



**YANCOAL**  
**Mount Thorley Warkworth Operations**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 25 November 2020**

**Attendance****Chairperson**

Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair MTW CCC

**Company Representatives**

David Bennett

Acting General Manager

Gary Mulhearn

Environment &amp; Community Manager

Olivia Lane

Environment &amp; Community Coordinator

**Community Representatives**

Ian Hedley

Community Representative

Stewart Mitchell

Community Representative

Adrian Gallagher

Community Representative

Graeme O'Brien

Community Representative - Alternate

Barb Brown

Community Representative

John Lamb

Community Representative

**Stakeholder**

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

**Apologies**

Toni Silk

Community Representative

Cr. Hollee Jenkins

Singleton Council

**Minutes**

Sarah Purser

1. **WELCOME;** Col opened the meeting and welcomed CCC members. Gary thanked community representatives for going through the Covid-19 declaration process and adhering to the safety procedures MTW continue to operate on site. David advised that he is in the role of Acting General Manager and operator of the site most likely to the end of Q1 2021, whilst Jason McCallum is operating Yancoal's Queensland mines. David ran through site amenities and emergency evacuation procedures.
2. **APOLOGIES;** Advised and recorded.
3. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / CONFLICT OF INTEREST; *Standing Declarations;*** Col advised that both he and Sarah are engaged by Yancoal to provide the services of Independent Chairperson and meeting note taker.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING; *Action Items arising from the 26 August 2020 Meeting***

**Action:** *In response to a request from Stewart for hard copies of any reports related to the Cultural Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG), inclusive of the Aboriginal Heritage Report, MTW to liaise with Stewart to ascertain what reports he has in hard copy and those he is seeking.*

✓ **Completed;** Olivia presented Stewart with MTW's Annual Environmental Report (AER) at today's meeting and Gary confirmed the requested reports are contained within the Appendices.

**Action:** *In response to a query from Hollee, MTW to seek detail from their Rehabilitation specialist on the proposed vegetation community for the final filled landform of the South Void.*

✓ **At today's meeting.**  
 South Pit Void will be rehabilitated to Central Hunter Grey Box - Ironbark Woodland Endangered Ecological Community (EEC). Gary indicated the planned extent of this vegetation community as shown in MTW's latest Mining Operation Plan (MOP).

**Action:** *In response to queries raised by Neville in relation to air quality monitoring data provided in the MTW Monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports, MTW to review MEMR data and provide feedback in relation to any power failures in the MTW Air Quality Monitoring Network which may have affected data capture.*

- ✓ **Completed;** MTW reviewed the MEMR's for May and June 2020, they were unable to identify any power failures which affected the data capture of Air Quality Monitors. High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) are set to run for 24 hours on a six-day cycle in accordance with EPA requirements. The units are tested and set prior to their run day.

**Action:** *MTW to contact the Telstra Community Specialist to relay concerns raised by the CCC regarding poor to no mobile coverage in the Bulga and Milbrodale areas that continues to worsen. MTW to seek an update on Telstra's current infrastructure, capability and detail of any upgrades they may have completed since 2017, or have planned for the future. MTW to ask if Telstra can conduct some mobile reception testing, including investigating the current line of sight to their Towers located at Singleton and Brokenback.*

- ✓ **A today's meeting;** Gary confirmed that Telstra had been contacted regarding these matters and had responded in September and November 2020 per below:-

#### **TELSTRA ENQUIRY UPDATE; Telstra advised, since the last update from 2017**

- ✚ Telstra have delivered the small cell at Bulga and the macro base station at Broke (Adams Peak Road) as planned, as well as another new macro base station at Broke Road, near Mount Thorley Mine site.
- ✚ Telstra advised the line of sight from the Mount Thorley Industrial Area Base Station would not be a major factor in coverage for the core area of Bulga, as this area is mainly served by the 4G small cell deployed in town. Coverage to the Milbrodale areas is provided from both the Mt Thorley Industrial Area Base Station and the Broke Adams Peak Road Base Station installed in 2017.
- ✚ At this current stage there are no further network expansions or upgrades planned for the Bulga area.

Telstra do not do mobile phone reception testing upon request, they recommended individual customers consult Telstra's online coverage maps to check the expected coverage at anyone's specific locations;

<https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/our-coverage>

Telstra customers can also select the "maximise coverage" option to understand areas that may benefit from the use of a network extension device and external antenna to improve their network experience. Further information on network extension devices can be found on the following webpage; <https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/network-coverage-extension-devices>

Ian queried if Telstra had advised how much range the 4G small cell at Bulga provides and Gary responded this coverage is mainly to the Bulga Village area and then from Milbrodale it comes up the Putty Road but not all the way, Gary understood that some areas in between were not that well covered.

Ian advised he would take up the matter of the 4G small cell at Bulga directly with Telstra, his residence is located across the road from this cell however he is unable to get reception within his house and has to go out to the backyard for mobile coverage. John agreed that the reception issue at his residence is much the same as Ian's. Gary noted that it is the 4G small cell network that delivers messages and mobile phones can be set up to use 4G for voice.

Ian confirmed that he had already put in a complaint and that Telstra were going to do some testing. Gary said he would encourage those with an issue to also make direct contact with Telstra, MTW has conducted some enquiries but there would be benefit for community to follow up with Telstra as well.

John noted that the Broke Fordwich Private Irrigation District (PID) has a communication antenna located on Broke Road that works effectively in covering the whole district, including Broke, Fordwich, Bulga and Milbrodale, he queried why Telstra had not installed their NBN towers in that location.

