

**Report of the Duralie Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee  
Held Thursday 6 August 2009**

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**Present:** Ms Cl Jan McWilliams, Mr T Tersteeg, Mr D Lanham, Ms H Gillard, Mr G Handford, Mr T Hutchings, Mr J Trotter.

**Visitor:** Mr M Plain  
**Apologies:** Mr A Fisher-Webster

**Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting Held 7 May 2009:**

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted by the Committee.

**Business Arising from the Previous Minutes:**

Mr Tersteeg asked about biological report graphs. Mr Trotter advised that the requested changes would be reflected in the upcoming September survey report.

Ms Gillard asked about responsibility for train generated noise. Mr Trotter referred to minutes of the previous meeting.

**General Business:**

Mr Lanham requested an explanation of irrigation “first flush”. Mr Trotter advised the Committee on the “first flush” retention protocol under the Irrigation Management Plan (IMP).

Mr Tersteeg asked about information on Duralie Coal Mine community contributions as presented in the April 2009 Independent Audit report. Mr Handford undertook to look into the level of contributions.

Mr Handford advised the Committee that under Condition 9 of the Modified Development Consent Committee local community representatives have to be reappointed every two years. The two year tenure of current local community representatives expired on 24 July 2009. Council would readvertise positions with the advertisement expected to be placed in the local press by the end of the month.

Mr Handford also stated that the Council has received letters of complaint regarding the process of expressions of interest (EOI) for community funding. The complaints related to the timing for calling of expressions of interest and the requirement for obtaining three quotations. Mr Handford asked community representatives to provide feedback from their groups regarding any changes to the EOI process at the next Committee meeting.

The Chairperson expressed the gratitude of the Committee to Duralie Coal for the additional \$25,000 provided to supplement mandated community contributions.

Report on Environmental Monitoring (Mr Trotter)  
(comments applicable to results tabled since last meeting)

Surface Water pH – all sites were within the neutral range, exhibiting natural fluctuations.

Surface Water Electrical Conductivity (EC) – all sites show a consistent trend with the exception of Site SW2 Upstream. EC generally exhibits higher values under dry conditions and lower values under wet weather/higher flows.

Surface Water Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – all sites returned relatively low readings with the exception of the 22 June. June 22 monitoring was a “rain event” (receipt of at least 20mm of rain within 24 hours).

Dust Gauges – results for all sites (with the exception of sites D4 and D5 in March) were less than the EPA limit. Samples collected from sites D4 and D5 in March were observed to have been contaminated with a combination of bird droppings, insects, organics and a beetle. Possibility that the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW) may discontinue obligation upon DCPL to conduct dust gauge monitoring (substitution with alternative monitoring method).

Dust Gauges Annual Rolling Average – all sites have an annual rolling average less than the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) limit.

High Volume (PM<sub>10</sub>) Air Sampling – all results for both sites under the EPA limit with the exception of results from monitoring conducted on 25 April. The elevated results on Anzac Day were not attributed to mining operations since there was no actual operations on that day.

High Volume (PM<sub>10</sub>) Air Sampling Annual Rolling Average – for both monitoring sites, annual rolling averages exhibit an increasing trend but remain significantly less than the EPA limit.

Rainfall – the mine has experienced a relatively dry winter (to date) with July being particularly dry.

Blasting – one blast occurred in the 115-120dBL range on 16 July. However, blast overpressure results within the 115-120dBL range remain within the allowable 5% of total blasts. No exceedance of overpressure or ground vibration limits.

Complaints – six complaints tabled. Four complaints were noise related, two were blasting related. The blasting related complaints were from a single complainant and Duralie Coal has arranged for a dilapidation inspection of the complainant’s house to be undertaken.

Ms Gillard requested an explanation of “pre-trigger” as presented within the blasting results table. Mr Trotter explained that this meant that the monitor was caused to enter a calculation/recording mode immediately prior to any overpressure and/or vibration being sensed at the monitor as a consequence of the initiated blast. Pre-triggers could be caused by, for example, wind or animals.

Ms Gillard also raised the issue of “Action Not Taken” entry within the complaints listing – seeking an explanation. The Duralie Coal Environment Protection Licence (EPL) states the

requirement to record complaints and in so doing also provide details “if no action was taken by the licensee, the reasons why no action was taken.”

### Mine Progress (Mr Hutchings)

The Duralie site is undergoing a facilities upgrade involving a new carparking area, more road sealing, a new facility to be sited within the current carpark and a new laydown area for mine truck assembly. This work has occurred over the last month and will continue for about three more months.

Eleven Caterpillar Model 785XQ trucks are on order. Three of these trucks are to arrive soon and are expected to be in service by the end of October. There is a training package for operators. A further three or four trucks are expected to arrive in November and by June 2010 all new trucks should be in service.

The Chairperson requested that a Mine Progress Report be printed and circulated to members of the Committee prior to or at each meeting.

Pit activity is advancing north and narrowing. Have had recent Sunday operations to catch up for lost time due to equipment breakdown.

A new contract between Duralie Coal and Leighton Mining had recently commenced.

Ms Gillard stated that she was concerned about the possibility of increased train movements at night. Mr Hutchings advised that the current application under assessment by the Department of Planning (DoP) did not contain any proposed changes to train movements. The future “Part 3A” application to the DoP will contain changes to rail movements.

Mr Trotter suggested in light of various current and pending DoP applications by Duralie Coal the Committee may consider it beneficial to extend an invitation to relevant State Government officers to attend upcoming Committee meetings.

### Auxiliary Dam 1

Mr Trotter advised the Committee that construction of Auxiliary Dam 1 was now complete.

### June 2009 Modification

Mr Trotter restated that this modification to seek approval to extend mining operations to the north of the existing approved mining area has recently completed a public exhibition period. The DoP are currently in a review stage for submissions (both government and public).

### Irrigation Expansion Modification

Mr Trotter restated that this modification was intended to increase area available to irrigation. He indicated that it was not proposed to seek approval to irrigate alluvial soils. This application was still in preparation by Duralie Coal.

### Part 3A Application

A Newsletter (“No.7”) on the progress of this application was provided to the Committee. Mr Trotter indicated that the application was expected to be lodged with the DoP in November 2009 and that it would be open to community review.

Mr Lanham indicated his concern over details in applications and availability for public review. He stated he believed that the public is not provided necessary information and time to respond.

### Irrigation “First Flush”

Mr Lanham stated that he believed that the level at which runoff from the western irrigation area is permitted to flow of the mine site (below 1326 uS/cm – refer Irrigation Management Plan) is inappropriate and needs review.

### Alternative Chairperson

The Chairperson discussed the Committee position of alternative Chairperson to cover for any future absence of the Chairperson. Reference to the 2006 modification to the Development Consent informed the Committee of the requirement to seek approval for such a position from the DoP.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Thursday 5 November 2009 commencing at 10am.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.

A site inspection followed the meeting.