

MINUTES OF THE MT OWEN COMPLEX COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

10am Friday 27th March 2009 at Mt Owen Mine

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened by Val Scott at 10.03am

Present:

Community: Michael Spitteri, Patricia Bestic, Alec Schiemerer, Wendy Williams, Jenny Marshall

Singleton Council: Val Scott, Brian Thomas

Mt Owen Complex: Annemieke Grosser (XG), Peter York (Theiss), Ben Clibborn (XMO), Nigel Charnock (XCN), Zac Chytza (Theiss), Tony Israel (XG), Trevor Wells (XCN), Shannon Mulholland (ENSR, minute taker)

2. Introductions

Val Scott continues as Chair Person

3. Apologies

Apologies for the meeting were received from Deidre Oloffson, Godfrey Adamthwaite, Greg Mortlock, Gillian Holmes and Ashley McLeod.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Val Scott asked Committee members to declare any pecuniary interests. There were no such declarations from the committee.

5. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Friday 21 November 2008 were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Moved by Ben Clibborn, Seconded by Val Scott.

6. Update on operational performance and the implementation of key Mt Owen Consent Conditions and Community Projects

Mt Owen Operational Performance Update

- RW (railway) and Stage 3 areas now completed
- WOOP (western out of pit dump) dump rehab commenced
- Bettys creek diversion reveg underway
- BORP (Biodiversity Offset research project) underway for 2009
- York creek project nearing completion

Glendell Mine Operational Performance Update

- Now to full production with 173 staff
- Rehab has commenced
- Swamp creek diversion in place
- Homestead works nearly completed
- Dust suppression trial underway – bitumen emulsion binds to soil particles and reduce wheel dust from vehicles, also reduces water use for dust suppression

Consent Conditions

- Mt Owen Complex (MOC) management plans approved
- Noise monitoring plan amended for attended monitoring – real time noise monitoring as a compliance measure not yet accepted by regulators, needs further tests on robustness and reliability. MOC will continue attended monitoring until real time monitoring proven
- Monitoring results continuing to be reported on website
- Hebden road upgrade completed near Bowmans creek crossing

Biodiversity Offset

- Habitat management zone bond estimates completed

Social Involvement/Community Engagement

- MOC newsletters planned for distribution in May 2009

2009 Plan Initiatives

- Approx \$5.7million to community based projects across NSW in 2009. A copy to be attached to final minutes.

Update on Community Projects

- Community support programs: Mt Pleasant School, Rotary Mentoring Program, Mt Pleasant Horse Sports Day

7. Review of Environmental Performance - MOC

- Map of monitoring locations presented

Air Quality – High Volume Air Sampling – Total Suspended Particulates

- There were some elevated results for Nov 2008-Feb 2009
 - Nov 08 – one elevated result, predominant SE wind
 - Dec 08 – one elevated result, predominant WNW wind
 - Feb 09 – 2 elevated results, predominant E winds
 - One regional event with NW wind on 31 Dec 08
- 12 month rolling average currently below criteria

Air Quality – High Volume Air Sampling – PM₁₀

- There were several elevated readings from Nov 2008-Feb 2009
 - Dec 08 – 2 elevated results, predominant SW and NW winds
 - Jan 09 – 1 elevated result, predominant E wind
 - Feb 09 – 2 elevated results, predominant E winds
 - One regional event with NW wind on 31 Dec 08
- 12 month rolling average below criteria.
- Continuous PM₁₀ – SE wind event 6 Nov 08, NW wind event 24 Nov 08 thought to be cause by regional dust storm resulted in elevated results.
- TEOM 2 had some electrical failures so some data absent from graph. TEOM 2 no longer a compliance monitor due to recent property acquisition, data is still valuable to look at longer term trends and data is still gathered. Switch board servicing monitor upgraded to rectify power issues.
- Low levels in Feb 09, lot of rain during this month (approx 120mm rain, double the average 60mm for this period).
- Continuous 12 month rolling average quite stable, levels below compliance criteria
- Shutdowns of excavators on site due to dusty conditions from high wind from Nov 2008 to Feb 2009 shown. Nov 2008 had 90 hours shutdown time, Dec 2008 had 70 hours, Jan 2009 approx 75 hours, Feb 2009 approx 55 hours shutdown time due to high winds making dust difficult to control.

