

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

Friday 23 March 2007 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, Wendy Williams, Alan Noble, Samantha Deaves

Singleton Council: Mary Robinson (Chairperson), Brian Thomas, Val Scott, Sarah Roberts

Department of
Primary Industry: Mark Nolan

Mt Owen Mine: Trevor Wells (XMO), John Watson (XMO), Val Istomin (XCN),
Linda Dunn (TPL)

2. Introduction of New Members

John Watson was introduced as the new Environment and Community Manager at the Mt Owen Complex. John has replaced Nigel Charnock who has taken up a new role with Xstrata Coal NSW. Brian Thomas introduced Sarah Roberts from Singleton Council. Sarah is the new Environmental Officer at Singleton Council and will also be attending several other CCC meetings in the Singleton area in the future.

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Deidre Olofsson.

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 Friday 24 November 2006 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Patricia Bestic, seconded by Val Scott.

6. Update on Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consent Conditions

John Watson provided the CCC with an update on Mt Owen and Ravensworth East consent conditions. Key points of his presentation were:

- Progressive development of continuous noise and air quality monitoring systems:
 - Completed roll-out of alarming, including training for operational personnel.
 - Continuing verification of noise model using trailer mounted noise monitoring unit.
- Monitoring results up to end February 07 available on website.
- Detailed Spring Noise Report now available via Mt Owen Website.
- 11 out of 12 permitted Early Morning Blasts for the year detonated – no exceedences of maximum allowable O/P or vibration limits – currently preparing report for DoP.

Q. Gillian Holmes – will blast results be reported on the website?

John Watson – All results from the early morning blasting trial are contained within the bi-monthly monitoring summaries located on the Mt Owen website.

Q. Gillian Holmes – will the Early Morning Blast Report submitted to DoP report include blast complaints?

John Watson – Yes, all complaints and environmental details at the time of the complaint will be outlined in the report.

- Progressive implementation of Biodiversity Offset Strategy (year 3) – development of relationship with Greening Australia for assistance with planting and seed collection. Increase in species numbers has been observed in regenerated forests.

Q. Samantha Deaves – Has there been an increase in mortality rates due to the drought?

John Watson – Mortality rates vary from area to area. Part of the research trial is to assess the effects of the drought as well as the effect of removing cattle grazing in regrowth areas.

Q. Alec Schmierer – Has anyone considered the effects of ‘cool fire’ applied to the regenerated forests and native seed germination?

John Watson – The use of fire has been considered as a management tool in the Bush Fire Management plan and will be implemented following further stakeholder consultation if required.

- No feedback on following draft EMPs, Programs and Strategies submitted to DoP:
 - Environmental Management Strategy
 - Noise
 - Air Quality
 - Blasting
 - Water
 - Environmental Monitoring Program

- Bushfire Management Plan completed – consultation with RFS, SSC

7. Update on the Glendell Project

Trevor Wells provided the CCC with an update on the modification of the Glendell consent conditions. Key points of his presentation were:

- Background:
 - The Glendell project was first approved by the Department of Planning in May 1983.
 - The Consent is valid until May 2013
 - Aside from initial site preparation works no mining has been undertaken to date
- Mining and Infrastructure:
 - Proposed mine life to reduce from 16 years (min) to 12 years (min).
 - Mining method to be excavator and truck (15 – 20) rather than dragline and shovel.

Q. Val Scott – Is 15 – 20 trucks an increase on the current number at Mt Owen?

Trevor Wells – Yes, new trucks will all be attenuated to reduce noise when full production commences. The impact of trucks operating at Mt Owen will be incorporated into noise models for Glendell.

- Mining direction to change from south-north to north-south and return.
- Final void to be reduced from 140 M m³ to 86 M m³.
- Final disturbance area is to reduce from 685 hectares to 610 hectares.
- Maximum overburden height and mining depth unchanged.
- Proposed reduction in new infrastructure due to sharing with existing Mt Owen infrastructure e.g. CHPP, rail loading, coal stockpiles, tailings management, administration buildings.
- Use of an internal haul road to transport ROM coal to Mt Owen CHPP.
- Change to site access to a safer location on Hebden Road.
- Reduction to Swamp Creek diversion from 1300m to 500m.
- Advantages of Proposed North South Mining Sequence:
 - reduces cumulative impacts to south of the mine due to timing of the adjacent Camberwell & Ashton open-cut operations
 - reduces capital required to commence mining due to shorter haul distances and available dumping room
 - maximises synergies with Mt Owen and Rav. East
 - overcomes previous dump room constraints
 - Proposed mining and disturbance areas within existing approval limits

- Significant reduction in final void area.

