

**Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the
Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

Meeting Held: 12th December 2012, 3:00pm

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

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Mr Michael Broekman (MB) (Chairman)
Mr Danny Young (DY) (Environmental Manager - Whitehaven)
Mrs Jill Johnson (JJ) (Environmental Officer - Whitehaven)
Mr Craig Woodhead (CW) (Acting Project Manager - Whitehaven) – site tour only
Mr Tim Muldoon (TM) (Community Liaison Officer - Whitehaven)
Mrs Liz Ferguson (LF) (Community Representative)

Apologies: Mr Bruce Reid (BR) (Community Representative)
Mr Hans Allgayer (HA) (Gunnedah Shire Council Representative)
Glenn Bailey (GB) (Community Representative)

Moved: LF and TM

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of LF and TM.

3. Business Arising

3.1. JJ advised that the Toll Manager had refuted that coal reject spills out of the top of the trucks. JJ noted that the approval for the new emplacement area at Brickworks requires reject trucks to be covered with tarps and to be washed down prior to entering the public road network.

DY said the procedures at the CHPP had been changed which resulted in the trucks carrying a drier product.

3.2. Following a request from LF at the previous meeting, JJ provided the January and February 2012 deposited dust results. DY and JJ provided a copy of a typical chain of custody form (which includes field notes about contamination) and results as provided by the laboratory. Total, combustible and ash components of deposited dust were explained.

4. Mine Progress Report (provided during site tour)

CW provided an update on the mine's progress (September – November) as follows:

- Operators - 13 full time, 14 contractors.
- Fitters - 1 permanent.
- Site management – 2 full time, 2 casual.
- 851 LTI free days as at end of November (a new record).
- Rehabilitation complete as far as possible.

- 1 blast between 1st September and 30th November with no issues. Total blast volume for the three months was 200,190bcm.
- Nil topsoil has been removed and stockpiled in the last three months.
- In the last three months 574,525bcm of overburden has been removed and 141,262 tonnes of coal mined.
- 145,297 tonnes of ROM coal has been transported offsite.
- Other matters:
 - Returned to only one excavator in November 2012
 - Started removing last block of coal on the 1st November 2012 and finished coaling on the 29th November 2012.
 - Sunnyside is currently under care and maintenance.
 - Still loading and transporting coal to the CHPP.

5. Environmental Monitoring Report

DY presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the Environmental Monitoring Report. He provided additional discussion on the new noise monitoring requirements specified in the Environment Protection Licence.

LF asked what strata P7 and P8 were located in (referring to seepage from the void water dam and subsequent change in SWL at these piezometers). Whitehaven to provide information at next meeting.

LF asked if there is a set time for care and maintenance and whether obligations change because the mine isn't producing. DY said it won't change the obligations under the current Mining Operations Plan and a rehabilitation security arrangement (with financial guarantee) is still held with the Department. Rehabilitation has progressed as far as it can (ie. on the outer batters of the waste emplacement areas) so Whitehaven is not proposing any rehabilitation of the pit area on the basis that mining will continue in the future. MB said the wider community doesn't want to sterilise the resource by rehabilitating it before it has been mined. JJ noted that the current consent expires in 2015.

TM asked if 2015 is when mining or rehabilitation must cease. DY said mining must cease by 2015 but rehabilitation activities will occur after this date. LF asked if there is a set time to achieve rehabilitation outcomes. DY said the Closure Plan defines when rehabilitation is expected to be finalised but this is dependent on a number of things including weather. As long as Whitehaven continues to provide updates to the Department and the rehabilitation is progressing in an acceptable manner, the Department will be satisfied. JJ said rehabilitation post mining nominally takes around 5 years. You need to ensure tubestock and groundcover has properly established before the Department will sign off.

LF asked if the rehabilitation security amount is high enough. DY said it is based on a government template which lists commercial rates. Whitehaven also has an ongoing internal rehabilitation provision which is reviewed every six months.

Environmental monitoring report moved by DY and LF.

6. Complaints

No complaints in the last three months.

7. General Business

LF raised the issue of recently lit fires on the Oxley Highway and suggested that Whitehaven should provide the Rural Fire Service with contact details on the tenants in Whitehaven owned properties around Sunnyside. Given the mine is in care and maintenance, DY said the best contact for the mine is the complaints line (which is how Whitehaven was contacted for the latest fire).

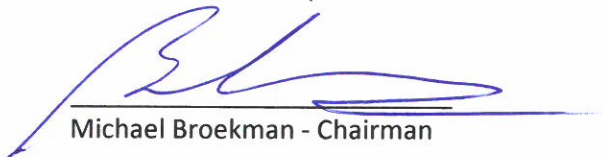
8. Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th March 2013, 3:30pm.

Meeting closed at 4:00pm

9. Site Tour

A site tour was conducted following the meeting with CW, DY, JJ, MB and LF present.



Michael Broekman - Chairman