

**Report of the Duralie Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee  
Held Thursday 7 February 2008**

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**Present:** Mr J Chadban, Mr T Tersteeg, Mr A Fisher-Webster, Mr D Lanham, Ms H Gillard, Mr T Hutchings, Mr J Trotter.

**Guest:** Mr J Benson (Duralie Coal)

**Apologies:** Mr G Handford

**Confirmation of Minutes Of Previous Meeting Held 1 November 2007:**

Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and accepted by the Committee (moved by Ms H Gillard, seconded by Mr D Lanham).

**Business Arising from the Previous Minutes:**

Discussed within General Business.

**General Business:**

Report on Environmental Monitoring

(comments applicable to results tabled since last meeting)

Mr J Trotter advised the Committee of the following regarding monitoring:

pH – all sites behaved similarly and were neutral to marginally alkaline.

Electrical conductivity (EC) – ranged from approximately 100 to 600 uS/cm across sampled sites. Highest EC result from upstream Coal Shaft Creek location.

Total suspended solids (TSS) – ranged from approximately nil to 200 mg/l. Highest values recorded within the Karuah River.

Dust deposition – results all low relative to the EPA limit for all sites other than D4. D4 result for November elevated and largely attributed to insect and potentially glass contamination. There was discussion about the number of recent D4 results which have been attributed to contamination. Dust deposition results for the Wards River (D7) monitoring point were provided to Mr T Tersteeg in tabular form at his request.

High volume dust – recent results all appreciably less than the applicable EPA limit. An elevated result was recorded for both monitoring locations during a single run in October (but still beneath the EPA limit). Rolling average results indicate initially increasing dust levels moderated towards the end of the data set (December).

Rainfall – above historical average rainfall during the past three months (November to January).

Blasting – data on 26 blasts presented. No blasts exceeded the relevant ground vibration and overpressure criteria. Schultz monitor failed to record for five blasts due to a failed lead acid battery.

Complaints – seven tabled. All noise related.

### Part 3A Background Noise Monitoring

Ms H Gillard asked whether “background” monitoring included or excluded the existing mine noise. J Trotter to liaise with DCPL’s noise consultant undertaking the monitoring and report to the CCC.

### DCPL Newsletter #2

Mr J Trotter provided committee members with a copy of the second newsletter addressing the status of the proposed Part 3 application (Environmental Planning & Assessment Act) to the Department of Planning (DoP).

### Proposed Duralie Mine Extension

Mr T Tersteeg stated he was opposed to the continued expansion of mining at the Duralie site. Mr D Lanham stated he was concerned about the possibility of continued mining in the valley. Mr Lanham said also that he was concerned that DCPL at some future stage would state they had consulted with the CCC in relation to the proposal via provision of newsletters and that this was counter to his groups’ (NSW Farmers Association) opposition to the proposal.

Community Committee representatives undertook to take the information from the meeting back to their respective groups.

### Covering of Railed Coal Wagons

The CCC Chairperson wrote to the DECC in November 2007 in relation to uncovered railing of coal. The DECC provided reply correspondence to Mr Chadban dated 7 January 2008. This correspondence was tabled by the Chairperson and discussed.

A letter of complaint relating to covering of rail wagons from Ms J Judge addressed to the CCC dated 3 February 2008 was tabled by the Chairperson and discussed. DCPL is to provide a written response to Ms Judge.

### Weismantels Inn

Correspondence between the Barrington-Gloucester-Stroud Preservation Alliance Inc, Hon. George Souris MP, Hon. George Souris MP and Gloucester Coal and Gloucester Coal and Hon. George Souris MP was discussed by the Committee.

A member of the Committee asked whether DCPL was prepared to place a preservation order over the Inn. Mr Trotter advised that the Weismantels Inn was outside the area proposed to be mined and that impacts of the mining proposal upon the Weismantels Inn (as well as all privately owned dwellings) would be considered as part of the proposal’s environmental assessment.

The Chairman undertook to take up the issue of a Weismantels Inn preservation order on behalf of the Great Lakes Council.

### Correspondence from Johnsons Creek Conservation Committee Inc

A letter from the Johnsons Creek Conservation Committee Inc dated 18 January 2008 was tabled by the Chairman and discussed. Mr T Tersteeg (the signatory to the correspondence) stated his

group's position and Mr J Trotter provided DCPL's response verbally. DCPL also undertook to provide a written response to the CCC.