**Action:** *In response to concerns raised by Ian around the increase of MTW's truck movements through the Industrial Area to service the Loders Pit drainage filter bed construction, MTW to request that their drivers operate at the 60 km/h speed when passing through that area.*

- ✓ **Completed;** MTW notified all drivers via communications and induction processes prior to commencing their deliveries of the requirement to adhere to a 60 km/h speed limit in the Industrial area and also when leaving site.

Ian acknowledged that MTW had provided advice that these trucks were to be travelling through the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate (MTIE) but unfortunately that had not been the only case. Ian explained that the trucks had been parking along the verge road on a corner that was not a good location from a safety point of view. Ian advised that the trucks had also been parked up on a hill, in wet weather they had dragged the clay down and deposited this onto the road. Ian said the dust that came off the clay on the road had been of great concern. Ian questioned the need for these trucks to be queuing in those areas and asked why they could not queue on the mine site or further down the road.

Gary said it was important that MTW be advised of issues of this nature so they can provide that feedback to their team. Ian responded that he had not made a complaint around the truck activities as he had understood this to be a temporary situation. Ian had only been made aware of the concern about clay being deposited on the road by his staff just prior to attending today's meeting. David advised that MTW would address this matter with their team immediately after today's meeting and confirmed that these truck movements would finish around mid-December 2020.

**ACTION 1:** In response to a concern raised by Ian, MTW to address trucks servicing the Lodgers Pit drainage filter bed construction being parked up on a corner of the MTIE as in wet weather they had been tracking wet clay down onto the road causing a dust concern.

**Action:** In response to feedback from Stewart, MTW confirmed they could get a drone view of the Southern Biodiversity area to present to the CCC.

✓ **Completed within today's meeting;** MTW's Offset Presentation.

**Action:** In response to concerns raised by Stewart about feral cats being a threat to bird life, MTW to seek feedback from their Wildlife Controllers around sightings and numbers.

✓ **Completed;** There had been no cats sighted on the motion cameras set up around site, or any sightings during opportunistic shooting activities, MTW schedules trapping if sightings do occur.

**Action:** In response to feedback from Neville asking if MTW could simplify their Water Monitoring Reporting to the CCC, MTW to provide an overview of their water balance and water flow that is contained in the Water Management Plan.

✓ **Completed within today's meeting** MTW's Presentation on Water Management Plan; Water Management Infrastructure Plan and Water Management System Schematic.

**WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN;** Gary provided hard copies of MTW's Water Management Infrastructure Plan and Water Management Schematic to members for ease of viewing. Gary explained this information is contained in MTW's Water Management Infrastructure Plan located on their website.

### Water Management Infrastructure Plan

Gary provided an overview on the location of infrastructure and water movement, he explained that MTW's catch drain is located out to the west of site and goes to the sediment basins. Gary identified; the pipelines that ferry water between the main dams storage and in pit storages around site, the location of tailings and the centre ramp tailings storage facility, and the former tailings which has been capped up in the north part of Warkworth, the clean water system that flows around the Putty Road down through MTW's site finishing at Doctors Creek and the clean water dams.

In response to a query from Neville, Gary identified the pipelines that pump mine water explaining that all water categorised as "mine water" is contained within the active pit and the rehabilitation that has not been fully established and signed off. Gary added that to the west of MTW's operations, where there is stripping of new areas and tree clearing, the water in that area is classed as "sediment basin" water, which is similar to a construction site, that water is run through sediment basins which may overflow in heavy rainfall as they are designed to do. Once MTW have completed stripping, water travelling to the pit becomes mine water, as it will have potentially been in contact with coal, watered with haul trucks, or is mine water itself. Gary noted that the presentation contained a lot of technical information and offered to run through MTW's Water Management Infrastructure Plan out of session with any members wanting any further clarification.

Neville asked if water drawn from the former Lemington South open cut void makes up part of MTW's water balance and Gary confirmed that is part of MTW's out of pit storage volume that they can access. Gary explained that MTW may also occasionally pump water into that void e.g. should there be heavy rainfall and temporarily store water there prior to bringing it back through the pipeline.

Neville was seeking to understand the interconnection with neighbouring mines in relation to how water is shared and transferred. Neville assumed that each mine would do their own water balance and Gary confirmed that the mines individually do balance, then when MTW do a transfer there is an agreement that is a permitted process within MTW's Water Management Plan and their Development Consent.

With regard to the interconnection with other mines Gary explained that MTW have a boundary dam to share with Bulga Mine, a pipeline connection with Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) and connection to Wambo via HVO. Neville said he had only recently become aware of this interconnection with HVO and queried if this was a legacy that had been in place for a long time. Gary responded that it is a relatively new contemporary pipeline for MTW to access the Lemington void, with flow controls and interlocking.

Neville explained his interest was also around how alluvial water may be impacted through either underground or open cut mining. Neville queried the sections between each of the mines and how they interconnect. Gary responded that MTW have a solid coal barrier between their mine and the old Lemington Underground which is on the HVO leases and confirmed that MTW extract water out of that former underground operation under licence.

Neville believes there is community interest around water for farming and Gary did not believe the quality of water out of coal seams would be suitable for agricultural use. Gary confirmed that MTW are part of a whole catchment that has permission to extract water via river extraction licences but there had been sufficient rainfall for MTW use that in preference to drawing water. Gary explained that utilising mine water is more favorable than using natural resource water out of rivers, therefore if one mine has excess water it is intended that they can share this and move it to another mine under agreement.

Ian asked for detail on the drainage system MTW were installing and Gary advised a filter bed is being placed in the base of Loders Pit ahead of waste overburden placement, this will enable MTW to have future access to a sump in the base that contains water that has filtered through the spoil or come out of the tailings processes and enable MTW to bring that water back into their water system as part of their water balance.

**ACTION 2:** In response to a query from Neville, MTW to provide a schematic/diagram showing how water from the old Lemington Underground Mine and surplus water is shared between MTW and neighbouring mines e.g. HVO, Bulga Coal and Wambo.

