

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

Friday 15 February 2008 at Mt Owen Mine

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened by Sarah Roberts at 10:00am.

Present:

Community: Patricia Bestic, Jenny Marshall, Deirdre Oloffson, Alec Schiemerer

Singleton Council: Sarah Roberts (Chairperson)

Mt Owen Mine: Ben Clibborn (XG), Linda Dunn (TPL), Tony Israel (XG), Peter Roser (TPL), John Watson (XMO), Trevor Wells (XMO).

2. Introduction of New Members – Nil

Tony Israel (Mine Manager) and Ben Clibborn (Environment and Community Coordinator) were introduced by Trevor Wells as two new members of the CCC. Tony and Ben both started with Glendell Mine in late 2007.

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Peter Roser (TPL), Gillian Holmes, Mary Robinson, Val Scott, Brian Thomas and Wendy Williams.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Sarah Roberts 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 16 November 2007 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved Alec Schmierer, seconded by Sarah Roberts.

6. Update on the implementation of key Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consent Conditions – John Watson (XMO)

John Watson provided the CCC with an overview of key Mt Owen Consent Conditions. Key points of the presentation were provided in a PowerPoint presentation and included;

Consent Conditions

- Bimonthly monitoring results up to the end December 07 are now available on website
- Detailed Spring Noise Report now available via Mt Owen Website, Summer Report to be available in March 08
- Compliance Audit field verification undertaken in December – draft report due mid February. Independent audit is required as part of the development consents for Mt Owen and Ravensworth East – report due to DoP early March.
- Biodiversity offset area long term security agreement – discussion with DoP have commenced to implement a Planning Agreement with DoP.

Flora and Fauna

- Field verification of the Flora and Fauna Management Plan and BOS audit completed in November 07.
- Final report completed and sent to DoP in February 2008, findings published on the XMO website.

Draft EMPs

- No feedback on following draft EMP's, Programs and Strategies submitted to DoP for;
 - Environmental Management Strategy
 - Noise
 - Air Quality
 - Blasting
 - Water
 - Environmental Monitoring Program

Bushfire Management

- Bushfire Management Plan – training for OCE's completed, inspections continuing throughout summer, fire management planned for Winter 2008 – included bushfire monitoring, responding to fire, role of fire in flora and fauna management.
- Mt Owen intend to schedule a meeting with April 2008 with relevant stakeholders to discuss the status of bushfire management and to determine if any works are required regarding trails/ tracks and any other needs for improvements, such as hazard reduction (cool) burns.
- Alec Schiemerer commented on the need for fire to germinate some native species, John Watson commented on the need for careful management of fire due to approximately \$1.5 million being spent over the past 5 years on rehabilitation/offsets which are 0-5years old and not established enough to burn without a high percentage mortality.

7. Update on the Glendell Project

John Watson provided the CCC with an overview on the modification of development consent at the Glendell Mine. Key points of the presentation were provided in PowerPoint presentation. The main points discussed during the presentation included:

- DoP completed assessment report on Glendell EA
- Draft conditions have been reviewed – in line with Mt Owen / Ravensworth East Consents
- Currently awaiting approval
- Glendell project management staff currently being employed with almost all positions now filled
- Modification of Complex Management Plans underway – a Traffic Management Plan will need to be submitted to council and was discussed with Trevor Wells explaining that the entrance to the infrastructure are will experience slightly higher traffic frequency in 2008 due to the commencement of the operation, establishment of temporary entrances, signposting and will be recommended in the plan to manage all movements during construction.
- Construction and mining likely to commence in March 2008 pending approval of the Glendell Mining Operations Plan, Consent modification and granting of the Environmental Protection Licence.
- New equipment – has been purchased, is being moved on-site – Patricia Bestic asked whether much of the new equipment was imported from overseas and Trevor Wells answered that it is all imported.

8. Review of Operational Performance

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

- Update on the Betty's Creek Upper Diversion – Stage 1 completed, diversion workings to progress from downstream to upstream with construction planned for completion during April and the first stage of rehabilitation completed in September 2008
- CHPP Expansion – Completed slightly ahead of schedule with no injuries reported.
- Stage 3/ RW Pit – Stage 3 water management tailings strategy.
- 2007 Mt Owen production overall was short of budget tonnage due mainly to port constraints and changes to North Dump
- 2008 budget tonnage to increase to 8 million tonnes
- The CCC discussed general impacts on output tonnage:
 - Sarah Roberts asked whether the flooding in Queensland would affect mining in NSW.
 - Trevor Wells outlined some global supply issues including extreme weather in Indonesia, China and Queensland combined with limits on NSW output combine to raise coal prices worldwide and indicated that development of the coal industry would continue due to lack of viable alternatives.
 - Alec Schiemerer raised the issue of the port bottleneck.
 - Trevor Wells noted that the port is not the only bottleneck but the coal chain including rail infrastructure, can contribute to the problem.
 - Deirdre Oloffson commented that the trains quota would decrease coal output.
 - Trevor Wells explained that the port and rail system is operating at capacity meaning new mines compete with older mines for output potential.

