

**Report of the Duralie Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee
Held Thursday 4 February 2010**

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Present: CI J McWilliams, CI K Hutchinson, Mr T Tersteeg, Ms H Gillard, Mr G Handford, Mr A Fisher-Webster, Mr D Lanham, Mr T Hutchings, Mr J Trotter.

Visitor: Mr M Plain

Apologies: Nil

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting Held 6 August 2009:

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted by the Committee subject to the following correction:

CI Hutchinson had actually said that “mining and farming could co-exist provided that mining companies adhered to DA conditions.”

Business Arising from the Previous Minutes / General Business:

Report on Environmental Monitoring (Mr Trotter)

(comments applicable to results tabled since last meeting)

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

Surface Water Electrical Conductivity (EC) – sites generally display lower recordings relative to the previous meeting’s data reflecting greater stream flows.

Surface Water Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – all sites returned relatively low readings (maximum less than 30 mg/l). The Committee had some discussion on what was considered to be high and low levels of TSS.

Dust Gauges – results for all sites (with the exception of site D5 in October) were less than the EPA limit. D5 October result was affected by the presence of insects.

Dust Gauges Annual Rolling Average – all sites have an annual rolling average less than the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) limit. Site D5 shows an increasing trend (impacted by repeat contamination).

High Volume (PM₁₀) Air Sampling – all results for both sites under the EPA limit with the exception of a “Twin Houses” sampling run on 21 November where a minor exceedance of the limit occurred. Many small insects were observed on the sample paper on this occasion.

High Volume (PM₁₀) Air Sampling Annual Rolling Average – for both monitoring sites, annual rolling averages exhibit a horizontal trend and remain significantly less than the EPA limit.

Rainfall – the mine experienced a wetter than average summer. Calendar year rainfall (2009) was very close to historical average.

Blasting – one blast exceeded 115dBL. The blast monitor located at the former Holmes owned property (now owned by Gloucester Coal) has been relocated to the Bailey property located off Martins Crossing Road. This relocation has been approved by the EPA.

Complaints – three complaints tabled – all noise related. Mr Trotter advised the Committee on procedure by which Duralie Coal advised Leighton Mining of operational complaints and actions.

Mine Progress (Mr Hutchings)

Report tabled.

Part 3A Application

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is to commence public exhibition on 8th February. A copy of the EA to be provided to all members of the Committee. Mr Tersteeg requested a hard copy of the EA.

EPL Variation

EPL variation dated 27 November 2009 was briefly discussed. This variation was instigated by the EPA. Change from the previous EPL principally related to requirement regarding waste reporting.

A current application before the EPA to vary the EPL was also discussed. This variation addresses proposed changes to noise and blast monitoring locations stemming from the recent modification of the Development Consent in October and property acquisitions by Gloucester Coal.

PM10, PM2.5

Mr Tersteeg expressed his preference for monitoring of particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres to occur instead of the current 10 micrometres standard.

Evaporative Sprays

A trial of evaporative sprays is to commence shortly.

Exploration Drilling

A request was made for Mr Hutchings to provide the Committee with a report on exploration drilling between the Duralie and Stratford operations at the next meeting.

Noise Monitoring

Discussion on role of the Committee by Mr Handford, the Chairperson and Cl Hutchinson with regard to Ms Gillard and her participation in discussion of noise related issues.

It was brought to the attention of the Committee by the Chair that in her opinion Ms Gillard probably had a non-pecuniary interest in the matter being discussed and that Ms Gillard should not be participating in the debate.

The Committee briefly discussed noise monitoring (including monitoring locations) and undertook to have a more detailed discussion at the next meeting.

Noise surveys (January 2010 Compliance Noise and Truck Noise) were provided to the Committee. These reports are to be discussed at the next meeting.

Induction

The next meeting is to commence with a full visitors induction for all Committee members. This induction will not retain currency for a period of two years.

Committee members are requested to bring along some form of photographic identification – a current driver's licence would suffice.

NSW Farmers Association Stroud Branch Correspondence

Mr Trotter provided correspondence on the First Flush Collection Protocol to the NSW Farmers Association (Stroud Branch) dated 2 December 2009 following a verbal request from Mr Tersteeg at the November meeting.

The Branch provided additional correspondence dated 15 January 2010 on the same matter.

Mr Trotter is to provide the NSW Farmers Association a written response to the 15 January letter.

Mr D Lanham

Mr Lanham advised the Committee that he was attending his last Committee meeting. The Chairperson thanked Mr Lanham for his participation on the Committee since its formation.

Mr Handford advised he would write a letter of thanks to Mr Lanham on behalf of the Committee.

Community Contributions

Committee agreed to defer a decision on the structure of allocated community contributions until the next (May) meeting.

Committee Member Re-Appointment

Under Schedule 5, Condition 9(a) of the Duralie Development Consent, the local community representative positions on the Committee area to be re-appointed every two years unless otherwise agreed by the Director General (Department of Planning).

The Council advertised for persons interested in being members of the Committee within the local press. Five (5) applications are to be considered by Council.

It is proposed that the re-appointments/appointment(s) will occur prior to the next Committee meeting.

Committee Operational Account

\$6086.97 is currently in this account.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2010 commencing at 9am.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm and was followed by a site inspection.