Ian queried the new pipeline he had seen in front of the catch drain and Gary confirmed that pipeline is to de-water sediment bays after they collect water so they are ready in the event of new rainfall. Ian noted that was fairly big infra-structure and asked if that indicated MTW would not be mining that area for some time. Gary identified the existing catch drains and where MTW's next set of catch drains would be located on a plan.

Neville asked where MTW's reservoirs for discharge water were located and Gary responded that MTW have two licence discharge points; one is at Dam 9S in the Mount Thorley Operations that goes to Loders Creek, the second is at Warkworth Mining on Dam 1N that goes to Doctors Creek.

Stewart noted the schematics provided by other mines show a bit more detail i.e. the actual volumes of where the water originates from, the balance between imported water and rainfall, where water goes and where it gets discharged, he felt that was a more simplified way of looking at distribution of water within mine sites. Gary confirmed that today's presentation related to water balance for the site i.e. where the infra-structure is and how this links together. In response to a query from Stewart, Gary confirmed that MTW do have a water balance that has been created for site, this provides detail on how many water storages there are and how they interact with each other. Gary noted that this is quite complex but MTW certainly do that to ascertain what their water containment would be in a wet year and their water supply requirements for the mine going forward.

**Action:** *In response to feedback from John in relation to concerns around fixed lighting located at the truck park up area at West Pit South, MTW to review the lighting within this area and advise if there had been any changes made since their lighting review.*

- ✓ **Completed;** A review of the eight fixed lighting towers at the West Pit South Park Up was conducted in October 2020 by the Community Response Officers (CRO's) and the electrical team, this confirmed there had been no changes since the Lighting Audit. Regardless, based on the review, MTW continue to investigate opportunities for changes to fixed lighting in this area.

**Action:** *In response to a request from Hollee, MTW to provide an overview of the dust mitigation measures that will be in place for the infill of the South Pit Void.*

- ✓ **Dust Mitigation Measures in Mining Areas - MTW's Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) includes the controls used.**

**A non-exhaustive list of these include:-**

- ✚ Water cart operation for haul roads in the area.
- ✚ Where necessary, reducing speed of mobile plant, closing of specific haul roads, watering non-operational areas, changing haul routes and slowing dig rates etc.
- ✚ Changing dump locations to lower or less exposed areas.
- ✚ Reducing the volume of equipment in an area.
- ✚ Intermittent or complete shutdown of task.
- ✚ Complete shutdown of mobile equipment with the exception of water carts and reject trucks (extreme events only).
- ✚ MTW's Air Quality Monitoring Program is on the website in MTW's Air Quality Management Plan.
- ✚ Routine internal and external inspections.

In response to a query from Neville, Gary advised that MTW had submitted their updated Air Quality Management Plan containing some minor updates to the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) on 13 November 2020. Gary explained MTW are required to do that update after they submit their Annual Environmental Report and conduct an Audit.

Neville advised the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG) has put in a proposal to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) that focuses on Air Quality Monitoring, in particular around enhancing current systems to look at drifting patterns and how air from other mines may disperse into each other's environment potentially affecting the site's air quality and then further out to surrounding areas. Neville noted SSHEG had recommended a 3 stage alarm reporting system for the operators based on real time information as distinct from monitoring.

Gary responded that MTW's Consent is based on the modelling processes that was conducted by Air Quality Consultants for their EIS process. Gary confirmed that MTW do conduct real time monitoring via their monitoring network, they look at their compliance limits externally to them and react to those. Gary explained that MTW also have closer monitors to site which they review on a 10 minute and one hourly basis and if necessary will react with inspections and provide feedback to their operational people who will assess if changes to the operation are required.

Gary added that MTW are always looking at weather forecasts, they have upwind and downwind monitors, so are able to assess what the conditions are like at any given moment. MTW actively plan their operations by shift according to weather forecasts and David provided an overview of MTW's Management Board providing examples of the types of planning that is involved. As an example; should the forecast be for dry or windy conditions, MTW will assess where they will be operating and dumping, the type of shots they will utilise for blasting, short and low dump options, and prepare for any changes that may need to be made should weather conditions change. MTW carry out this planning in advance, closer to the day and then in a daily morning meeting that is led by David as the General Manager with Operational Superintendents in attendance and that information then flows to all the Supervisors on the ground and Operators via tool box talks. David confirmed that the site is well versed in looking the best they can at the forecast data and all other logistics to make sure MTW has the right controls in place.

Stewart advised that Bulga Coal were proposing to relocate some monitoring that he understood was positioned close to MTW's boundary line to more suitable locations and asked if MTW were aware of those plans. Gary advised Bulga Coal may have spoken to Doug Fenton who is MTW's Monitoring Specialist and he would follow that up.

**ACTION 3:** Gary to liaise with MTW's Monitoring Specialist to ascertain if Bulga Coal have provided advice on the potential relocation of their boundary monitoring.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE:** MTW CCC Meeting 26 August 2020 Minutes Endorsed by the Chair (20/10/20). MTW Community Support Program 2021 (27/10/20). Agenda & Business Papers (18/11/2020)
6. **CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES;** Confirmed at today's meeting.
7. **PROPONENT REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