Air Quality – Depositional Dust

- Middle Falbrook stable, below exceedance levels for rolling average
- SE of the mine also stable, below exceedance levels for rolling average

Blasting Results – Mt Owen

- Have moved Falbrook Road (previously known as Cramps) monitor back to Westcotts (was no longer effective in its previous area)
- Below criteria levels
- Brian Thomas asked for 115 level on graph as well, MOC to rectify

Complaints History by Month from last CCC meeting

- Level of complaints well down
- Large drop in complaints and number of complainants largely due to residents moving on
- No complaints in Oct and Nov 2008
- 1 complaint each for Dec 2008 and Jan and Feb 2009 – noise related

- Westcotts, Donellan, Noble, Garderner, Richards estate – currently only residents left with acquisition rights under consent

Rehabilitation

- 26ha topsoil spread on SE side of MO main dump
- Bulk shaping commenced on WOOP dump in Jan 2009
- 2009 target of 80ha across site with 60ha located on the WOOP dump, primarily woodland reveg
- MO will be majority woodland – it was noted by the community members that it was not originally majority woodland pre-mining. MOC explained a requirement was set under consent conditions to improve biodiversity within the original Ravensworth forest and offset areas thus increasing woodland in the area. Areas beyond the forest and offset areas will be put back to pasture in some areas.
- Woodland mix primarily Eucalypts and Acacias, some seed is local provenance from Ravensworth State Forest
- Community concern regarding large amount of woodland areas and increased fire risk. Ben Clibborn explained that the MOC has a Bushfire Management Plan which has been reviewed the rural fire brigade and developed by bush fire management experts. The plan ensures inspections fences and gates, fuel loads and fire trails on a regular basis are conducted and maintained. On extreme fire danger days personnel are on site with water tankers watching for fire hazards in order to implement fire fighting as soon as possible if required.
- Rehab on MO main dumps – progression photos shown

Environmental Initiatives

- Upgrading hydrocarbon management system
- Glove recycling initiative now implemented in workshop
- Energy savings action plan projects implemented across the site
- Wild dog baiting undertaken in Dec 2008. Next baiting campaign due in April 2009. MOC mentioned the possibility of potentially looking at Valley wide baiting program to target dogs across the whole Valley and improve results of baiting programs. Needs a coordinated approach from all mines in the Hunter if real results are to be achieved.
- No reported cat problems. Pigs used to be an issue on site but no recent reports. Previously had feral deer on site as well. Some deer are still reported to be on site at the moment.

8. Glendell Project Update

Air Quality – High Volume Air Sampling – PM₁₀

- Several high levels from Nov 2008_Feb 2009:
 - Nov 2008 – 4 elevated results, predominant W and NW winds
 - Jan 2009 – 4 elevated results, predominant NW and SE winds
 - Also detected regional dust storm event on 25 Nov 2008

Results were within compliance criteria, however several additional dust control measures are being employed at Glendell.

Air Quality – Depositional Dust

- below compliance levels

Blasting Results

- Brian Thomas has asked XMO to plot the 115 criteria however all results from April 2008 to Feb 2009 below compliance criteria.
- Satisfactory levels of vibration (i.e. levels well below compliance criteria), closest resident is about 2km away.

Complaints

- Noise monitoring results are below limits.
- Only noise attenuated equipment operating on site.
- Blasting tends to take place around 9.15am or 3.15pm.

- Discussed blast issue at Wendy's place – large blast took place approx 2 months ago around midday. Source still unsure (no Glendell or Mt Owen blasts at this time).
- Community complaints since last CCC meeting have been related to noise.
- 2 complaints for Jan and Feb 2009 from one resident in Camberwell village. Meeting scheduled to discuss noise issues.
- Glendell has recognised that as mining progresses south residents of Camberwell village will be able to hear mining operations, however Glendell is going to lengths to ensure they stay within their prescribed limits. This will not prevent all mine noise reaching residents, however noise will be kept to a minimum.

Community

- Undertaking an ACARP study to investigate more sustainable landform design.
- Noise attenuated equipment is in use and dust suppression activities being undertaken.
- Rehabilitation of disturbed land has commenced.
- Camberwell Cumulative Impact Study: Dep. of Planning undertaking study, using Glendell data and looking at how issues are being managed.
- Recognised site issues:
 - Dust concerns from neighbours
 - Rehabilitation success
 - Noise concerns from neighbours
 - Water management
 - Visual impact

9. General Business

- Michael Spitteri – within 1100m of their house, a quarry is being proposed. Michael is concerned about dust and noise, also truck movements and blasting vibrations. Particularly concerned about contamination of his fish farm. Michael stated that he will forward his concerns to the council as part of the assessment as the proposal is on public display.
- Wendy Williams – blasting issues with nearby quarry. Reason given by quarry for large blast was high work load. Suggested Wendy check with quarry for specific consent conditions.
- Ben Clibborn – consider holding site tours at the end of the meeting to accommodate people who only have enough time to attend the meeting and not both. Brian suggested that for specific issues relevant to meeting, perhaps best to have tour at the start, but otherwise have it at the end. Look to holding relevant tours at the commencement of the meeting. Otherwise “scenic” tours to be held after the meeting. Meeting attendees to confirm their attendance on the tour with RSVP for the meeting. Ben has taken on John Watson's role, Ben now primary CCC contact.
- Brian Thomas - has asked that minutes be finalised within 2-4 weeks following the meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday 26th June 2009 at 10am at Glendell again.

Meeting closed at 11.45am by Val Scott

Minutes prepared by Shannon Mulholland