Q. Jenny Marshall – What year does that take mining to?

Trevor Wells – Approximately 2023.

- John Watson provided an update of key environmental concerns related to the project.
 - Land Ownership and Acquisition
 - i. The Glendell acquisition zone included any owner as identified in Attachment 2 of the 1997 SEE.
 - ii. 13 of the 17 residents with acquisition rights have been acquired by mining companies.
 - iii. No written requests for acquisition have been received from the owners of residencies 1 and 2, 14 or 16.
 - iv. Residents 1, 2 and 16 are entitled to request acquisition under the terms of the Mt Owen Development Consent (DA 14-1-2004).
 - Xstrata are currently completing a range of detailed investigations to determine the nature and extent of impacts associated with the proposed modifications
 - Detailed investigations will specifically address the key environmental issues associated with the proposed modifications
 - The detailed investigations will be completed in March 2007 and will form the basis for further consultation with key Government agencies and the Community

John Watson – Information will be included in XMO newsletters to residents who currently receive the XMO newsletter. It is anticipated that two community meetings will be held in Camberwell Village (Church).

Q. Val Scott – Will the meetings be advertised?

John Watson – Yes.

Q. Brian Thomas – The modified consent includes a long haul road between Glendell and Mt Owen. How will dust be controlled?

Trevor Wells – A coarse gravel is used on Mt Owen haul roads which helps to reduce dust. Also, haul roads are treated chemically to reduce dust and reduce water usage.

Q. Brian Thomas – the Glendell mining area includes a stand of trees. Will these be replaced?

John Watson – There are no plans to ‘replace’ the trees that will be removed from the Glendell project area. XMO currently manages a Biodiversity Offset Strategy, Glennies Creek Enhancement Project and the Yorks Creek Cultural Project where research and rehabilitation works are being undertaken across substantial areas of the XMO landholding. Existing mining practice for areas ahead of mining with trees is for them to be removed and mulched and top soil collected and retained for later use.

Trevor Wells- The current Mt Owen offset programmes will incorporate any tree loss at Glendell.

Q. Gillian Holmes – If export tonnages are to increase from 6 MT to 9 MT will there be an increase in rail traffic?

Trevor Wells – Yes, but current approvals have already taken this into consideration.

John Watson outlined common features of the environmental management process associated with Mt Owen, Rav. East & Glendell sites. Common features will include:

- Common EMS
- Common environmental Management Plans & Strategy
- Consolidated environmental monitoring network
- Consistent reporting, inspections and audit program
- Complex wide water and tailings management system
- Integrated waste management system

This will require administrative changes to the Glendell Consent so the wording is consistent with Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consents.

8. Review of Operational Performance

Trevor Wells provided an overview of mining progress of the Mt Owen and Ravensworth East (West Pit) since the last CCC meeting, using a recent aerial photograph. Key points included:

North Pit

- Mining has continued in Pit B and Pit C blocks. 5 block was recently completed. The observed progress of mining from the aerial photograph was relatively slow due to the depth of the pit.
- Continued development of West Dump. Parts of dump are approaching final approved height (RL190m).

Eastern Rail Pit

- Mining nearly complete.
- Creek diversion nearly complete.
- Bulk shaping of mined areas has commenced.

West Pit

- Mining is progressing in a southerly direction.

Trevor Wells located two smaller isolated sections on the aerial photograph referred to as Stage 2 and Stage 3. XMO are currently investigating recommencing the placement of tailings into Stage 2, whilst mining near Stage 3 is likely to commence in May 07 and be operable for 12 – 18 months. The remaining voids will be utilised for tailings and temporary water holding dams.