#### MTW Operations

- ✚ Mining production continued in Warkworth (WML) and Mount Thorley Operations (MTO). MTO will cease from a coal mining perspective at year end.
- ✚ MTO: Dragline 102 continued to operate in Loders Pit South and is progressing through its final strip, anticipated for completion around mid December 2020. MTW will then have coal trucks operating there to get the last of the coal out of this pit by the end of 2020 which will complete the last of overburden and coal mining activity in MTO.
- ✚ The last major MTO blast occurred in August 2020, a couple of minor blasts remain.
- ✚ MTO: Loders Pit drainage filter bed is under construction and due for completion in November 2020, this is part of Loders Pit becoming waste / tailings emplacement.
- ✚ Waste trucks will be seen going into MTO via the Putty Road covered tunnel, MTW will be taking out of pit material from Warkworth and backfilling the final voids in both Mount Thorley Pit, and in part in South Pit. South Pit and MTO are not MTW's primary dumps, as the mine progresses further to the west the primary dumps remain front of dump, but there will be a proportion of material going to those out of pit dumps to finish off final voids in those areas.
- ✚ WML: Dragline 103 is the primary DL and has been working in the lower passes of West Pit and North Pit.
- ✚ WML: Dragline 101 (temporarily parked up February 2020) returned to work in October 2020 in the lower passes of West Pit. Mine plans going forward indicate that MTW may choose to operate those two Draglines in tandem but do not envisage this to be a full time operation.
- ✚ Trucks, Shovels and Excavators; MTW anticipate they will continue to maintain 80 haul trucks in total going forward. All of MTW's coal will need to come from West and North Pits, with no coal coming out of Mount Thorley, however trucks will still take coal to both the coal handling plants in the north in Warkworth and in the south in Mount Thorley.
- ✚ WML: Water management ahead of mining (sediment basins / catch drains) construction has commenced.
- ✚ Coal processing and train loading normal operations.

#### Overview of 2020

David acknowledged that it had been a challenging year for site given the dramatic change in environmental conditions from the previous year and in relation to the global impacts to come from the Covid-19 pandemic. David provided an overview of the year noting key elements going forward being that Mount Thorley Pit will be finishing up in 2020, the filling of South Pit Void will continue over a number of years, and that MTW intend to continue to mine to their Management Plans going forward.

In response to a query from Graeme, David advised MTW's Development Consent goes to 2037 and at this point in time MTW will be mining in accordance with this consent. David anticipated that MTW will maintain the current rate of mining for around 10 to 12 years, and then beyond there it would taper off to the end of mine life from an open cut perspective. Graeme noted the global market competition within the mining industry and David responded that MTW will likely maintain their production profile and it is highly unlikely that MTW will shrink their footprint and go for a smaller production profile. Stewart queried the percentage of production that is exported into China, David responded that this would be a fairly low number with MTW's coal predominantly going into what is defined as the JKT (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan) markets. David acknowledged that coal prices and exchange rates are two major factors that impact mining profitability and it is hard to ascertain where these will be over the next 4 to 5 years, however MTW's view is to continue to mine at those rates going forward.

In response to a query from Ian, David advised that it is MTW's intention to fill South Pit Void in part and material would likely come down the auto barn, which is the road that runs parallel to Putty Road, MTW will put some lower level dumps in down there and then ultimately will come at it from higher elevations to finish the final parts.

Ian was glad to hear David's response as he had thought it looked like MTW were going to start to backfill the South Pit Void from the top. David confirmed that MTW cannot do that, this would not be good environmentally, but also from a geotechnical standpoint MTW can only put dump lifts in at 30 metres at the most.

Given the size of South Pit Void MTW will need to bring material in from a very low level to begin with and David noted that it is quite a long haul to get material back to fill in that final void. In response to a query from Ian, David advised that MTW still maintain approval to dig the Abbey Green North (MTW did do the south part) but this is not featured in MTW's current five year plan for the mine site.

***In response to queries from Ian and Graeme around the potential for underground, David and Gary provided the following update.***

- MTW continue to work through their assessment processes and are at the pre-feasibility type planning stage, therefore this is still at least 18 months to 2 years out for MTW to understand all the ins and outs of that type of project.
- Potential underground could be in and around the South Pit area however MTW are still working through their assessment process.
- For an underground project additional infra-structure would be required as the present level is sized to carry out MTW's production at current rates. There may be some duplication of use but only on a minor level for office space, car parking, bath houses etc. From a workshop and preparation plant perspective these would need to be assessed. The current rail loop may be suitable for a project of this type.
- MTW's bottom coal seam in Warkworth is deeper in terms of stratigraphy than the bottom coal seam in Mount Thorley.
- Where MTW have mined down a lot of the open cut coal in Warkworth, from an underground they might get that potentially over in Mount Thorley Pit.
- The underground would be in the current mining leases, these go down to the Bayswater seam in the Mount Thorley operation, then MTW have an exploration licence below that and are conducting bore holes to explain the resource. In Warkworth the leases go down to 900 metres which is deep or adequate for an underground.

In response to a query from Stewart, David advised that MTW would most likely operate their shovels in Warkworth as they have been doing over the last 3 to 5 years and that there is no change in the pre-strip schedule. David explained the Draglines continue to take the bottom pass and the shovels the upper passes. MTW also have a mix of hydraulic excavators in with the shovel fleet and both these pieces of equipment move similar amounts for dirt. David did note that the hydraulic excavators tend to operate at a lower noise level, the pass heights and the thicknesses determines whether MTW dig with an excavator or a shovel.

In response to a query from Stewart, David confirmed the truck and shovel operations have replaced the Dragline in part. For example; historically in West Pit there has been two pass Dragline i.e. the DL would take two benches, 30-40 metres of dirt and some coal and then go again. MTW do not do that any longer, the Truck and Shovel already takes the top parts that the Dragline used to take.

Currently the Draglines only work in the very lower parts of the Pit. MTW made that change when there was very dusty conditions in the second half of 2019 and put excavators into the Dragline area. David noted this is the reason why the Draglines do not operate continuously, they are now only active when there is dirt to dig, then they will retreat or stop and this is a result of MTW taking a lot of material with the excavators now.