A "motion of no confidence in the management of Duralie Coal" as requested by Mr Tersteeg in his correspondence was deferred by the Chairman pending receipt of DCPL written response.

#### Recording of Complaints

Mr Lanham complained that "complaints" made within the CCC meeting forum were not listed as complaints on the Duralie Coal Mine "Complaints Register". Mr Trotter advised the Committee that the "Complaints Register" was operated in accordance with Development Consent Condition 36 which states that the "Environmental Officer shall be responsible for receiving complaints with respect to construction works and the mine operations on a dedicated and publicly advertised telephone line, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, entering complaints or comments in an up to date log book....".

#### CCC Activities and AEMR

Mr Lanham also asked why the workings of the Committee were not reported within the Annual Environmental Management Report. Mr Trotter informed the Committee that there was no formal obligation to report the activities of the CCC within the AEMR and that there had previously been no request to do so. Mr Trotter further stated that copies of CCC quarterly meeting minutes were placed on the publicly accessible Gloucester Coal Limited website ([www.gloucestercoal.com.au](http://www.gloucestercoal.com.au)).

The Chairman requested that the next (and ongoing AEMR's) include a section referencing the CCC. He asked that this section address the Committee purpose and structure, members, occasions met and issued discussed. J Trotter undertook to meet this request.

#### Irrigation Area Cropping

Mr Trotter informed the Committee on success of recent forage sorghum planting and harvesting.

#### Mammy Johnsons River Restoration

Mr Trotter advised the Committee that the Department of Water & Energy at Taree had had some recent organisational changes and indicated that the restoration program would not be considered before next month.

#### Irrigation Area Soils

Mr Lanham asked for some soil test results that his group "could understand". Mr Trotter asked for Mr Lanham to advise of which specific tests/results his group (NSW Farmers Association) would like undertaken in addition to those routinely undertaken and reported in the AEMR. Mr Lanham to advise.

#### Farmers Association Site Visit

Mr Lanham asked whether a group of farmers from the Stroud Branch of the NSW Farmers Association could visit the site. DCPL to facilitate.

Committee Financial Account

J Trotter advised that the Committee had \$6333 in the operating account.

Meeting commenced at 10am with a site inspection and closed at 2.15 pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 at 10.00 am.

# DURALIE COAL PTY LTD

ABN 81 070 318 259

# NEWSLETTER

## DURALIE COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Background

Duralie Coal Pty Ltd (DCPL) will be seeking approval from the NSW Minister for Planning to allow for the continued operation of the mine once reserves within existing open cut operations have been exhausted- referred to as the Gloucester Coal Project (GCP).

Preliminary consultation with the Department of Planning (DoP) has indicated that approval for the GCP could be sought through an application for consent under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).

The purpose of this Community Newsletter (No.2) is to provide the status of Part 3A baseline impact assessments, and further description of the environmental assessment process.

### Status of Baseline Impact Assessments

The current status of baseline impact assessments are as follows:-

<b>Groundwater</b>	Desktop review of previous studies Review of existing groundwater monitoring data Preliminary design of groundwater monitoring network
<b>Surface Water</b>	Background Monitoring
<b>Flora and Fauna</b>	Baseline surveys completed Flora and fauna offsets assessed
<b>Culture and Heritage</b>	Expressions of interests sought and received Specialist archaeologist engaged
<b>Noise</b>	Baseline monitoring completed
<b>Air Quality/Dust</b>	Preliminary site selection for additional monitoring locations completed
<b>Geochemistry</b>	Preliminary geochemical assessment report completed on CHPP reject

Key findings of the baseline impact assessments will be presented to the community and stakeholders prior to the public exhibition period.

### GCP Consultation and Approval Process

GCP Consultation and approval process is presented in Figure 1.

We are here

Project Definition & Prepare Application



Lodge Project Application & Preliminary Assessment to DoP



Planning focus meeting



Director General's Requirements



Ongoing Planning & Baseline Studies



Preparation of Environmental Assessment Report (EAR)



Lodgement of Application and EAR



Public Exhibition, Consultation, Review & Assessment



Director General's Assessment & Ministerial Determination

