

Minutes of Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultation Committee

Meeting Held: Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 3:30pm

Venue: The meeting was held in the Board Room at Namoi Valley Brickworks.

Commencement Time: 3:30pm

Note – the meeting was recorded via dictaphone by Bruce Reid.

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Mr Michael Broekman (MB) (Chairman)
Mr Bruce Reid (BR) (Community Representative)
Mr Andrew Kennedy (AK) (Community Representative)
Mr Glenn Bailey (GB) (Community Representative)
Mr Stephen Benham (SB) (Council Representative)
Mr Danny Young (DY) (Environmental Manager)
Miss Jill Scealy (JS) (Environmental Officer)
Mr Michael Clark (MC) (Project Manager)
Mrs Vivienne Rooke (VR) (Guest – Bruce Reid's daughter)

Apologies: Mr Tim Muldoon

2. Previous Minutes

Moved that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and accurate record by Bruce Reid, seconded by Michael Clark.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1 First Flush Diverters – “Woodlawn”

BR requested at the previous meeting that Whitehaven supply instructions for the first flush diverters installed at his property. Available information about the diverters provided to BR.

3.2 Payment for tank cleanout – “Woodlawn”

DY asked BR if Tony Jones (Whitehaven Community Liaison Officer) had arranged payment for the clean-out of water tanks at the “Woodlawn” property. BR noted that Tony Jones had resigned and the payment had not been made. DY stated that Tony Jones is currently on annual leave and would continue to

work approximately 2 days per week on his return. DY noted that Tim Muldoon is now Whitehaven's full time Community Liaison Officer and is based at Whitehaven's CHPP. Bruce Reid agreed that he would contact Tim Muldoon or Tony Jones to discuss. VR commented that they weren't looking for much compensation ("only a couple of thousand dollars"). DY provided contact details for Tim Muldoon and Tony Jones.

3.3 Additional bus stops

DY stated that he had discussed the Committee's request for additional bus stops (on Oxley Highway) with Whitehaven's GM – Technical Services, Brian Cullen. He explained that Sunnyside has addressed the requirements of the Consent and that no further bus stops are required to be constructed.

DY suggested that the Committee needs to decide whether construction of additional bus stops is applicable to the Committee and, if so, they should approach the Council/RTA with a request.

AK reiterated (from comments made at the previous CCC meeting) that the Council had failed to consult residents about the increased traffic movements proposed during the planning stage of the mine.

DY indicated that the best approach would be for the individuals concerned, or the CCC, to approach Council/RTA for support regarding additional bus stops. If the Council/RTA supports the idea, the individuals or CCC would need to approach Whitehaven for possible funding. DY stated that he could not commit to Whitehaven funding the work.

GB noted that the bus stops on Blackjack Road (in particular the one on the corner of Blackjack Road and the Oxley Highway) require upgrades as the bus is required to pull off on the road shoulder which currently has a substantial drop off.

MC stated that the bus stops, and road shoulders on Blackjack Road south of the Oxley highway intersection are not related to coal haulage from Sunnyside Mine.

The Committee moved the following two motions:

1. The Committee shall write a letter to Council requesting a review of the provision of bus stops along the Sunnyside haul route as well as consideration for an upgrade to the Waterways Wildlife Park entrance. Moved by GB, seconded by AK.

2. The Committee shall write a letter to Council requesting consideration of improvements to bus stops along Blackjack Road (ie. upgrades to the road shoulder), specifically the bus stop area near the Blackjack Road/Oxley Highway intersection. Moved by GB, seconded by AK.

The letters shall be drafted by Whitehaven on behalf of the Committee and emailed to MB, GB, AK and SB for review. A copy of the letter will be posted to BR.

SB stated that he had investigated AK's claims from the previous CCC meeting that residents had not been consulted regarding placement of bus stops. He noted that Council did contact residents and that AK's property had bus stop access on Quia Road.

AK stated that his main reason for joining the Sunnyside CCC was based on the bus stop issue.

3.4 Employment policies

The issue of local mining companies employing apprentices from small businesses was raised by MB at the previous CCC meeting. DY stated that he had discussed Michael's concerns with Brian Cullen, Whitehaven's GM – Technical Services. DY noted that it is a difficult issue as Whitehaven cannot exclude candidates based on their current employment as it would be discriminatory. DY commented that Whitehaven understand the issues faced by small business as Whitehaven itself had been subject to the loss of personnel to other mining companies. DY also noted that Whitehaven focuses on cadetships for tertiary students for technical positions such as geologists, environmental staff and engineers.

MB stated that he had been in discussions with the Gunnedah TAFE representative Therese. MB indicated that Therese is focussed on skill shortages and is looking at more skill related courses in 2011. MB praised Therese's efforts but was not sure if she would be provided with the necessary support.

MB plans to submit an application for the community funding that Shenhua is currently advertising. He will propose that funding be provided to local business to subsidise some of the expenses associated with training apprentices.

AK asked if there was any scope for Whitehaven to extend funding for cadetships to include apprentices. The Committee discussed how this could work (ie. would Whitehaven pay to

train other businesses' apprentices?) and MB provided the example of BHP's tertiary education funding project whereby students are provided with funds to study but are not tied to BHP in any way. MB suggested that something similar to this for apprentices could be an option.

BR asked VR about her experiences with recruitment with mining in Mudgee. VR noted that Theiss are guilty of the same situation. VR commented on the difficulties with employing local people and that they are running out of people to employ locally and are looking farther afield.

