth Homestead

Nigel Charnock gave an update on the Ravensworth Homestead. Key points were:

- XMO engaged EJE Architecture to prepare a structural and material condition report.
- Stage 1 included identifying items suffering deterioration/damage, recommending appropriate repair methods for each building component & establishing priorities – completed February 2006.
- Stage 2 involves preparation of quantities and costing for individual items requiring repair – commenced April 2006.
- The Stage 2 report on the Ravensworth Homestead is about 70% completed and the results should be available for discussion at the next meeting.
- Val Scott inquired about the ultimate use of the Homestead.
- Nigel Charnock advised that the Company was waiting to see what comes out of the Stage 2 study before a firm decision is made. Nigel added that deterioration due to age and structural soundness of the building were key issues that needed to be thoroughly investigated.
- Trevor Wells added that one option being considered was for Xstrata Coal's pastoral company Colinta Holdings to use the Homestead as a central office and sale centre for its stock.

12.2 Hebden Road Line Markings

Fiona Scanes advised the Committee that she had spoken to Brain Thomas who advised that preliminary inspections on the road have been completed and a report should be finalized before the next meeting.

- Mary Robinson advised the Committee that she had raised the issue of line markings along Hebden Road with Greg McTaggart, who advised that he was progressing the issue.

- Nigel Charnock advised that XMO had forwarded a letter to Council following the last meeting. Council had provided a response to the letter.

It was agreed that Mary would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

12.3 Vacant CCC Position

Fiona advised the Committee that the position remains vacant and will be advertised in the Singleton Argus at a later date. Fiona Scanes confirmed with Nigel Charnock that the vacant community position on the Mt Owen Complex CCC would be advertised in the next Mt Owen Complex Community newsletter.

12.4 Wild Dog Baiting

Nigel Charnock noted that wild dog baiting had commenced at Mt Owen in mid May 2006.

- Pat Bestic noted that she was happy that the wild dog baiting had commenced as problems had been increasing in the area. It was good that landholders and the mine were both involved.
- Patricia inquired whether any dogs had taken the baits?
- Linda Dunn advised that over 30 baits had been taken in the first few nights.
- Pat Bestic: One dog has been shot by a neighbour in the Goorangoola area.

13. Next Meeting

Nigel Charnock had received feedback from some CCC members that it would be more convenient for members to attend meetings on Fridays. It was agreed that due to a majority preference, Mt Owen CCC Meetings would be moved back to Fridays. Val Scott indicated she would be on leave for the next meeting.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for **Friday 25 August 2006** at Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed – 12:20 pm by M. Robinson

Minutes prepared by – Eve Hassett (HLA Envirosiences)

Action Items:

Item	Responsible	Rose at CCC meeting on:	Status
Mine's Community Inquiries, Blasting and Emergency Contact Numbers to be added to Council's website	Brian Thomas	7/03/2006	Brian Thomas still following up with mines.
Letter to be sent to Council on behalf of CCC regarding issues with Hebden Road line marking	Xstrata Mt Owen	7/03/2006	Complete
Arrange for Aboriginal representative on the Yorks Creek Working Group to provide a presentation to the CCC	Xstrata Mt Owen	7/03/2006	Complete.
Letter to Singleton Council regarding line markings on local roads. Mary Robinson to provide update at next CCC meeting.	SSC	22/11/2005	Mary Robinson raised issue. G McTaggart moving on it.
Advertise for community rep to fill vacant CCC position following departure of Leanne Cramp	Xstrata Mt Owen	22/11/2005	Advertise in next Mt Owen Community Newsletter (June 2006)
Provide Presentation on the Mt Complex Bushfire Management Plan and provide feedback from the CCC on the proposed content and format of the Plan	Xstrata Mt Owen	25/05/2006	Scheduled for next meeting on 25 August 2006
Invite Fergus Hancock from the Department of Natural Resources to talk about the principles of stream diversions at the next CCC meeting	Xstrata Mt Owen	25/05/2006	Scheduled for next meeting on 25 August 2006