



**Yancoal**  
**Mount Thorley Warkworth Operations**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Monday 14 May 2018**

**Attendance**

**Chairperson**

Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair MTW CCC

**Company Representatives**

David Bennett

Acting General Manager

Gary Mulhearn

Manager Environment & Community

Travis Bates

Specialist Community Relations

**Community Representatives**

Graeme O'Brien

Community Representative

Stewart Mitchell

Community Representative

Christina Metlikovec

Community Representative

Adrian Gallagher

Community Representative

**Observers / Presenters**

Hayley Frazer

Environmental Advisor / CCC Secretary

Bill Baxter

Observer / Technical Expert

**Apologies**

Ian Hedley

Community Representative

**Minutes**

Sarah Purser

- 1. Welcome;** Col greeted the CCC and welcomed David Bennett; Acting General Manger standing in for Jason McCallum and Gary Mulhearn; the new Environment & Community Manager at MTW, replacing Andrew Speechly who is now engaged full time at HVO.

***Acknowledgement of Country:***

*We acknowledge the traditional owners, the Wonnarua people, of the land where we meet today and pay respect to Elders, past, present and future.*

- 2. Apologies;** Advised and recorded. Col advised that he would get in touch with Singleton Council's General Manager regarding Hollee's ability to attend the CCC Meetings and that currently there is no alternate in place for Council.
- 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests / Conflict of Interest; Ongoing;** Col advised that both he and Sarah are engaged by Yancoal to provide the services of Independent Chairperson and meeting note taker. Stewart advised he is part of an organisation that has applied for a funding arrangement through the Company's Historical Heritage Management Fund.
- 4. Out of Session Correspondence:-**
  - ✓ 2017 Disturbance Query at Thorley and Dust Downtime correction - email 27 February 2018
  - ✓ Previous Meeting Minutes - email 10 April 2018
  - ✓ Agenda & Business Papers - 26 April, 2018

**5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes;**

Col confirmed that the Minutes for the Meeting 19 February 2018 had been circulated and following the comments period close had been endorsed by Chair. Col asked for the Minutes to be confirmed, no comments were put forward and the Minutes were taken as accepted.

## 6. Matters arising from the previous Meeting (Actions)

- ✓ **Yancoal to look into replacing the Australian Flag at the Cockfighter Tavern to improve visual amenity;** Hayley confirmed that a new flag had been ordered and will be put up.
- ✓ **Hayley to clarify the day in which the blasting SMS insinuated the road was going to be closed for three hours;** Hayley had not been able to find the exact day in question but acknowledged this did occur, Yancoal are looking to re-word text messages to indicate an "update", to avoid recipients interpreting them as the road being closed for hours at a time. Christina noted a lot of the messages are flowing on i.e. there may be one indicating 10.00 to 11.30, then another 11.30 to 12.30 and that they come through as a new text with different times. Christina asked if the new text cancels out the previous one and Hayley confirmed yes, the new text supersedes the previous one.

An example was provided on a Friday where the blast notification text had advised 12.30 - 1.30, people had postponed travel to 2.00, only to find the road was shut. Hayley confirmed there had been extreme conditions on that day. Stewart asked if the blast had gone ahead or if it had been cancelled as he had been stopped at the road closure just before 1.30, then let through at 1.40, he didn't hear a blast so he felt the road must have been immediately closed just after he travelled through. Stewart asked if that had been to clear traffic and Hayley responded the blast did go at 1.49 p.m. and yes, there are a few things around traffic queuing as MTW do not want to hold up travellers, therefore if it is safe to do so, they will let them through. Stewart provided another example of receiving a message at 11.56 regarding a re-scheduled blast to 12.00 - 1.00, he felt that if a traveller was already on the road they would have been bound to be caught up on that one.

Hayley advised that she had followed up with Drill & Blast and acknowledged there has been some teething issues that Yancoal are working to correct, she thanked Christina and Stewart for their feedback.

There was discussion over the functionality of the blast SMS system regarding advertisement of road closure times. It was agreed by all members that there was still some work to be done and MTW were committed to make this process more reliable. It is understood that advertised blast times are relied upon by the community, and MTW committed to ensuring road closures and advertised times are being monitored and improved where necessary.