4. Mine Progress

MC provided an update on the mine progress. During the last 3 months 635,796 bcm of overburden has been moved, 119,066 tonnes of coal has been mined and 92,415 tonnes of coal has been transported from the site.

The mine now has 13 employees (10 operators, 1 fitter and 2 management personnel) as well as 3 contract operators and various other contractors. Lost Time Injury (LTI) free days now totals 567 days with nil safety issues to report.

One shot has been fired since the last meeting with nil exceedances recorded. Noise monitoring has confirmed exceedances as discussed further in the Environment Monitoring Report.

VR asked which way the pit is moving. MC indicated that the pit is moving south towards the highway and then west.

VR asked why noise monitoring is not conducted at "Woodlawn" because the noise is getting worse.

BR stated that Peter Stubbs of "Glendower" had commented on the noise from the mine. BR indicated the Mr Stubbs was not concerned about the noise during the day but it is noticeable at night time.

MC stated that noise monitoring is currently being conducted at "Glendower" and there have been no exceedances recently.

VR is concerned that BR will not be living at "Woodlawn" forever and at some stage they will need to lease it out.

DY indicated that if they are concerned about the noise impacts at "Woodlawn" then the property can be included for sampling at the next round of noise monitoring to identify the noise levels as compared to compliance criteria.

VR questioned how much coal has been produced over 12 months. MC stated that approximately 250,000 tonnes had been produced. VR questioned how much coal would be produced over the next 12 months and following 12 months. MC indicated that approximately 480,000 tonnes per year would be produced over the next 2 years. MC also noted that Sunnyside's consent allows for the production of 1 million tonnes per year.

VR asked whether the truck movements would double based on a doubling of production. MC indicated that truck movements would be similar to the movements that have been occurring over the past few months.

GB asked if MC believed the mine would ever produce 1 million tonnes per year. MC stated that he is not in the position to determine whether this will occur but in his personal opinion he doesn't believe it will.

5. Environmental Report

DY provided the Environmental Monitoring Results, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

VR asked how the mine determines where dust monitoring occurs. DY indicated that monitoring locations are determined during the background assessments conducted as part of the Environmental Assessment process and that monitoring locations are specified in the mine's Environment Protection Licence.

VR asked if dust monitoring can be conducted at "Woodlawn" to which DY suggested a deposited dust monitor could be located on "Woodlawn" if they were concerned by deposited dust from the mine.

VR stated that she was only a sporadic visitor to the area however she has noticed that the water at "Woodlawn" is dirty when it never used to be. JS asked whether the water was still dirty following the installation of first flush diverters by Whitehaven. VR said that the water was ok this time but she doesn't know about the dams. VR noted that the dams are brown but she knows nothing about farming.

AK questioned the noise monitoring locations (ie. how close to a residence) and criteria. DY stated that the criteria is set by the Department and monitoring is required within 30m of the residences.

AK stated that the noise criteria of 35dBA is very strict. Members of the Committee supported this statement by noting that other noise sources (ie. insects, barking dogs etc) are often higher than 35dBA.

GB asked why the SWL graphs show a gap in the trend line between June 09 and September 09. DY committed to investigating why the gap

was there and suggested that possibly water quality analysis was conducted at a time when SWL were not recorded.

VR requested that Whitehaven plant a row of trees on the boundary of the "Woodlawn" and "Plainview" properties to obstruct the view of the mine (in particular lights at night) from the "Woodlawn" residence. MC asked when the lights were directed at the residence and VR indicated that it was around Easter time. MC stated that the waste dump is now moving in a westerly direction and the lighting plants are pointed in a south-westerly and north-westerly direction so they are facing away from "Woodlawn". BR stated that there are no lights pointing directly at the house but the lights are visible. DY stated planting trees will not be effective as the expected mine life is only five years. Therefore, the mine will be in closure before the trees have grown a sufficient amount to provide a visual screen.

GB questioned whether the Landscape Management Plan (LMP) will be made available at a CCC meeting. DY stated that it can be and GB asked whether the LMP will be a public document that can be reviewed by the CCC. DY indicated that the document will not be reviewed by the CCC but will be reviewed and approved by the Department of Planning. JS stated that plans and reports are available on the Whitehaven website.

BR stated that he had noticed a pipeline running around the hill within the mine site. MC and DY confirmed that what BR can see is actually a mesh and colourbond koala fence. GB asked if the fence will be removed at the end of mine life. DY indicated that it will be.

AK referred to MC's previous statement that when the mine increases to 480,000 tonnes per year production the road movements will be similar to the traffic over the last few months. AK asked will the coal be stockpiled and then hauled in campaigns as it has been in the past. MC said the coal will be hauled on a more consistent basis. MC explained that until recently there have been gaps between coal and overburden but now they are more consistently mining coal.

AK asked how many loads are currently being transported. MC indicated that approximately 55 loads per day were being hauled (this was noted by MC as a rough estimation). VR asked if this was each way and MC confirmed that 55 loads per day totals 110 movements.

6. Complaints

No complaints have been received via the complaints line or Whitehaven personnel since the last CCC meeting.

SB raised a formal complaint on behalf of an undisclosed complainant regarding the Toll truck cornering too fast at the Coocooboonah

Lane/Oxley Highway intersection and crossing over from the dedicated acceleration/merging lane into the highway lane. DY indicated that the matter would be referred to Toll to ensure drivers are aware of their requirements.

7. General Business

7.1 Nil

8. Date for next meeting

Wednesday 8th September 2010 – 3:00pm, Namoi Valley Brickworks.
Site tour to be conducted following the meeting.

Meeting closed 4:30pm



Michael Broekman - Chairman