

# 1 GENERAL MANAGERS MESSAGE

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# 2 FROM THE COAL FACE



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# 3 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS



A number of environmental management plans and monitoring programs required under the new Mt Owen Consent have been submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources for approval.

# 4 MT OWEN WEBSITE OPERATIONAL

Our new website is now up and running at <http://www.huntermvalleycoalcorp.com>.

# MT OWEN TWO-WAY

The Mt Owen Two-Way Issue No.5 July 2005

## From the Coal Face

### New Noise Attenuated Excavator and Trucks Operational



Noise suppressed hydraulic excavator loading a new 270mt haul truck with overburden.

You may recall from our previous newsletters that one of the key noise reduction strategies that Mt Owen committed to through the DA process was the phased introduction of noise attenuated equipment and we have made some important advancements in this area.

In late April 2005, a new attenuated Liebherr 996 excavator and a fleet of five Hitachi 270mt electric drive rear dump trucks were commissioned at Mt Owen. This equipment is significantly quieter than standard equipment, for example, the attenuated excavator is approximately 250% quieter than a standard (non-attenuated) excavator, whilst the new trucks are about 200% quieter than a standard dump truck. This meaningful noise reduction is achieved through such measures as the enclosure of engine bays, modification of the radiator fan design, installation of louvres on radiators and cooling fans and re-engineering of exhaust systems.

Two more attenuated 996 excavators are due to commence operation around mid 2006, whilst the replacement of the remaining non-attenuated dump trucks will occur progressively from March 2006.

## Commencement of West Dump



Construction of a noise bund on the eastern side of the West Dump.

We have made some pleasing progress on the construction of the West Dump which is a key component of Mt Owen's new Development Consent. The dump will take approximately six years to fill under the proposed dumping schedule and will be progressively rehabilitated. Overburden will also continue to be placed in-pit during this period.

In order to reduce noise (particularly at night) from the West Dump, we have committed to no night-time operations on the West Dump until attenuated equipment is available for such operations and until we have constructed a 15 metre noise bund on the eastern edge of the dump.

The construction of the West Dump and noise bund started in mid April 2005. The development of the bund is being undertaken during daylight hours, with dumping occurring behind the bund at night using the new noise attenuated trucks

## Environmental Management Plans

Under the new Mt Owen Development Consent we are required to prepare a number of environmental management plans and monitoring programs, which will be integrated within the site's existing Environmental Management System. For your information, we have submitted the following plans to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources (DIPNR) for its review in early June 2005:

- Environmental Management Strategy
- Water Management Plan
- Noise Monitoring Program
- Blast Management Plan
- Air Quality Monitoring Program
- Environmental Monitoring Program

Copies of all plans and programs are available at the Mt Owen Complex website [www.huntermvalleycoalcorp.com.au](http://www.huntermvalleycoalcorp.com.au) following their approval by DIPNR.

## Message from the General Manager

Welcome to Mt Owen's latest Community Newsletter developed to provide you with an overview of our mining operations and an update on our recent environmental management and community initiatives.

As you may be aware, we received a new Development Consent for an expansion of the existing approved mining operations at Mt Owen in December 2004 and we have started to fulfil the commitments made through the recent Development Application process and started to address the conditions of the Consent.

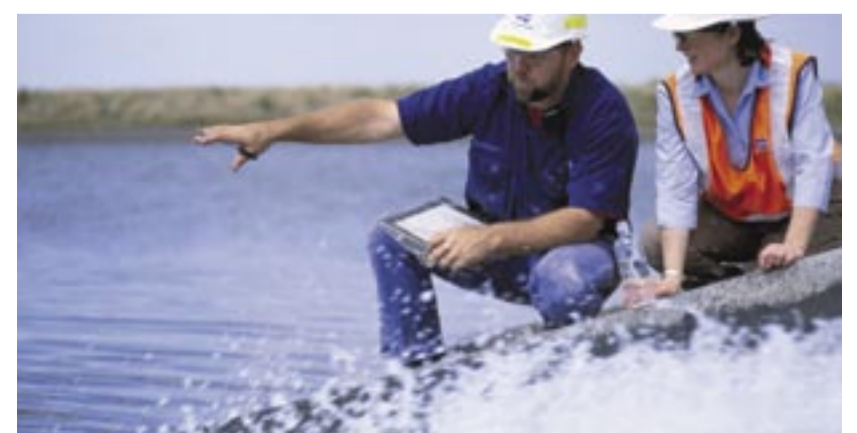
In particular, I am delighted to report on some of the recent improvements we have introduced under the Consent including: the development of our Environmental Management Plans and Monitoring Programs, the implementation of key noise management strategies at Mt Owen, and the operation of our new website. These important initiatives are touched on in further detail throughout the newsletter.