Christina felt that there had been a commitment made for no blasting later than 3.00 p.m., however these were still occurring. Christina explained to David that the CCC had made this request to avoid children on buses being held up by road closures on their travel home from school.

Graeme felt the ongoing issue with blasting is that people make their travel plans based on their scheduled times. In addition, that there still remains issues with text notifications, as in some parts of the district there is no mobile service so he felt the system was not necessarily the best way to provide blast scheduling details. Christina advised mobile reception is poor at her residence but would still rather get the notifications than not. Graeme was unsure how the company could improve the blast window predictions as it is his understanding that the Bureau of Meteorology is only good 60 to 70% of time.

Col acknowledged the system needs to be constantly monitored as it rolls out and Hayley confirmed that MTW will keep the Blast Notification System on the Agenda to update the CCC on its progress and any improvements made, it was agreed that would also be good for the company as well.

**ACTION 1 : Hayley to investigate re-wording text in the Blast Notification SMS System to indicate "updated" time frames to road closures and the possibility for MTW to differentiate between WML and MTO Blasts.**

- ✓ **MTW to advise Stewart of current overburden height to the east of West Pit;** at this Meeting.

- ✓ **Hayley to provide January disturbance maps to Ian. Followed up;** email to all from Hayley 27 February 2018.
- ✓ **Andrew to provide Ian with a contact at the RMS to address further speed zone enforcements at Putty Road. Complete;** Andrew followed up via email 19 February 2018.
- ✓ **Hayley to investigate the use of the access lane behind Hedweld Group of Companies by Yancoal employees. Complete;** Hayley followed up with email to Ian 10 April 2018.
- ✓ **MTW representative to attend a Safety Committee Meeting for Ian and provide detail on how the company manages Occupational Health & Safety with people that potentially work around dust.** Hayley had made contact with Ian to organise a visit from the MTW Site Hygienist to present on exposure management and monitoring, MTW had also committed to attending the next Safety Meeting scheduled for June.

**Andrew to follow up with Ian on properties owned by Yancoal where there had been issues around dogs barking and roaming. Complete;** Feedback provided to Real Estate agent (Bailey) that manages the tenancies for Yancoal in March 2018.

Graeme advised that livestock owners were very concerned about roaming dogs, especially around young calves, he was not sure what Yancoal's Real Estate Agent was doing in respect of tenants having un-restrained dogs. Christina added that a Lease Agreement is a legal contract, usually for 12 months, and tenants can't be asked to leave if their dogs are barking or playing up. Christina felt this problem would only be known after the tenant had moved in and was under contract.

Adrian felt this was not an issue for the Mine but rather a tenant problem and it was agreed that tenants should take responsibility for their dogs and an alternative avenue for resolution may be to contact Council. Graeme advised that he does not allow animals in rental properties and as the property owner you can set that criteria with the leasing Agent.

David felt that people living in rural areas would tend to want to have dogs and Graeme noted the issue is more around concern that the dogs are causing a disturbance. Stewart advised he is not so much impacted by dogs roaming, though he noted a lot of them are not locked up or put in yards, his annoyance is around dogs barking and triggering each other off and that is a nuisance. Stewart explained the problem is in the Village, so it is not like comparing a situation where there are large rural properties with 100 acre paddocks.

Stewart advised the problem had arisen since properties were rented and there seemed to be generally a lot more dogs, cars and motor bikes. Stewart felt six cars parked up in one house was rather suspect, as he would have expected for one family to reside there. The company felt that was not so unusual these days. Adrian advised that there also was concern in the community about items being removed from properties in Bulga.

Col acknowledged that the rental properties are managed by Yancoal's Real Estate Agent and given the flow on effect of dogs, he asked the company to take into consideration, for the community, that when setting the lease terms for rental properties with the Agent that there be a condition about dogs.

**December 2018 CCC; Andrew to keep the CCC posted as to when the Lease for the Cockfighter Tavern may be ready to go out for Public Tender and anticipated re-opening date for the Pub when known to Yancoal.**

- ✓ **Ongoing;** Update to be provided at each Meeting.