In response to a query from Ian, David advised that the site is still called north pit and west pit, but it is essentially the one pit and there is not too much difference in terms of the geology that is mined in each pit. MTW reference north and west pits from a naming convention so that they can identify the different areas for safety and production etc.

Graeme asked if there were any staffing consequences as a result of using different machine modalities and David confirmed that over time MTW's numbers have remained fairly steady with a mix of around 1,300 employees and contractors as had been quoted through the Development Consent. MTW do still use contractors as required and convert a lot of these people into permanent roles. David noted with regard to the mining operators over the past year there had been 75 people who would have come in as contract drivers that have now secured a full time role with the operation and that has provided a lot of benefit to local people. David noted that MTW have a strong track record in their application of contractors coming in going on to secure full time roles in terms of mining operators.

Stewart queried if the consent for Mount Thorley Operations would cease after December 2020 and Gary advised that would not be the case, Mount Thorley will continue to operate for waste emplacement, coal washing, tailings emplacement and until MTW have completed their rehabilitation obligations. Gary advised that remains in place to 2037, he noted that even if coal mining went all the way up to the end of that consent period, the rehabilitation requirements of the consent continue until that obligation is completed.

Ian queried if Mount Thorley Mine will have no void and will be all filled and rehabilitated. Gary responded that the final landform in MTW's Mining Operations Plan shows what the topography is meant to be and there is no void on the Mount Thorley project. David added that Mount Thorley will have the Tailings Facility in the north going forward, prior to that being capped most likely later in the mine life. John queried if the proposed topography will reflect what landform was originally in the South Pit area and Gary advised it will differ as the landform has been changed with the mining activity.

**EXPLORATION;** Exploration activities have continued within the current leases, and will continue in 2021. Some exploration activities are visible from Putty Road.

**NORTH OUT OF PIT DAM (NOOP);** This dam remains a standing item as a reminder for the CCC that NOOP will require a small open cut operation with blasting and related road closures that have been included in MTW's Blast Management Plan. John queried if there would be noise and effects from blasting at Gouldsville and Long Point and Gary responded that is correct, NOOP is on the eastern side of MTW's main waste emplacement and they will need to comply with the noise limits out in that area when conducting that activity. David noted that NOOP will also be quite visible from the Golden Highway area. David advised that MTW will dig NOOP with smaller equipment, so this may take approximately 6 months to complete from commencement date, which is currently planned to be within the next two years.

#### **MONITORING, YTD from January to October 2020**

For year to date 2020 Olivia advised the total dust delay had been 1,036 hours. Environment relates predominantly to noise and the equivalent is 1,086 hours from January to October 2020. For noise monitoring the CRO's conducted 6,254 hand held measurements, the number of individual assessments above trigger was 68 and that equals to a total of 38 nights where MTW had at least one measurement above the trigger. In all those cases MTW brought that noise measurement down under their limit within the 75 minute criteria that they are required to meet. Gary advised that in those cases the CRO's feed directly back to the Open Cut Examiner and operational changes are made to reduce how much equipment is there or the location of it, to reduce the noise level.

#### **REHABILITATION / DISTURBANCE 2020**

Rehabilitation reforecast for 2020 - 44 Hectares seeded.

##### ***Progress to end of September:***

- ✓ Shaped = 32.0 hectares
- ✓ Seeded = 10.4 hectares
- ✓ Ready to Seed (Residual) = 13.3 hectares
- ✓

##### ***Key works for Quarter 4 2020 (October to December)***

- ✓ Bulk shaping in MTO and the end of NPN
- ✓ Topsoiling in NPN
- ✓ Composting in MTO and NPN
- ✓ Seeding of new rehab in MTO and NPN
- ✓ Stage 2 seeding in MTO, SPN, SPS and NPN (part of 2020 program for 69 Ha to final seed mix on historic cover crop areas)
- ✓ Seeding of Putty Road Visual Bund

**Mixed Waste Organic Material;** For the benefit of new members Gary explained the history of EPA's directive around using this material that is sourced from general waste. MTW have over 4,000 tonnes of this material on site and now are permitted to move that into their pit voids under controls and guidelines that the EPA have put in place.



**Stage 2 Rehabilitation Seeding 2020 - 2021;**

- # 2020 -69 Hectares to final seed mix on historic cover crop areas
- # 2021 –68 Hectares to final seed mixes
- # YTD September 2020 –25 hectares Stage 2 Seeding completed
- # Weed control undertaken in other 2020 Stage 2 Seeding areas to set up for seeding to final seed mixes.

**Vertebrate Pest Management Q3 2020;**

Gary provided an overview of MTW's vertebrate pest programs that had been completed and/or were ongoing.

**Weed Management Q3 2020;**

Gary provided an overview of weed species and approximate areas targeted within MTW's operational areas. Gary acknowledged that Ian had expressed interest around weed control and noted MTW are finding weeds around creeks to be an issue. Gary advised that MTW work to clean up weeds ahead of mining so they are less likely to come back in the rehabilitation areas. Ian noted that this can be difficult as some seeds lay dormant and become active when dirt is moved, Ian said weed management had become of full time job on his property due to the wet season.

**Biodiversity Areas (BA) Weed Management 2020;**

Gary provided an overview of weeds targeted in the Southern and Northern Biodiversity Areas in Q3 2020.

**Northern Biodiversity Area (BA) Planting Program 2020;**

**Warkworth Sands Woodland (WSW) planting progress:** 9,112m<sup>3</sup> of WSW sand was stripped at MTW and hauled to the Northern Biodiversity Area; 5,480m<sup>3</sup> of this WSW sand has been spread into strips and seeded with native grasses to increase the groundcover diversity; these strips were planted with Warkworth Sands Woodland tube stock in August; the additional 3,632m<sup>3</sup> was stockpiled and will be spread into strips and seeded with native grass either late 2020 or early 2021 with tube stock planting scheduled for 2021.

