

MINUTES OF THE MT OWEN COMPLEX COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 16 November 2007 at Mt Owen Mine

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened by Mary Robinson at 10:15 am.

Present:

Community:	Alec. Schmierer
Singleton Council:	Mary Robinson (Chairperson), Sarah Roberts, Val Scott
Mt Owen Mine:	Trevor Wells, John Watson,
Thiess	Linda Dunn, Peter York
HLA ENSR	Catherine Whatson

2. Introduction of New Members

Peter York Thiess commenced with Thiess in August 2007 as the new Environmental Officer reporting to Linda Dunn.

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Patricia Bestic, Alan Noble, Gillian Holmes, Wendy Williams and Brian Thomas.

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 15 June 2007 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Moved by John Watson, and seconded by Trevor Wells. No community members who had attended the previous CCC meeting held in June 2007 were present at the November 2007 meeting. No feedback was received from

community members who attended the June meeting regarding the minutes from that meeting.

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

John Watson (XMO) presented an update on the consent condition progress for Mt Owen. Monitoring results up to the end of October 07 are available on the website. The detailed winter noise report is now available to the community and is accessible via the Mt Owen mine website, the spring report will be available in December 2007. In response to the early morning blast trials, the DoP have approved up to 12 blasts per year at Mt Owen as part of the consent conditions.

There has been no feedback following the draft EMP's, programs and strategies submitted to DoP. Bushfire Management Plan has been completed – training for OCE's will occur during the month, and inspections have commenced. A compliance audit is scheduled for December 2007 – Mt Owen is awaiting approval for the selected auditor.

Owen Nichols was approved by DoP to perform the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS) and Flora Fauna Management Plan (FFMP) audit, which is required every 3 years. The purpose of this audit is to identify if Mt Owen Mine is complying with relevant consent conditions and the requirements of the BOS and FFMP. Owen Nichols undertook a detailed site inspection as well as reviewing relevant documentation and is currently in the process of compiling the report.

7. Update on the Glendell Project

John Watson presented an update on the Glendell Project. Environmental Assessment document was on public display August –October 2007, 20 submissions were received during this time, Glendell responses were sent back to DoP in October 2007. DOP is currently reviewing all information. The Glendell HSEC Management System documentation is currently being developed

8. Review of Operational Performance

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

- **Upper Bettys Creek Diversion**

For the Upper Bettys Creek diversion, work has commenced with topsoil stripping underway. At completion the Upper Bettys Creek diversion will feed into Main Creek. These works are expected to be completed by mid next year allowing the mine to operate at its full width.

- **CHPP Expansion**

A third module is currently being constructed. This module will increase the capacity of the plant from 10 – 15 Mtpa. The extra capacity will allow the CHPP to handle all coal produced from Glendell.

- **Stage 3/RW Pit**

The Stage 3 mining area is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. The Stage3/RW pits will then be utilised for tailings deposition and water storage.

Val Scott raised a question about the process involved in creating a new creek diversion. Trevor Wells (XMO) detailed the importance of gaining approval for appropriately engineered plans. Planning and design of any creek diversions considers the use of appropriate vegetation, bank slope, and water control structures to manage water velocity in order to reduce erosion and create suitable creek lines similar to nature.

9. Review of Environmental Performance

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

- All total suspended particulate (TSP) annual averages for all monitoring locations remain below the DECC annual criterion of $90 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- All PM_{10} annual averages for all monitoring locations remain below the DECC annual criterion of $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- There were several combined PM_{10} results for the area (July-October) which were elevated when compared to the project specific 24 hr criterion ($50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Further breaking this down into the Mt Owen contribution it was found that only one result had a project specific contribution above the

criterion. The Falbrook Rd PM₁₀ unit on 10 August 2007 exceeded the project specific criterion (50 µg/m³). The DoP were notified and a notification letter was delivered to the landholders within a 1km radius of the impacted monitors. The prevailing wind for the event was blowing from NW and the Mt Owen PM₁₀ contribution was 54.3 µg/m³. All Mt Owen results are posted on the internet bimonthly or contact with the Environmental officer can be made to access these results.

- All residential dust deposition gauge results for the November 2006 – October 2007 period were below the annual average DECC guideline of 4 g/m²/month.
- 2 blasting events at Mt Owen exceeded the specified overpressure criteria (115 dB) at the Cramps location during September and October 2007 (117.9 dB and 117.1 dB respectively). Both results occurred during early morning blasting, TPL have investigated both events and have implemented a series of actions to minimise future occurrences which include no further blasting within 50m of the surface during the early morning period. Climate variables can influence distance vibrations travel for example temperature inversions, cloud cover and high levels of humidity.

- All blasting results for Mt Owen fell below the specified ground vibration criteria (5 mm/s) at both locations.

- All blasting results for Ravensworth East fell below the specified overpressure criteria (115 dB) and Max PPV criterion (5 mm/s) at all three locations.

- History of Complaints were discussed by presenting graphs of complaints recorded by the mine (Nov-05 to Oct-07) during each month including:
 - 32 complaints from the public in both July and August 2007;
 - 21 complaints from the public in September 2007;
 - 16 complaints from the public in October 2007;

- It was noted that most complaints from January to October 2007 were related to noise from the mine (73); and dust generation (73).

10. Update on Community Projects

John Watson presented an update on XMO community projects.

- **Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project**

The Conservation Volunteers Australia eight week stint finishes 16 November 2007, which involved weed control and revegetation works on Glennies Creek from the Glennies Creek bridge northwards on XMO property. An open day for the project was held on Wednesday 14 November 2007– whilst volunteers were still onsite. There were some hold ups with the rain, but generally good progress was made again this year

- **Yorks Creek Landscape Remediation Project**

Substantial earthworks completed, including Yorks Creek diversion and new dam works. Remedial works to continue through the Q4 period include:

- minor earthworks, and
- fence repairs

The works to be conducted during 2008 include tree planting, direct seeding targeted areas, fencing repairs, weed and feral animal control, and managing grazing protocols.

- **Ravensworth Homestead**

EJE Architecture prepared tender documents – 3 submissions received

Preference was given to contractors with experience in heritage restoration works.

The Primary objective is to restore the Homestead to a stable and habitable condition using Heritage Conservation Principles.

Val Scott asked the question what was to happen to the building after it is restored, John Watson (XMO) identified the next step is to produce a maintenance plan for continued upkeep of the building.

John Watson (XMO) asked Singleton Council members present what small projects are available for Mt Owen to financially support with ongoing investment. Sarah Roberts suggested activities such as sponsorship of school children field trips with technical community members, and requested John pose the question formally to the projects coordinator at council.

11. General Business

The issue of the vacant CCC position remains. Invitations have been advertised in newsletters encouraging the community to join.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Friday 15 February 2007**

Meeting closed – 11.30 by Mary Robinson

Minutes prepared by – Catherine Watson