

MINUTES OF THE MT OWEN COMPLEX
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 15 June 2007 at Mt Owen Mine

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened by Brian Thomas at 10:10am.

Present:

Community: Patricia Bestic, Jenny Marshall, Alan Noble

Singleton Council: Brian Thomas (Chairperson)

Umwelt: Barbara Crossley

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

2. Introduction of New Members - Nil

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Alec Schmierer, Gillian Holmes, Val Scott, Mary Robinson and Wendy Williams.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Brian Thomas 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 23 March 2007 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Alan Noble, seconded by John Watson.

Trevor Wells discussed format/style of the minutes. He suggested that minutes should be kept to key points rather than word for word format to avoid the creation of a lengthy document. Jenny Marshall and Brian Thomas agreed. Brian Thomas added that specific discussion points can be made in the minutes if requested.

6. Glendell Environmental Assessment Overview – Barbara Crossley (Umwelt)

Barbara Crossley provided the CCC with an overview on the modification of development consent at the Glendell Mine. Key points of the presentation were provided in a handout. The main points discussed during the presentation included:

a) Overview of Proposed Modifications

The proposed modifications to the Glendell mine development consent include:

- undertake mining in a north to south direction in accordance with a revised mine plan;
- increase the maximum rate of run-of-mine (ROM) coal production from 3.6 million tonnes per year to 4.5 million tonnes per year on a 24 hour per day 7 day per week basis;
- utilise existing and approved Mt Owen Complex services and infrastructure including coal processing and product coal transportation, life of mine rejects and tailings management, water management and environment management systems;
- rationalisation and relocation of site infrastructure and relocation of the mine access road;
- extension of the development consent period by 10 years to 2023; and
- construction of water management structures including a 200 ML mine water transfer dam and reduction in the length of the approved diversion of Swamp Creek.
- variation to Glendell development consent proposed under Section 75W of EP&A Act
- Minister for Planning is consent authority and an Environmental Assessment (EA) is to be prepared

b) Benefits of the Project,

The proposed modifications of the Glendell mine development consent will:

- ensure the viability of the Glendell mining operations through the implementation of a revised mine plan;
- improve the efficiency of coal production and minimise environmental impacts through avoiding the duplication of coal processing and transportation infrastructure;
- reduce cumulative impacts to the south of the mine by undertaking mining in a north to south direction and minimising interactions with surrounding mining operations;
- contribute to the ongoing viability of the Mt Owen Complex whilst directly creating up to 100 construction and 150 operational jobs over the life of the operation; and
- involve expenditure of approximately \$24M in capital works and contribute additional benefits to the local and state economies through employment and other revenue.

c) Consultation Process

- consultation is currently being undertaken with a range of stakeholders to provide details of the proposed modifications and seek feedback on key social and environmental issues
- the Consultation Program has included:
 - one on one meetings with key residents
 - community newsletter

- community information days held on 2 and 5 May 2007
- briefings to Mt Owen Complex CCC
- liaison with relevant government departments
- briefing for Singleton Council
- briefing for neighbouring mining companies and service providers

d) Overview of Environmental Specialist Studies

Air Quality

- a detailed air quality assessment is being completed utilising a computer based dispersion model by air quality specialists (Holmes Air Sciences);
- the assessment has been carried out in accordance with procedures outlined by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC);
- figures showing project specific dust contours and cumulative dust contours were presented;
- questions were raised about the impacts of dust on the New England Hwy because the PM₁₀ 24hr contour extends out beyond the New England Hwy. It was clarified that this contour was based on health restrictions so visibility issues were not applicable here. It was also explained that the contours were based on averages;
- the progress of mining at Glendell from north to south will help prevent cumulative impacts with neighbouring operations.

Key management commitments were discussed including: Mt Owen Complex currently utilises real-time monitoring equipment which will also be used for the Glendell Mine and the current dust monitoring network for the Mt Owen Complex will be expanded to include monitoring sites in the Camberwell Village area.