9. Review of Environmental Performance

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

- An aerial photograph of the locations of fixed dust, water, blast and noise monitoring units for the Mt Owen Complex. The majority of noise and dust monitoring locations were concentrated in the Glennies Creek and Fallbrook Rd area.
- Total suspended particulate results from three locations from November 2006 to February 2007.
- Total suspended particulates – 12-month rolling averages. Results were below the assessment criterion.
- 24-hr PM₁₀ results from four locations from November 06 to February 07. Exceedences during January 2006 were a reflection of hot, dry, windy conditions experienced during that month.

Q. Brian Thomas – the 12th and 14th November were very windy days. Were these conditions reflected in PM₁₀ results?

Linda Dunn – Yes, however as daily results are collected from 7.00am to 7.00am, the higher results are actually recorded as the following day i.e. 13th and 15th.

- 24 hr PM₁₀ – 12 month rolling averages for the period March 2006 to February 2007. Results were below the assessment criterion.
- 24hr average PM₁₀ continuous monitor results for November 2006, December 2006, January 2007 and February 2007.
- Exceedences were recorded in November, December and January however as the criterion was project specific, the actual Mt Owen contribution was determined by comparison against upwind monitoring locations. Linda Dunn presented a summary table of PM₁₀ exceedances displaying data from upwind and downwind monitors and wind direction. Using this comparison, a single exceedance was recorded on 22 November 2006. Consent conditions allow for five exceedances per year.

Q. Samantha Deaves - Which weather data is used for determining the Mt Owen contribution to PM₁₀ results?

Linda Dunn – Weather data recorded at the continuous monitors reflects isolated conditions only so the site meteorological station data is used in determining the Mt Owen contribution.

Samantha Deaves – I think that the site data at the receiver (i.e. Cramps) is most relevant. Even if Cramps has different conditions to the rest of the site then this data should be used.

A general discussion was held regarding what meteorological station should be used when determining Mt Owen's contribution to PM₁₀ measurements collected at monitors to the south east of the site. There were concerns raised from Gillian Holmes and Sam Deaves as to how the assessment is performed. Sam Deaves questioned the result of 17th November stating that she thought the wind was from the north-west on that day and that she thought this should be an exceedance as well.

Trevor Wells – Mt Owen will review procedures for determining Mt Owen contribution to PM₁₀ exceedances, with particular reference to 17th November. XMO/TPL will provide analysis of meteorological data at the next CCC meeting.

Q. Gillian Holmes – Are PM₁₀ exceedances notified to affected residents.

John Watson – Not aware of any requirements for reporting individual results. As 98.6% of results must be below criterion for a 12 month period, one exceedance does not necessarily mean a breach of consent conditions. In this instance, there has been only one exceedance due to XMO so far recorded at this location in the last 12 months. John Watson to clarify notification procedure at the next meeting.

- Annual average PM₁₀ continuous monitoring results for the period March 06 to February 07 were presented. Results were below the assessment criterion.
- An aerial photograph of the locations of dust deposition monitoring locations for the Mt Owen Complex.
- Monthly and annual average dust deposition results for individual dust deposition monitoring locations from March 06 to February 07 were presented.
- Annual average results from the depositional dust gauge located near Fallbrook Rd (D11) had decreased over the year.

Q. Samantha Deaves – Was this gauge moved?

Linda Dunn – No.

Q. Val Scott – D15 was high in September. Where is this gauge located?

Linda Dunn – This gauge does not appear on the map and is located just south of the range of aerial photo.

Linda Dunn to provide current aerial with all dust monitoring locations shown.

Q. Is the high September result for this location reflected in the average result?

John Watson – Yes, the rolling 12 month average increases due to the September result.

- Blast monitoring results from the Cramps and Noble properties monitoring locations for the past 12 months were presented. Exceedences were recorded in November 2006 and January 2007 at the Cramps property associated with Mt Owen blasts. No exceedences were recorded at either location associated with Ravensworth East or Eastern Rail Pit blasts.
- A comparison of EIS noise predictions to actual monitoring results for summer 2007 was provided for three sites. Monitored cumulative noise results are generally in line with or better than EIS predicts and within project specific noise compliance criteria.

Gillian Holmes questioned why night exceedances were only considered. Her understanding of the consent was that exceedances could be recorded day, evening or night.

John Watson – The development consent does contain noise limits for the project for day, evening and night, however, noise output through the day and evening can be masked by other noise sources such as birds and domestic noise. Also as XMO are a 24 hour operation, our noise output is essentially the same throughout the day and if we can comply with the more sensitive night time limits then we will comply with daytime and evening limits.