**Southern Biodiversity Area (BA) Planting Program 2020;**

**Infill planting of;** Warkworth Sands Woodland, Central Hunter Grey Box –Ironbark Woodland (CHGBIW) and River Oak Forest (ROF) was completed in October. Gary indicated the areas that had received the infill planting via mapping.

**Drone Imagery of the Southern BA Planting Areas;**

Gary presented drone imagery of planting areas to illustrate what MTW had been achieving in those areas. Gary noted that over a period of 6 years MTW have seen pretty strong growth. MTW continually monitor and conduct infill planting in these areas.

Stewart queried why MTW were converting grassland into forest and Gary responded that this is the requirement in MTW's off-setting program which is a commitment that MTW has made in their Consent. Stewart believes planting forest areas results in the loss of heritage values and good fertile land that could be used for other purposes. Gary acknowledged Stewart's feedback on these competing priorities, he explained however that is how the Development Consent system is currently set up in NSW i.e. if native bushland is cleared there is then a requirement to off-set with existing or regenerating bushland areas and that is what MTW are required to do to comply with the offset packages that were put forward in the Consent process. Gary added that this is a state wide process that also applies to new subdivisions.

Barb noted that MTW did have the opportunity to determine where their offset areas would be and agreed with Stewart that the choice of biodiversity areas that are being planted out as forest does result in the loss of land that could be used for other purposes, she therefore felt the land use could have been negotiated. Gary advised that these Biodiversity Areas have already been decided and put forward as MTW's Consent off-set package which has been approved by the Regulators, therefore that is what MTW are required to move forward with.

Neville queried if off-set areas are also considered to be rehabilitation and Gary responded that it is not rehabilitation as it is not mined land, but rather where MTW are increasing the biodiversity value of existing land. Gary added that some of MTW's rehabilitation land has also been utilised as part of the off-set and MTW are required to get that up to the right values.

**Goulburn River BA Planting Program 2020;**

**Infill planting of;** 21.5ha of Yellow Box – Grey Box – Red Gum (YBGBRG) grassy woodland and 24.2ha of River Oak riparian woodland was completed in October to enhance existing vegetation and provide connectivity and essential habitat for the regent honeyeater and swift parrot. The infill planting was restricted to areas that could be accessed without crossing the river due to very high flows.

**HISTORIC & CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT;****Red Brick House, RAAF Mess Hall, Springwood Homestead**

- ✚ The 2020 Historic Heritage Compliance Inspection and Cultural Heritage Compliance Inspections are scheduled to be completed in December 2020 by Arrow Heritage.
- ✚ MTW has budgeted for works to address significant historic and cultural heritage management actions in 2021 and the 2022 reporting period.
- ✚ MTW is updating the Historic Heritage Management Plan and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan to address the actions from the 2020 Independent Environmental Audit.

HISTORIC HERITAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS : ITEM	STATUS
Coordinate lawn maintenance across Historic Heritage sites	<b>Ongoing</b> Works to be undertaken in Q4 2020. Annual program of maintenance to be undertaken at each site.
Obtain quotes for white ant treatment at Springwood and the Red Brick House.	<b>Complete</b>
Arrange for asbestos to be removed from Red Brick House and RAAF Mess Hall area.	<b>In Progress</b> Quote to be obtained in Q1 2021.
Obtain quotes for tree removal at Springwood and RAAF	<b>In Progress</b> To be obtained in Q1 2021.
Encourage CHAG members to put forward community Historic Heritage Management Projects forward.	The SSD-6464 development consent Historic Heritage Conservation Fund (HHCF) funded by MTW is administered by Singleton Council under a partnering agreement. CHAG may apply for funds to be assessed by HHCF process.
Coordinate next meeting of CHAG for Q1 2021 to present on the HHMP 3 year implementation works plan.	Meeting yet to be scheduled.

Gary noted that he had previously encouraged the Cultural Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG) to submit community heritage project applications to the Historic Heritage Conservation Fund that is administered by Singleton Council. Gary advised Singleton Council has provided him with a list of current applications and would be happy to share this with the CCC via the CHAG. Stewart was concerned that Singleton Council had not been very active in advertising the Historic Heritage Conservation Fund. Gary advised the next step will be a meeting with CHAG anticipated for Q1 2021.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS : ITEMS	STATUS
Coordinate next meeting of Cultural Heritage Working Group (CHWG) for Q1 2021.	Meeting to be scheduled –no meetings since COVID-19 commenced.
Care Agreement C0003708 –Transfer of Aboriginal objects.	On 19 October 2020, the Aboriginal objects were transferred from HVO to the MTW Cultural Heritage Storage Facility as approved by NSW Heritage (formerly OEH) Care Agreement.
Obtain quotes for assistance with scar tree re-location in 2021.	<b>In Progress</b> To be obtained in Q1 2021.
Replace signage	<b>Ongoing</b> To commence in Q4 2020

Barb asked with regard to the gathering up of artefacts, do MTW conduct that process themselves or is there a Wanaruah person in attendance. Gary confirmed MTW have registered Aboriginal Parties that are invited to attend, along with an Archaeologist, he explained that there also are a number of parties who registered with MTW's project during the Development Consent process that MTW consult with, advise of undertakings, and invite out to site, this ensures the salvage of artefacts is conducted under a proper process

**ACTION 4:** In response to a query from Barb, MTW to advise the representatives that had been in attendance when Aboriginal Artefacts were collected i.e. Aboriginal parties, Archaeologist.

**BUSINESS PAPERS;** Business papers provided to CCC prior to meeting, includes summary of; Complaints, Incidents, Environmental Monitoring, Rehabilitation, Website Uploads and Community Investment Update. MTW MEMR for June, July, August. September 2020 to be provided at a later date.