Adrian believed the indicative lease value being spoken about for the Tavern was \$1,500.00 per week and \$150K for the business, he was concerned that it would not be able to turn over enough business to meet that expectation. Adrian had received anecdotal feedback regarding four people having had inspections, then not hearing anything more until the next word was that someone is moving in.

Adrian felt it might be wise for MTW to check in with the Agent, as some stories are making it look a bit pre-arranged and the process needs to be transparent. The general understanding from MTW site personnel is that the Lease is going through a Tender / Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Adrian felt that people would turn away at that price and when Yancoal say it's out there and that they would like to see it open, he felt they needed to give it a chance.

Christina was concerned also that none of the Tavern's details are on the Manenti Quinlan website and her email asking for detail on the property had been ignored, which she thought was very odd. Christina believed it should still be advertised, as a number of their properties are EOI and that the website had indicated that Quinlan was a specialist in Hotels, Pubs and Restaurants. Col felt there was an issue with the Agent not responding to Christina's request for information and asked for follow up by MTW.

Stewart advised that he is being asked by community about what is happening with the Tavern almost on a daily basis, such as when will it open etc. Stewart had queried this at the previous CCC and felt he didn't seem to be getting anywhere. Stewart was concerned that the new Management didn't know what was going on with the Tavern and he had hoped Management in this operation would know what is happening and convey that to community.

Stewart explained the Tavern is the heart of the community, for the public to get together and have a good time, and that is a way to keep the community together even though it has been badly disbursed of late. Stewart asked that it be recorded that the community are concerned about delays taking place in re-opening the Tavern.

Col asked what the time line was in the Tender process and Travis explained that the Cockfighter Tavern is managed by Yancoal's Land and Tenement Team and that he would seek an update from them as they do not report to site. Graeme felt that if the Land and Tenements Team are doing business just down the road from MTW, but don't report back to this site, then reporting linkages do not appear to be how they should be. Graeme felt that MTW being a neighbour should be part of the deal.

**ACTION 2 : Col asked that MTW seek detail on the Property and Expression of Interest / Tender Process for the Cockfighter Tavern from the listing Agent; Manenti Quinlan and provide this to members post Meeting.**

***May 2017 CCC; MTW to keep the CCC up to date in matters pertaining to C&A's application to Singleton Council to close Wallaby Scrub Road, either at a meeting, or out of session should there be any update outside of two weeks prior to the next CCC Meeting.***

✓ Gary to provide at today's Meeting.

## **7. Company Update - David Bennett (Acting General Manager)**

### **THIRD CROSSING**

- ✚ The Third Crossing (across Putty Road) has been completed and officially opened Friday 11 May 2018.
- ✚ Speed limit has been put back to 100 km/hr after the RMS closed it out after their inspection.

- ✚ MTW are hauling waste material from the southern end of Warkworth pit to the Mount Thorley dump. David added that further to Stewart's query on rehab disturbance on Mount Thorley; that is the first place MTW are going in to build the landform back up.
- ✚ Trucks will be coming across under the Third Crossing adjacent to the mini strip.
- ✚ MTW will be building a series of roads up into the dumps between now and the end of 2018.
- ✚ It is anticipated that MTW will haul up to 20 million BCM's per year under that tunnel.
- ✚ There is potential to use the crossing for haulage of coal as well.
- ✚ MTW continue to mine coal from Loders Pit, they have met the Pit limit so are now mining to depth. At this time, any remnant coal will run over to the Mount Thorley Coal Handling and supplement coal from the Warkworth lease.
- ✚ David felt that less coal movement would be seen travelling over the existing bridge, rather that it would go via the new Third Crossing. The Bridge will still be used for trucks to the workshop and smaller earthmoving equipment and typically the main material will be moved along the third Putty Road crossing.

**Stewart asked how much mining life was left in Mount Thorley ?** David responded there are two Draglines in Warkworth, the one in Mount Thorley will be used in 2019 for additional coal extraction around the end walls, then coal will be mined in small blocks to the end of 2019/2020. By mid 2020 David felt that mining activity in terms of extracting e.g. blasting will cease and from that point there would be a steady decline in the amount of coal that the company moves. In November 2017 the 4100 shovel was moved out of Mount Thorley and is now in Warkworth. David explained there is a lot less activity in Mount Thorley; one Dragline, one Excavator, a small number of Trucks and Dozers and a bit of drill and blasting, this will reduce to virtually nothing around this time in two years.