- Deirdre Oloffson commented on the number of ships waiting to transport coal at the port and the resulting pollution.
- Trevor Wells noted that port management and the capacity system are responsible for limiting the number of ships in line.
- Patricia Bestic raised the plan for duplication of the rail corridor to increase capacity.
- Trevor Wells noted that the plans were in place but progressing well behind the needs of the region.

9. Review of Environmental Performance

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

- Participants were provided with handouts of aerial photos showing monitoring locations
- Monitoring results were shown graphically with results being interpreted by Linda Dunn
- **Air Quality – High Volume Air Sampling – Total Suspended Particulates**
 - Total Suspended Particulate 12-month Rolling Annual Average – February 2007 to January 2008
 - Monthly Total Suspended Particulates
- Linda Dunn commented that a combination of factors have contributed to lower dust levels over the past three months including a change in prevailing wind direction to SE, significant rains and intensive noise and dust management training undertaken in September/October with the OCE's. This is reflected in the results, where total suspended particulates have shown a slight decrease over the last three months. There were some higher 24 hr results recorded at the TSP HVAS on Picton Lane (NW of MOC).
- Linda Dunn noted that the four occasions where HVAS TSP results from TSP 1 were notably higher than other results, the wind direction had been added to show the influence of SE winds.
- Deirdre Oloffson asked if other mines in the area potentially affected the results. Linda Dunn answered that it was likely depending on the wind direction.
- **Air Quality – High Volume Air Sampling - PM10**
 - 24-hr Particulate Matter (PM10) Results
 - PM10 Particulate Matter 12-month Rolling Average
 - 24hr Averages for Continuous PM10 Monitoring – November 2007
 - 24hr Averages for Continuous PM10 Monitoring – December 2007
 - 24hr Averages for Continuous PM10 Monitoring – January 2008
- Deirdre Oloffson noted that there was no data recorded for one of the monitoring stations between the 5th and the 13th December 2007 and the 11th to the 15th January 2008. Trevor Wells explained that there had been problems caused by a power outage to the equipment. Linda Dunn stated that the problem had been diagnosed and fixed in a timely manner.
 - PM10 Continuous Dust Monitoring - Annual Rolling Average 1st February 2007 to 1st January 2008

- **Air Quality – Depositional Dust**

- Monthly Depositional Dust Results for Residential Gauges D6, D9, D11 - Insoluble Solids - February 2007 to January 2008
- Monthly Depositional Dust Results for Residential Gauges D12-D16 - Insoluble Solids - February 2007 to January 2008
- Linda Dunn commented that the Depositional Dust levels are well below average. Trevor Wells stated that the drop in dust levels was most likely due to widespread rain across the region.

- **Blasting Results - Mt Owen**

- Linda Dunn noted that the overpressure from a surface blast in North Pit exceeded 115db in November. It was noted that although slightly higher than average results were being recorded in North Pit due to the opening up of new mining blocks in North Pit, the Drill and Blast personnel were working continuously to minimise overpressure impacts due to surface blasts.

- **Blasting Results - Ravensworth East/Stage 3**

- Trevor Wells noted that the EPL maximum exceedance level was set at 120db but that 5% of blasts may exceed 115db and the mine design blasts so that predicted overpressure does not exceed 115db.
- Deirdre Oloffson commented that blasting exceedances were unacceptable to the community.

- **Complaints History by Month and by Issue for 2007.**

- Linda Dunn noted that the highest level of complaints were received from June to October 2007 and mainly concerned dust and noise.
- The complaints categorized as ‘Other’ related to smoke from a truck fire in January 2007.

- **Rehabilitation**

- North Pit – Mount Owen Main Dump - Recontouring eastern slope of dump, Forest topsoiled 3 ha, most of the forest species re-established on rehabilitation will come from the seed bank in the forest topsoil – progressively establishing rehabilitation
- West Pit - Recontouring RL 160 Dump – rehabilitation to begin in autumn

- **E & C BBRA – High and Significant Risks**

- Noise
- Dust
- Blasting (Dust and Overpressure)
- Mine water discharge into clean water systems
- Resource consumption (energy usage – diesel, electricity etc)
- Habitat degradation
- Heritage degradation (european/aboriginal)

- Linda Dunn asked the CCC whether there were any further community-related issues not considered above.
- Trevor Wells suggested a “think tank” of issues to aid the development of action plans.
- Patricia Bestic suggested the issue of unusual traffic movements could be further improved by informing the community via Radio 1233 traffic reports in the morning when large loads are expected.
- Sarah Roberts suggested monitoring and reduction of waste streams. Linda Dunn noted that the site has a total waste management plan in place which includes recycling of various waste streams.
- Deirdre Oloffson raised the issue of dust fallout in domestic tank water and the associated health risks. Trevor Wells noted that it might be useful to know what percentage of the community rely on tank water. Deirdre Oloffson noted that the issue also had the potential to affect stock health and food production. Alec Schiemerer suggested an analysis of the tank filters would clarify potential issues. Deirdre Oloffson stated that information on potential hazards and what the community could do to mitigate risk may be useful.
- Sarah Roberts raised the issue of reducing clean water usage on-site. John Watson noted that water management is addressed in the latest newsletter including information on site water management and recycling of water. Ben Clibborn stated that Xstrata have a water management plan in place across all sites.
- Deirdre Oloffson raised post mining rehabilitation and the potential for making it blend with the natural landscape and environment better. Trevor Wells stated that Mt Owen are looking for ways to improve rehab starting with the possible implementation of contouring of the RL-160 dump when it reaches it’s height limit.
- Trevor Wells urged the CCC to consider all the issues and provide feedback.