Q. Samantha Deaves –Does the resident have to request the mobile monitor?

Linda Dunn – XMO will respond to individual requests for the mobile monitor and will place the monitor at any residence and leave it for a defined period as agreed with the resident.

John Watson – Monitor N1 is used as the reference point to determine XMO's noise contribution as it is not likely to be influenced by southern noise sources.

Gillian Holmes said it should be easy to discriminate between noise sources and XMO should be proactive regarding resolving noise problems rather than waiting for complaints.

Trevor Wells agreed and said that the mobile noise monitor is there to help resolve noise issues for the community and to give better feedback to residents.

John Watson to relocate the mobile monitor in May or June in near proximity to Gillian Holmes residence to complement the noise monitoring undertaken over the summer period near Gillian's residence. A report is being finalised from the monitoring period just completed and will be discussed with Gillian as soon as the report is finalised.

Alan Noble suggested that an unmanned noise monitor could not discriminate the noise source.

John Watson said that the mobile noise monitor had audio recording capability and a weather station fitted similar to the permanent monitoring stations located in the Falbrook/Glennies Creek area that provided wind speed and direction and hence the likely source being recorded and monitored.

Trevor Wells asked Linda Dunn to review the requirement for manned monitoring in conjunction with the mobile unit and in consultation with Gillian.

- A figure representing the complaints history since April 2005 was displayed with two in December 2006, five in January 2007 and two in February 2007. A trend towards a reduced number of complaints was observable over the period.

Samantha Deaves suggested that reduced complaints were due to a reduction in residents.

- A figure representing complaints by type and complainant was provided for the period January 2006 to current. Complaints were largely noise and dust related. Noise was the most common complaint however dust affected more complainants (11).

Q. Samantha Deaves – Does the arc associated with the no blast zone in the blasting management plan move over time? Has it moved since the project commenced?

Trevor Wells – The process for defining the arc hasn't changed since the last review.

Q Samantha Deaves – The WOOP dump height has 15-20m left to go. How long to reach maximum height?

Trevor Wells – 2-3 years.

10. Update on Community Projects

John Watson presented an update on XMO community projects.

- The Xstrata Viewpoint Program was established to:
 - To assess stakeholder perceptions of the company's environmental performance
 - To determine how well the company is performing in relation to their community engagement activities
 - To identify opportunities for improvement in social involvement and investment practice

- The Viewpoint Program findings will result in the implementation of the XMO Community Engagement strategy featuring the following key points:
 - Community Engagement
 - i. Structured consultation programme
 - ii. Face to Face meetings
 - iii. Consistency – regular, ongoing and documented
 - Social Investment
 - i. Appropriate to local community needs
 - ii. Identifying areas of community need
 - iii. Criteria for assessment of projects
 - iv. Documenting community support
 - Environmental Management
 - i. Work with landholders on key issues such as Water, Air Quality, Noise, Visual Amenity.
- XMO 2007 Community Support Program
 - Glennies Creek Enhancement Project. Recent activities relating to the project include:
 - i. Removal of dense weed infestations along Glennies Creek
 - ii. Planting of trees along Glennies Ck and Glennies Ck Road
 - iii. Fencing of eroded sections of Main Ck and tree planting areas to exclude cattle
 - iv. Erosion control structure installed on Main Creek.
 - v. Follow up weed control and watering of trees periodically undertaken to ensure the survival and growth of established vegetation.
 - vi. Work on the project will re-commence in Q2 2007.
 - Yorks Creek Rehabilitation Project. Recent activities relating to the project include:
 - i. Fencing of the project area completed.
 - ii. Permit received from DEC to allow earthworks and tree planting to be undertaken in areas containing aboriginal artifacts.
 - iii. Licence sought from the DNR to permit the construction of erosion control structures within the project area – likely to be issued in April 07.
 - iv. XMO originally planned to commence earthworks and tree plantings in Sep 06. However, works could not commence until required permits are issued. To avoid hot and dry summer conditions, plantings were deferred until autumn 2007.

Q. Samantha Deaves – Has work on the Bettys Creek diversion commenced?

Trevor Wells – Preliminary geotech work has commenced. This work is progressing according to plan.