Noise Assessment – Camberwell Village

- a detailed noise and blasting assessment is being completed by independent specialists (Advitech Pty Limited)
- the assessment has been undertaken in accordance with DECC's Industrial Noise Policy (INP);
- noise impacts associated with the proposed Glendell operations were predicted using a DECC endorsed computer modelling software;
- noise levels have been predicted under 4 meteorological scenarios over 5 representative operational stages of Glendell at all private residences in the vicinity of the Glendell DA area;
- modeling predicts exceedances of relevant project noise criteria could occur at a number of private residences within Camberwell Village and along Glennies Creek Rd during adverse weather conditions in the later stages of the proposed Glendell operations;
- predicted exceedances are not considered significant under DECC's INP as predictions moderately exceed PSNL and occur a small percentage of the time;
- XMO will undertake further consultation with affected landholders regarding ongoing noise mitigation and monitoring program;
- a question was raised whether Ashton mine owned residences were considered;

- XMO will treat complaints from Ashton owned residences the same way as from privately owned residences.

Key management commitments were discussed including the following: Mt Owen Complex currently utilises real-time monitoring equipment which will also be used for the Glendell Mine, use of an alarm generated for elevated noise levels from Mt Owen Complex continuous noise monitoring network and notification of operational personnel, ability to modify operations where practical during periods of adverse weather conditions and design of out of pit dumping sequence to allow for additional shielding for mining equipment including dumping in higher exposed areas in the day time and within protected lower areas during night time periods, where practicable.

Blast Assessment

- The blasting assessment is currently being completed by an independent specialist (Heggies Australia) and includes assessment of vibration and air blast criteria to protect the structural integrity of rail line and power infrastructure and the community.
- The affect of mine operations on the rail network was discussed. It was noted that the Glendell mine has been designed so its blasting operations will not come within 100m of the rail line, however an agreement with ARTC will be established as part of the Glendell Mine operations. It was also noted that XMO will continue to liaise with Ashton Mine regarding operations at Glendell as the mine progresses.
- Community members raised question regarding the effect of blasting vibrations on bridges and culverts close to Glendell. It was explained that these structures are designed to withstand a certain level of vibration.

Key management commitments for blast management, visual impacts and ecology were outlined and it was noted that the threatened fauna species recorded within the Glendell DA area were bird and bat species, which are mobile and often pass through the area. XMO are currently evaluating options such as a Biodiversity Offset Strategy where retained vegetation has been identified in the south east corner of the Glendell mine area.

Greenhouse Assessment

Management options to minimise greenhouse gas emissions were explained and will focus on energy usage of the mine. Other initiatives include regular maintenance of equipment and roads to ensure maximum efficiency is achieved.

The Xstrata coal seam gas initiative was discussed. This initiative is not specifically for the Glendell mine and involves the collection of gas from coal seams, mainly from underground operations. It was highlighted that Integra Coal are currently collecting gas from seams that lie under Mt Owen's operations from it underground operations. Xstrata Coal is also undertaking a range of broader initiatives to address greenhouse gas emissions across all operations including funding research and development into areas such as low emission technologies and coal seam gas collection.

The remaining process towards development approval was discussed. It was explained that the consultation program (this meeting) was to provide feedback on the EA. Agency feedback would be received during June with lodgement of the EA modification application in July. Copies of the EA will be available at Singleton Council to view.

9. Actions from Previous Minutes

- John Watson reviewed the Mt Owen Development Consent with respect to notification of landholders regarding exceedances with development consent conditions. It was noted that noise and dust results were available to the community via the internet on a bi monthly basis. To improve the notification process results will now be reported to affected residents by letter with follow up through the current bimonthly reporting process via the XMO website.
- Community members questioned the advantage of sending out the letter. XMO identified that the mail out will assist in showing accountability in accordance with consent conditions. However if a landholder does not want to receive a notification letter, then they will not receive further notifications unless otherwise specified.
- The mobile noise monitor has been moved from Mark Smith's place to Gillian Holmes and appropriate attended monitoring will occur during the campaign while the noise monitor is at Gillian's.
- Action regarding road line markings – consent conditions issued to the quarry include requirements for road line markings and therefore the quarry is responsible to address the issue. Assurance was given by Council Operations to Brian Thomas that action will be taken regarding the matter.