10. Update on Community Projects

John Watson presented an update on XMO community projects.

- **Yorks Creek Rehabilitation Project**
 - partnership between local indigenous group and earthmoving contractor – essence of the project
 - onsite assistance by Yarrawalk during construction activities overseeing the project
 - substantial earthworks completed, including Yorks Creek diversion and new dam works
 - remedial works to continue into 2008 include (rain delays)
 - minor earthworks
 - fence repairs
 - 2008 works include tree planting, direct seeding targeted areas, fencing repairs, weed and feral animal control, managed grazing protocol

- **Update on Ravensworth Homestead**
 - Primary objective is to restore Homestead to a stable and habitable condition using Heritage Conservation Principles
 - Tenders evaluated contractor selected.
 - Contracts signed this week
 - Australian Heritage Restorations to undertake work
 - Recent works include All Saints Church in Singleton
 - Works are scheduled to commence in late February and last for 9-12 months with 3-4 people on-site

- **Social Involvement Plan**
 - Previously mentioned XMO SIP reviewed for 2008 features include
 - Updated section on review of CSI projects
 - Stakeholder engagement strategy developed – identify key stakeholders and establish consultation system appropriate for their needs – start to roll out in March 2008
 - SIP provides a mechanism for XMO to assess community risks and opportunities and address these in a structured way
 - Mt Owen Complex Newsletter to be distributed during February, including feedback form.
 - **Social Involvement Project Review for 2007**
 - Singleton Easy Rider Bus Service - \$25K for year 1 - Project management now undertaken by XCN for Year 2 and 3
 - Mt Pleasant School Horse Sports Day, deferred until mid 2008 due to EI.
 - **Social Involvement Plan 2008**
 - Mt Pleasant Horse Sports Day \$5K
 - Mt Pleasant Annual School Contribution \$5K
 - Community/Health Based Projects – up to 20K to be discussed with Singleton Council
 - John Watson opened the forum for discussion of community projects and asked for ideas from the CCC such as starting a Landcare group run by the community but supported by regular contributions from Mt Owen.
 - Sarah Roberts suggested the recently advertised environmental health officer role at council may be an appropriate liaison officer for the project.
 - Trevor Wells raised the need for individual projects for each mine which are separate to, yet enhance large scale Xstrata projects.

- Patricia Bestic suggested supporting ideas for the conversion of a double fenced stock route on the Muswellbrook bypass to a cycleway or similar to add value to the community.
 - John Watson asked for a focus on health and education with particular emphasis on health as these projects have proven harder to find in the past.
 - Trevor Wells gave an example of past projects – community tree days (for National Tree Day) in the Singleton Heights area.
 - Trevor Wells asked Deirdre Oloffson for specific ideas relating to the Glendell area.
 - Deirdre Oloffson suggested a mental health community project, similar to employee assistance programs, to help the community access counseling services with the intention of helping people to deal with the impact of mines on their lives e.g. noise at night.
- **Model Site Opening**
 - 14 February 2008
 - Opened by Pro Vice Chancellor – Bill Hogarth
 - Incorporates mine rehabilitation and biodiversity offset research.
 - Xstrata, Thiess and Newcastle University collaboration.
 - Model Site (Including rehabilitation and offset areas) was put forward by John Watson as the preferred field trip option prior to the next CCC meeting in June 2008. Field trip would be undertaken in the morning followed by the CCC meeting after lunch.

11. General Business

- Deirdre Oloffson asked what changes have been made to consent from community submissions with regard to the Glendell project.
- Trevor Wells stated that community submissions will be taken into account however the mine is awaiting approval so final consent has not been determined. Conditions are expected to be consistent with new mines in the area and Mt Owen conditions. Glendell is likely to be able to operate 24hrs but will have the latest technology in noise suppression and monitoring.
- Patricia Bestic asked for clarification on an issue raised in the June 2007 meeting regarding the status of the land swap for the traveling stock reserve that is within the Biodiversity Offset Area. John Watson stated that he had not heard back from the Department of Lands.

12. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been scheduled for 10am on **Friday 13 June 2008** at Mt Owen Mine.

Meeting closed – 11:45 am by S. Roberts

Lunch was provided after the close of the meeting.

The proposed optional site inspection was cancelled in favour of a field trip prior to the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by – Brooke Lavis