I am also pleased to report that we have expanded our Community Consultative Committee to nine community representatives and as such we have continued to demonstrate our strong commitment to improving communication with key stakeholders and to keeping the local community closely informed of key developments at the Mine. Unfortunately, however, after a period of approximately eight years on the Mt Owen CCC, community member Julie Clydesdale has recently resigned due to other commitments. On behalf of the team at Mt Owen, I would like to thank Julie for her valuable contribution to the Committee and wish her all the very best for the future.

Equally importantly and on another note, we have started making some significant progress on two environmental enhancement projects within the Glennies and Bowmans Creek catchments. Hunter Valley Coal Corporation (HVCC) is currently in the process of scoping both projects and we will keep you posted on the progress of these projects through future newsletters.

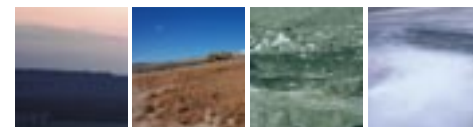
In closing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Gerrie Jordaan who recently joined the Mt Owen team. Gerrie replaces Peter Kane as the Operations Manager for Thiess at Mt Owen Mine and brings over 30 years of international experience in the mining industry to the operation, including seven years experience in Australia.

**Derek Walls**  
General Manager, HVCC



A Water Management Plan is one of the plans to be prepared under the new Mt Owen Consent.

# MT OWEN TWO-WAY



## Mt Owen Operations Community Consultative Committee

### What is the Mt Owen Complex CCC?

You may recall from our last newsletter that the Mt Owen Complex CCC is an amalgamation of the former Mt Owen, Ravensworth East and Glendell CCC's. The CCC was established in accordance with Development Consent conditions for these operations and in accordance with Singleton Council "Guidelines for Community Consultative Committee's in the Singleton Shire." The CCC provides a forum for open discussion between the Company, appointed community representatives and Council.

At the moment, The Mt Owen Complex CCC is made up of a total of nine community representatives, four mine representatives, and three representatives from Singleton Council. A Councillor from Singleton Council chairs the meetings and Government representatives periodically attend the meetings.



The Mt Owen Complex CCC.

## Community Noticeboard

### Mt Owen Website Operational

Our new website is now up and running at [www.huntermvalleycoalcorp.com.au](http://www.huntermvalleycoalcorp.com.au). Our website provides information on our operations, including mining methods and infrastructure, environmental management and performance, operating approvals, community issues, biodiversity and land management, reports and publications. It's a great way for you to keep informed about what's happening at Mt Owen and it also provides links to other related websites. As always we welcome your feedback and encourage you to return the enclosed form or contact us with your comments so that we can continually improve the format and content of the site.

### Blasting Hotline

A reminder about our Blasting Hotline which enables you to get up to date information on daily blasting times and a weekly blasting schedule through a pre-recorded message. The Hotline has been operational since December 2004. The Blasting Hotline number (1800 248 745) is periodically advertised in local newspapers in conjunction with the existing advertisement for the Mt Owen Operations 1800 Community Response Line.

### Blasting Trial

The Mt Owen Development Consent allows the Mine to prepare and implement a Blasting Trial Program. The Blasting Trial Program evaluates the merits of blasting from 7am for a 12 month period so that we can avoid periods of adverse weather. At the moment, the trial is being developed and following consultation with DIPNR and the Department of Environment and Conservation, it is expected to start prior to the next Newsletter. If you would like to obtain further details of the trial, or wish to be advised prior to early morning blasts occurring, please contact Thiess Environmental Officer Geoff Marschke on (02) 6570 0885.