10. Review of Environmental Performance

Linda Dunn provided an overview of environmental performance since the last meeting, key points included:

- Wind rose data was displayed in response to queries (from last meeting) about wind measurements relating to an exceedance of PM₁₀ at Falbrook Rd. on 17 November 2006. The onsite weather station at Mt Owen mine conveyed similar results to the weather station at Falbrook Rd. Both indicated that the predominant wind for the day was from the east and therefore there were no anomalies between the two weather stations.
- Air quality graphs and maps showing locations of air quality monitoring equipment were used to explain results from March 2007 to May 2007.
- All TSP annual averages for all monitoring locations remain below the DECC annual criterion of 90 µg/m³.
- There were no 24hr PM₁₀ project specific exceedances for the period.
- The 24hr PM₁₀ rolling averages for all monitoring locations remain below the DECC annual criterion of 30 µg/m³.

- There was one elevated result at DD11 during May 2007. On closer inspection of surrounding dust gauges, the result appears to be caused from a localised affect in close proximity to the dust gauge as surrounding gauges recorded lower results than DD11. All 12 month rolling averages for all dust deposition gauges were below 4 g/m²/month.
- There were no blast overpressure or vibration exceedances recorded by the blast monitors representative of private residences during the period. A report on the Early Morning Blast Trial is currently being finalised.
- There was one blast overpressure exceedance at Ravensworth Homestead of 131.9dBA (Max OP is 126dBA) during the period. TPL have investigated the incident and have implemented a series of actions to mitigate any further potential impacts. Subsequent blasts within West pit have shown a marked reduction in blast overpressure.
- Complaints history between January 2007 and May 2007 was discussed. Most complaints occurred in March and May and were mostly concerning noise and dust. Some complaints were due to blast dust and blast vibration. The complaints were mainly from Falbrook Rd.
- Current rehabilitation activities were briefly discussed and an aerial of the main dump was shown with a rehabilitation plan overlaid. Reporting of progress will be included in the AEMR.

11. Review of Operational Performance

Trevor Wells provided an overview of operational performance, this included:

- Update on the Bettys Creek Diversions.
- Mining in the Eastern rail Pit is complete. The final void will be ultimately infilled however; it is now being used as a temporary water storage following the storm events that occurred over the June long weekend.
- During the storm event, water flowed from Yorks Creek over the site access road, across Hebden Rd and into the Stage 3 workings at Ravensworth East.
- Following the storm event, water shortages onsite have temporarily eased and excess water will be transferred within the Greater Ravensworth Water management System for later use.
- The storm event has not significantly affected operations, as current mining operations are occurring on the upper benches of each pit.

12. Update on Community Projects and General Business

John Watson presented an update on XMO community projects.

- The Flora & Fauna Interagency Advocacy Group Annual meeting will be held in late June. The group assess the progress of the Biodiversity Offset Research Program and flora and fauna monitoring over the last 12 months. The meeting is attended by Mt Owen Complex employees, government department representatives and other key stakeholders.

- No feedback has been received from the DoP on Mt Owen EMP's which were finalised in 2005.
- Limited progress on the Yorks Creek Cultural Heritage Rehabilitation project occurred during the last quarter as XMO had been waiting to receive an approval from DWE to undertake planned creek diversion works. Approval has now been granted and the earthworks will commence in July 2007.
- Ravensworth Homestead Restoration Project – a heritage restoration works tender has been developed and the tender selection process will commence in June 2007.
- Xstrata Coal has sponsored the Easy Rider bus service that is managed by Singleton HACC. The bus service provides transport for those community members who can't access public transport or who fall outside the HACC target group. The service will run 2days/week in year 1, increasing to 3 days/week in years 2 and 3.
- The Glennies Creek Community Project will once again utilise volunteers from CVA this year. The work block will occur throughout Q3/4 2007 and comprise of overseas volunteers interested in environmental projects.
- The Mt Owen newsletter is planned to be published in early July.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 10am on **Friday 16 November 2007** at Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed – 12:45 pm by B. Thomas

Minutes prepared by – Kate Woods

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	Complete
Advertise for community rep to fill vacant CCC position following departure of Leanne Cramp	Xstrata Mt Owen	22/11/2005	No Response so far
Mt Owen will review procedures for determining Mt Owen contribution to PM ₁₀ exceedences. XMO/TPL to provide analysis of met data at next meeting	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Complete
Review notification procedure from development consent for PM ₁₀ exceedences	John Watson	23/3/2007	Complete
Update aerial showing dust deposition monitoring locations	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Complete
Provide manned mobile noise monitoring in consultation with Gillian Holmes	Linda Dunn	23/3/2007	Complete