Q. Gillian Holmes – The aerials used in the presentations are out of date. Can these be up dated for the next meeting?

John Watson – Yes.

11. General Business

Ravensworth Homestead

John Watson presented an update of the progress on the Ravensworth Homestead renovations:

- EJE Architecture have completed structural and material condition report, structural report and preparation of quantities and costing for individual items requiring repair
- Proposed to commence repair and maintenance works in Q2 2007 depending on availability of contractors –specialist consultant engaged to project manage works program
- Primary objective is to restore Homestead to a stable and habitable condition using Heritage Conservation Principles

Hebden Rd line markings

John Watson reported that a letter had been forwarded to Council following Mar 06 CCC meeting highlighting concerns about safety of motorists on Hebden Rd and need for line marking on crests and curves.

Mary Robinson said that she was advised that the Singleton Council traffic coordinator should have commenced survey work by now.

Val Scott understood that a local quarry was required to carry out some road works as part of their consent conditions and this may delay the council from acting on this issue.

Vacant CCC position

No replies had been received since the vacant community position on the Mt Owen Complex CCC had been advertised in the December 2006 Mt Owen Community Newsletter.

Weed Control

John Watson advised the meeting that an extensive bio-diversity and land management plan would be implemented. As part of this plan, an extensive weed control program would continue throughout 2007 targeting several species including:

- African Boxthorn
- Blackberry
- Lantana

- Mother of Millions
- Prickly Acacia
- Sweet Briar
- St Johns Wort

Q. Patricia Bestic – Have there been increased sightings of feral pigs?

John Watson – There have been 4 or 5 pigs trapped in the New Forest area.

Q. Jenny Marshall – What about dogs?

John Watson – Not observed recently, although there was a dog baiting program carried out last year.

Q. Brian Thomas – Were PM₁₀ results included with last meeting's minutes?

John Watson – Yes.

Mark Nolan from the Department of Primary Industries reported on the progress and quality of the XMO rehabilitation program. Key points were:

- Department of Primary Industries jurisdiction was limited to rehab only and was not involved in noise and dust issues.
- The quality of the XMO rehab was hard to assess at this time due to the drought.
- The rehab program was progressing according to MOP schedule.
- Rehab has commenced in the state forest area.
- The Betty's Creek diversion was progressing according to plan but some problems encountered due to poor quality soil.

Q. Samantha Deaves – Any strategy for drought conditions?

Mark Nolan – It's too large an area for extra watering and probably not a good use of water.

Q. Samantha Deaves – Does the mine have to go back to failed regeneration areas?

Mark Nolan – Yes – they have to follow requirements of EIS. Some older mines do not have this requirement.

Q. Patricia Bestic – Any update on the TSR land swap?

John Watson – XMO have met with Department of Lands and they are progressing the application.

Q. Brian Thomas – Have erosion problems been considered?

Mark Nolan – Water management plan should account for drainage and shape of dump. Works must be carried out according to this plan.

Q. Val Scott – Is topsoil of sufficient quality for regeneration?

Mark Nolan – 10 cm treated with gypsum should be adequate. XMO has access to good topsoil from the state forest.

Q. Val Scott – Why are melaleucas planted?

Mark Nolan – They are not planted at XMO but it is easy to obtain seed so OK for coastal areas. Generally Australian rehabilitation is world’s best practice – due to mining.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Friday 22 June 2007** at Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed – 12:20 pm by M. Robinson

Minutes prepared by – Ralph Brown

Action Items:

Item	Responsible	Rose at CCC meeting on:	Status
Actual blast recordings to be included in Environmental Performance reporting at next meeting.	Ben Seaborn	1/9/2006	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 to check progress at council.
Advertise for community rep to fill vacant CCC position following departure of Leanne Cramp	Xstrata Mt Owen	22/11/2005	No Response
Mt Owen will review procedures for determining Mt Owen contribution to PM10 exceedences. XMO/TPL to provide analysis of met data at next meeting	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Next Meeting
Review notification procedure from development consent for PM10 exceedences	John Watson	23/3/2007	Next Meeting
Update aerial showing dust deposition monitoring locations	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Next Meeting
Provide manned mobile noise monitoring in consultation with Gillian Holmes	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Next Meeting