MTW will continue to haul across via the crossing to fill out the final landform and there is a tailings storage facility to be completed at the northern end. The southern end of the Pit will be built back to final landform per the MOP.

**Stewart asked if the tailings dam would be below ground level ?** David responded yes, and explained that in the 2014 Environmental Assessment the company had wanted to put the tailings dam in the southern end but that was not approved below ground level so the location was moved to the northern end due to the flood contour plain off Wollombi Brook.

**Adrian asked as the Warkworth Mine progresses to the West and when Mount Thorley is closed, what will MTW do with the northern washery ?** David responded that the company will continue to use both wash plants. Adrian queried Warkworth's storage capacity to wash coal and also noted that mining is then getting further away. David advised that the company was looking at a few options, albeit if there is a business case one option may be to put conveyors in as typically coal haulage is not a high cost when compared to overburden. Adrian felt that this would potentially add to truck and coal movement and David agreed that as operations move away there will be greater distances to wash plants and the company will look to see if they can use conveyors rather than trucks, he advised they are not in a position to switch one washery off.

## 8. Operational Update

**Draglines;** MTW reported on two Draglines operating in Warkworth, one was walked onto a shutdown pad on the weekend of 12/13 May for 2 1/2 months, therefore only one Dragline will be operating in Warkworth for the next 70 days.

**Haul Trucks;** MTW have parked up 8 haul trucks this year, budgeted number was 80, so running 72.

**Excavators;** Shut down 1 out of fleet of 5, only running 4.

David explained that whilst MTW are taking some equipment out of production, they expect to do the same job and hit all targets with a bit less equipment.

**Production;** Slightly behind on waste and slightly ahead on coal production, MTW are on track to meet their budget for waste and coal movement requirements.

### SAFETY SNAPSHOT

Members were provided with figures on Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) and Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for January 2017 to April 2018, David confirmed that April had been a good month with no lost time injuries. David advised of a program in place since April that is around behavioural type injuries and that there had been a focus on that. From a Safety point of view David felt there will always be work to be done and the company will never be at the point of feeling comfortable that they are doing all they can. Yancoal's main focus is to ensure all workers get home safe at the end of shift and David advised Yancoal will continue that drive, because they care about their people.

### OPERATIONAL DOWNTIME YTD

#### MTW Noise Monitoring YTD

	# CRO Assessments	# Individual Assessment above trigger	# Nights above trigger
2018 YTD	2121	33	8
2017	5990	18	10
2016	4851	84	34

It was noted that downtime was predominantly a result of dust and downtime relating to noise had reduced due to; equipment relocation i.e. going lower, 100% fleet attenuation and the parking up of approximately 10% of fleet.

### REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation target for 2018 = 100 ha seeded

#### **Works completed so far in 2018:**

- ✓ 53.1 ha bulk shaped
- ✓ 15.4 ha topsoiled
- ✓ 20.5 ha composted
- ✓ 9.3 ha seeded

#### **Key works for Quarter 2 2018 (April-June):**

- ❖ Seeding works on Visual Bund (WML West Pit South)
- ❖ Seeding at North Pit Geoflur

**Stewart asked if land is rehabbed and then re-disturbed e.g. at Mount Thorley, does that get re-calculated and taken back off the cumulative rehabbed figures and also go in as a new disturbance area ?** Bill responded that any new disturbance or new rehabilitation disturbance is tracked and yes, if reported previously it comes back off the rehabilitation figures.

**Stewart asked if MTW were going to open up the bund wall levy on Charlton Road, where the natural water course had been blocked off ?** Stewart felt there was a serious problem with the wetland in Newport due to it no longer receiving any water runoff and thought it would be good if there was a larger catchment area supplying that swamp as it is a natural wetland.