### **MANAGEMENT PLANS / REPORTING**

- + The Annual Return for MTO Coal Loader Environmental Protection Licence 24 was submitted to EPA on 28/09/20.
  - + NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) advised in letter dated 1/10/20 that the MTW Independent Environmental Audit Report submitted to DPIE on 17/7/20 was deemed to satisfy DPIE's requirements. Further information on MTW's response to the audit recommendations was provided to DPIE on 16/10/20.
- ACTION 5:** MTW to share their Independent Environmental Audit Report with the CCC upon finalisation.

- + The updated Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Amendment C was approved by NSW DPIE-Resources Regulator on 24/11/20. DPI&E Planning & Assessment were consulted on the management plan prior to its approval.

#### **The updated MOP covers:**

- changes to the final landform to facilitate backfilling of the South Pit Void during the MOP period;
- reclassification of approximately 1,050 hectares of the "Grassland" and "Woodland Other" domain areas for which performance criteria for the "Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment" phase have not yet been fully met;
- revised rehabilitation forecasts for 2020 and 2021 (which were downgraded from previous MOP to align with MTW's reforecast 2020 rehab target and the target for 2021); and
- earlier commencement of tailings emplacement in the Loders Pit Tailing Storage Facility.

Gary noted that MTW had previously advised the CCC that the revised rehabilitation forecast for 2020 and subsequent years is due to MTW filling South and Loders Pits, therefore MTW will not be advancing dump faces as much as they would have in the past. As a result, instead of an 80 hectare presentation of rehabilitation, this has gone back to 35 hectares in 2021 and that is detailed in MTW's MOP. In addition, tailings going into Loders Pit is earlier than what MTW's MOP had stated.

- + An updated Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) was submitted to NSW DPIE-Resources Regulator as part of the MOP amendment application. With the MOP approved, this is currently being assessed by the Resources Regulator.

Gary explained the Resources Regulator keeps a bank guarantee over mining operations in the instance that an operation may fold or fail and there is the need to recover that bank guarantee. MTW have updated that value which is a requirement when submitting a MOP and will share that cost estimate figure when it has been approved by the RR. Barb queried if that was like a bond and Gary confirmed that is correct, it is a bank guarantee that MTW are required to provide.

**ACTION 6:** MTW to advise the value of their Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) that has been in place prior to the RCE update that is currently being assessed by the Resources Regulator.

## **8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Yancoal Community Update**

**Community Support Program (CSP);** The MTW Community Support Program continued in 2020. Many events being supported have postponed their timing until later in 2020 or into 2021 due to COVID-19. Gary provided detail of the organizations supported in 2020 through the CSP. Gary advised the current CSP round closed on 6 November 2020, MTW heavily advertised this funding and received 11 applications, MTW will assess those through December and advise the successful applicants in the new year.

#### ***Ian Hedley;***

Ian advised he had received an enquiry regarding water take up from the Wollombi Brook, he acknowledged that Gary had confirmed that MTW do not draw water from that brook at the August 2020 CCC Meeting, however there is a report that indicates a water licence of 50 megalitres and that some water had been drawn. Gary confirmed that MTW do not draw water from the Wollombi Brook for their mining operation, however this may have been used for farming via a rural water licence.

***Barb Brown;***

Barb said she is still interested in cumulative health aspects and community impacts that she had touched on during her meeting with Gary, Olivia and Stewart. Barb was interested in what MTW are doing about those types of things and noted that she had made a few suggestions that she felt would be further discussed. Gary confirmed that there had been discussion at that meeting on the type of activities MTW conduct in terms of monitoring and management. In relation to health aspects, MTW comply with their Development Consent requirements and therefore are addressing their commitments to operate a development.

Barb clarified that she is talking about the health impacts within this community that mining has an impact on. Barb felt there would be information in MTW's compliance documents that would identify what the company is required to do to reduce their impacts on the community, not just for noise and dust but broader requirements. Barb felt this detail would be of interest to everybody that lives in this community and would assist to console some community members that are concerned about an increase in health risks in this area. Barb acknowledged that MTW do a very good job of information sharing and Gary advised he would seek more specifics from Barb to enable MTW to provide an appropriate response.

**ACTION 7:** MTW to seek more detail from Barb around her enquiry about what conditions there may be in MTW's Development Consent that could be identified as being in place to reduce cumulative health impacts.

***John Lamb;***

John advised that he will be moving out of the district so will need to resign from his role as MTW CCC community representative. John acknowledged he had not been a member for very long, however he had enjoyed the detail and information shared within this forum and found it very useful. Gary confirmed that MTW work to be open and transparent with the information that is shared with the CCC so there can be effective discussions. Col and Gary thanked John for his contribution to the CCC.

***Graeme O'Brien;***

Graeme would like to know more about atmospheric differences between living in outer areas i.e. in town, compared to living in rural areas. Graeme is not able to ascertain what level of impact might come to Singleton from MTW given there is a difference in topography and climatic conditions. Graeme felt that conditions may be dirtier in town than where he previously resided in Bulga.

Gary suggested that Graeme may best find the information he is seeking via the publically available information provided from the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network (UHAQM). Gary explained the DPIE run these monitoring stations which are funded by mining. Gary advised that he has been appointed to the UHAQM Advisory committee which consists of representation from the DPIE, EPA, Coal Industry, Power Industry and Community. Gary said that this forum discusses the type of matters Graeme has raised and review the data from the UHAQM network. Gary confirmed the UHAQM produce a Newsletter that may be of interest to Graeme and Olivia advised that via the UHAQM website there is the ability to subscribe to this network and receive data via email or text.