### Mt Owen Community Meeting

On 16 March 2005, Mt Owen held a valuable community meeting at the local Mt Olive Hall. The meeting was attended by approximately 20 local residents, representatives from DIPNR, HVCC and operators of Mt Owen Mine, Thiess. The meeting was chaired by an independent facilitator from the Mining Related Councils.



Local grazier and member of the Mt Owen Complex CCC, Alec Schmierer, overlooks the Mt Owen Mine during a site tour following the May 2005 CCC Meeting.

### CCC Meetings

The Mt Owen Complex CCC meets quarterly and the meeting agenda follows the procedure outlined in Singleton Council's Guidelines. However, CCC members are encouraged to bring issues to meetings for discussion and to contact us to amend the proposed Agenda.

Minutes are prepared for each meeting and distributed to all CCC members for comment before they are made available on the Mt Owen website. Minutes are also sent to DIPNR within a month of meetings. All action items arising from the meeting are recorded so that progress against these actions can be closely monitored at future meetings.

### Community Vacancy on the Mt Owen Complex CCC

The three community vacancies on the Mt Owen Complex CCC advertised in our last newsletter have been filled. We are delighted to welcome local residents Alan Noble, Leanne Cramp and Gillian Holmes to the Committee.

Following the departure of Julie Clydesdale, a vacancy exists for another community representative to join the Committee. Interested persons should contact Brian Thomas at Singleton Council on 65 787351.

The aim of the meeting was to provide the local community with information on the new Mt Owen Consent and encourage on-going community participation in future forums. Community meetings are part of a wide range of initiatives that we have started to encourage on-going communication and consultation with the local community.

The community meeting was Mt Owen's first meeting of this nature since the new Consent was issued in December 2004. As a result, the meeting was a learning curve for the Mine and we have taken your feedback on board to ensure that future meetings are scheduled to allow considerably more time for open discussion and to encourage feedback on our operations. However, it is hoped that issues of concern are not kept for public meetings and we encourage you to contact us at your earliest opportunity to discuss any issues.

In light of positive support for the initiative, we will continue to hold local community meetings at least annually.

### Feedback on Mt Owen DA Consultation Program

In February 2005, a feedback form was circulated to our surrounding neighbours to encourage comment on the community consultation process for the Mt Owen Operations Project, following the new Development Consent for the Mine in December 2004.

We were very pleased with the number of feedback forms that were filled in and returned and thank you for taking the time to do this as your feedback will help us to continually improve our communication with you.

The feedback shows that the level of consultation and information provided on the project and format of the information were generally acceptable. However, a number of residents were disappointed with the entire consultation process, stating that it was not flexible, lacked transparency and did not fairly consider input from the community.

We appreciate that not everybody will be complimentary and people are entitled to form their own opinion of our operations. So that you can continue to make informed decisions and judgements, we will continue to provide you with information on the Mt Owen Operations, forums for interactive discussion and maintain our 'open door policy' for the life of the operation.

## Update on Continuous Noise and Dust Monitoring Systems

As part of Mt Owen's commitment to the new Consent we recently started expanding our existing environmental monitoring program to include a network of continuous noise loggers and continuous PM10 dust monitors throughout the local community.

These noise and dust monitoring systems represent the best available technology. The installation of the equipment will take some time. However, once fully operational, the continuous monitoring systems will alert us of elevated noise and dust levels, which will prompt a review of operations and allow our operations to be modified appropriately. Data from the systems will also enable the Mt Owen Complex to monitor compliance against operating approvals. A summary of noise and dust monitoring results will be made available on the Mt Owen website and will be updated at least every two months.

## Community & Education Support

### Update on Community Contributions & Educational Initiatives

Since our last newsletter, HVCC has continued to support a range of community and educational initiatives, including:

- Sponsorship of the Singleton Horse Sports Day organised by the Mt Pleasant Public School P&C;
- Funding the purchase of computer hardware and furniture for Mt Pleasant Public School; and
- Participation in a Working in Partnership workshop for the mining industry and indigenous community held at Muswellbrook in June 2005.

1800 730 883

Mt Owen Community Response Line

If you have any inquiries or concerns in relation to the Mt Owen Operations, please contact the Mine on the 24-hour freecall Community Response Line.

1800 248 745

Mt Owen Blasting Information Line

For information on blasting times please contact Mt Owen Operations on the 24-hour freecall number.