Stewart was concerned about the 200 to 300 year old Red Gums all dying around that area. Stewart felt this was due to a large portion of the (now mined) catchment area no longer going under Charlton Road, and as that had previously supplemented the water level there was now a serious water problem. Stewart explained that Newport Swamp was a water fowl breeding area and there is a severe deficit of wetlands in this area, he was not sure what could be done by the company, as if it is some time before MTW restore part of that original run off, he felt by then it would be too late for the swamp.

Bill explained that the GeoFluv referenced to is a design style that utilises a more natural looking landform. Part of the design process is that drainage is the first step, and drainage is built into it rather than constant grades then a drop structure, making it a better landform. Stewart asked if the MTO final landform will drain back to the south-west and Bill confirmed that is correct, once the water quality is good enough there will be the ability to let it go across the road towards Salt Water Creek.

### VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT

MTW provided a summary of vertebrate pest management for 2018. Bill explained the number of baits laid just gives it coverage for the area, MTW have data on how many are taken up for each station and there are also hot spots. Bill felt it would be difficult to get a total wild dog population but MTW have cameras in use and use on-track as a guide as well i.e. picking up dog prints.

Graeme felt total numbers would give him a better sense of how effective pest management is and provide that to the company as well, i.e. yes MTW are on top of this or more baiting needs to be done. Bill added that it had been interesting to see the number of takes going up and down over time.

### GRINDING GROOVES RELOCATION

The need for removal of grinding grooves site had been known for almost a decade, so the program had long been socialised with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

- ✚ The methodology for removal was developed with the RAPs & technical consultants over the course of many meetings & several site visits.
- ✚ All possible geotechnical investigation & testing was completed (with RAP participation) to give all parties comfort that the best methodology would be employed
- ✚ However, the potential for damage to the grooves & slabs during the removal process was also reiterated at each discussion with the RAPs
- ✚ The removal methodology was endorsed by the RAPs & included in the MTW Part 3a/SSD Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan, which was subsequently approved by OEH & DP&E.
- ✚ The removal proceeded as per this endorsed methodology, with no protest from the Aboriginal community
- ✚ The removal was completed very successfully

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS UPDATE

#### ***Near Neighbour Amenity Resource***

In 2018 MTW have offered installation of under sink filters for residential properties surrounding their operation

- ✚ 32 properties have had filter systems installed

#### ***Community Investment***

MTW site donations program is now accepting applications from local community groups within the Singleton LGA. Please contact Travis Bates for an application form. Programs supported in April include:

- ✚ Wildlife Aid
- ✚ Greta-Branxton Junior Rugby League
- ✚ Singleton Golf Club Lady's Annual Open Day
- ✚ Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council –NAIDOC Week Awards
- ✚ Singleton Theatrical Society production of 'Mary Poppins'
- ✚ Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter Inc –Singleton Art Prize

Travis advised that from a meeting regarding Site Donations it had been agreed for Yancoal to roll out a different funding approach, with a broader more all-encompassing Community Program and a corporate type strategy that will also allow for bigger partnerships.

## 9. Community Feedback

### Graeme O'Brien

Graeme queried the time it would take for the RFS to use the Emergency Services trail within the mining lease once Wallaby Scrub Road is closed, as the main priority in fire suppression is speed and access of equipment. Stewart believed the proposed fire trail was 2.5 kilometres longer than Wallaby Scrub Road and felt it would be far better having a gate off Putty Road (at the southern end of the operations) for emergency vehicles to go straight in. Hayley advised she could follow up if there were longer term plans for future access roads.

Graeme felt it did not make sense for the Rural Fire Service to endorse that sort of structure for fire vehicle access, he confirmed that consultation did take place but he was not sure at what level or if any figures on travel times were done. MTW confirmed that they understood the approved path had also taken into account their own Environmental Assessment process along with comments from the RMS.

Stewart asked if the fire trail was located inside the mine site area and Hayley confirmed that it is inside MTW's property. Stewart asked why the area had been cleared to such a wide extent as it looked like there had been 80 to 100 metre strips cleared there in three locations and asked if that was something to do with the power lines.

MTW responded the clearing and excavating had been undertaken in preparation for the construction of the following infrastructure; Water Management, Road including the Fire Trail and Power. MTW confirmed that there is mulch in place as a stabilising agent and the road surface will be gravel.