***Neville Hodkinson;***

In response to a query from Neville, Olivia confirmed that the MTW CCC Meeting Minutes as Endorsed by Chair, the Business Papers and Company Presentation are all made available via the company website.

Neville referred back to the company presentation on the Southern BA Planting Program for 2020, he was seeking clarity around responsibility for the Springwood Homestead as that is located on HVO's lease, however the associated orchard appears to be in MTW's lease, then there are additional classifications of Aboriginal and Colonial conservation areas. Gary noted that there was also land ownership associated with that given that there are HVO mining leases but MTW own the property.

Gary responded that since HVO and MTW separated there has been a process associated with those matters that will determine what MTW need to control in terms of biodiversity areas, and other responsibilities that will go to HVO. Neville queried if this was the same case for the old Lemington mine and Gary responded that that is located on HVO owned land with their mining lease over it, this is not in a biodiversity area but joins with one.

Neville felt that determining which mine is responsible for Historical and Cultural Heritage is the next important step to sort out. Neville noted that this also aligns with Stewarts feedback about the location of biodiversity areas, as in the case of Springwood Homestead there is a heritage component with the orchard associated with this, and that is in a biodiversity area where MTW are conducting tree planting, so he acknowledged there was quite a mix involved between the mines as well. Neville was concerned that legislation and/or approvals were not necessarily covering these composite matters.

Gary confirmed that Historic & Cultural Heritage are now standing items for MTW to report on to the CCC and the independent Environmental Audit had picked up the type of matters that Neville had referred to and therefore MTW will action those out. Gary confirmed that he would report back on the Springwood Homestead case as that is part of MTW's Heritage Management, and go through the process on subdivision of land in that area in particular.

**ACTION 8:** In response to a query from Neville, MTW to provide an overview on the Springwood Homestead in relation to the subdivision of land between MTW and Hunter Valley Operations.

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS;

### ***Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement (MTW VPA)***

Ian questioned if the CCC could have a report on the progress of the MTW VPA, he believes there is an issue with the communication link between the MTW VPA and the community and that this update would be of help to residents who are not directly involved in the process.

Gary asked Ian if he could provide any update from the most recent MTW VPA Meeting as Ian is a community representative for the Bulga VPA funds, and Ian advised there had been a few projects approved for funding; veranda and storeroom for the Bulga Hall and upgrade works at the old School. Ian noted that there was to be a Community Meeting on Monday 30 November 2020 at the hall to discuss the proposed re-categorisation of the Bulga Stock Reserve, he noted that is of importance as this is one of the VPA projects.

**ACTION 9:** In response to feedback from Ian; MTW VPA to be added as a standing subject matter for the MTW CCC. As a first step Col asked MTW to invite Singleton Council Project Officer - Voluntary Planning Agreement, to the CCC Meeting scheduled for 24 February 2020 to provide an update on the progress of the MTW VPA for community.

### ***Bulga Bridge Cafe & Service Station***

Gary advised that Yancoal had reached an agreement with the current owners of the Bulga Service Station to purchase this property and that is expected to change ownership in early 2021. To ensure that Service Station is still able to continue serving Bulga and the wider community, Yancoal will appoint an interim operator to be in place while Yancoal upgrades the site as they did with the Bulga Tavern. Once the upgrade is complete, that business will be offered to the open market to get a long term operator in.

Ian felt that was positive news, he felt Yancoal's purchase and upgrade of the Bulga Tavern had been really successful and that business is very busy these days. Gary agreed that the Bulga Tavern is a great community facility, John and Barb added that the Tavern attracts people to Bulga from town and further afield such as Sydney and the Central Coast. John felt doing up the Service Station would potentially entice more travellers to also stop in at Bulga. Ian noted the potential position between the Service Station and Tavern as being ideal for holiday cabins and that would add even further value to the Village.

Stewart queried if the Bulga Bridge Cafe/Service Station and residence were on the same block, he felt that through the original subdivision each were on separate parcels of land. Stewart felt the requirement for purchase would be residential not commercial and Gary responded he would take Stewart's question on notice.

Col thanked the CCC for their attendance and wished everyone a good Christmas and New Year, he was looking forward to seeing all in February and asked members to stay safe.

## 10. NEXT MEETING : 24 February 2021

### Actions Carried Forward

MTW to organise a Site Tour to assist members understand the mine layout and visit to MTW's Dispatch  
- Target Q1 2021

### Actions Arising from this Meeting

**ACTION 1:** In response to a concern raised by Ian, MTW to address trucks servicing the Loders Pit drainage filter bed construction being parked up on a corner of the MTIE as in wet weather they had been tracking wet clay down onto the road causing a dust concern.

**ACTION 2:** In response to a query from Neville, MTW to provide a schematic/diagram showing how water from the old Lemington Underground Mine and surplus water is shared between MTW and neighbouring mines e.g. HVO, Bulga Coal and Wambo.

**ACTION 3:** Gary to liaise with MTW's Monitoring Specialist to ascertain if Bulga Coal have provided advice on the potential relocation of their boundary monitoring.

**ACTION 4:** In response to a query from Barb, MTW to advise the representatives that had been in attendance when Aboriginal Artefacts were collected i.e. Aboriginal parties, Archaeologist.

**ACTION 5:** MTW to share their Independent Environmental Audit Report with the CCC upon finalisation.

**ACTION 6:** MTW to advise the value of their Rehabilitation Cost Estimate (RCE) that has been in place prior to the RCE update that is currently being assessed by the Resources Regulator.

**ACTION 7:** MTW to seek more detail from Barb around her enquiry about what conditions there may be in MTW's Development Consent that could be identified as being in place to reduce cumulative health impacts.

**ACTION 8:** In response to a query from Neville, MTW to provide an overview on the Springwood Homestead in relation to the subdivision of land between MTW and Hunter Valley Operations.

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