Stewart raised concerns over timeliness of both alternatives; being able to travel north either via the Emergency Services Road in place of Wallaby Scrub Road or the alternate Golden Highway route.

Graeme asked if there were appropriately trained personnel on site to assist the RFS, he understood the mine has gear to spray water. Hayley confirmed the company has a fully trained Emergency Response Team; ESO's, on site. Graeme was concerned should a fire truck arrive to attend to a fire on site that they may not be given access straight away. David responded that if emergency services turned up at the front gate the company would have someone there to meet that vehicle, if access was required via the rural fire service track then emergency services should have access to that straight away.

Stewart noted that the company had mentioned an update on Wallaby Scrub Road, it was agreed by members to run through that presentation here, rather than as scheduled for General Business.

### Company Update : Wallaby Scrub Road; Presented by Gary Mulhearn

**Members were handed "Stakeholder Update - Wallaby Scrub Road - Please refer to extracts below**

### **CLOSURE OF WALLABY SCRUB ROAD; Reference Stakeholder Update 14 May 2018**

*"On 28 August 2017, Singleton Council resolved that an application be made by Council in its capacity as the roads authority, to close 5.99km of Wallaby Scrub Road from the intersection of Putty Road.*



*Council submitted its application to the NSW Department of Primary Industries - Lands on 18 December 2017, with a determination for approval to be made by the Minister for Lands and Forestry.*

*The Department will traditionally undertake a review of the report and documentation within 60 days of receipt of the application from Council, and a determination for the closure of the road is expected soon.*

*During the same meeting, Singleton Council also resolved, subject to the Minister's approval, to sell the land title of the close road. Mount Thorley Warkworth continues to work with Council towards finalising the sales process."*

#### **CURRENT WORKS NEAR WALLABY SCRUB ROAD; Reference Stakeholder Update 14 May 2018**

*"In preparation for the continued operation of Mount Thorley Warkworth, the following work is currently being undertaken west of Wallaby Scrub Road:*

- *We have begun clearing land for the construction of essential infrastructure to support continued operations;*
- *Commenced installing new fencing around the future operating boundaries to ensure a safe, secure mine site;*
- *Started construction of an access road to enable access for emergency services; and*
- *Commenced the installation of power poles, in preparation for the require diversion of existing power lines. These lines provide power to the mine site.*

*Mount Thorley Warkworth also expects to begin construction of three dams west of Wallaby Scrub Road in August 2018, to support proposed future mining areas."*

#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE; Reference Stakeholder Update 14 May 2018**

*"If you require further information regarding current or proposed works related to Wallaby Scrub Road or the Mount Thorley Warkworth complex, please contact our **Community Information Line on 1800 656 892**"*

#### **Stewart Mitchell**

Stewart felt that according to the approval documents it had looked like when MTW are at the end of mine, the final void would sit right on top of where Wallaby Scrub Road is. MTW responded that at the end of mine life, the bottom of the void will be west of Wallaby Scrub Road i.e. mining will continue through Wallaby Scrub Road out to the consent limit and then will batter down when that limit is reached.

Stewart queried the dumping on the overburden heap at West Pit, the one that is 180RL and queried why MTW could not back fill that void now. MTW responded there will be an area left at the top that will bench down and be quite steep in terms of a void, then there will be the final waste dump dozed down to a level. The reason MTW are dumping is that they are building to a landform they have committed to and operationally, in terms of dump space, MTW need to keep the mine advancing, thus the reason for dumping to those heights.

Stewart clarified his query on dump height was in relation to where MTW were currently dumping in the northern section, that appeared to be really high, and it was confirmed that the height for that section at North Pit was at 190 RL and height at South Pit was 180 RL. Stewart was concerned that 190 RL is about 25 metres higher than the existing highest grounds topography and the final landform will be much higher than originally proposed.

Stewart queried how much is still a void in North Pit and MTW advised that it is still open and that void will continue down dip to the west. Stewart asked if the company will fill behind it and MTW confirmed that there would be capping of a tailings dam and the rehabilitation; GeoFluv landforms will continue to move along with operations to the west and the void will move down dip.

Stewart asked where MTW will get the fill to put in that void, he was concerned all overburden was being dumped into Loders Pit at Mount Thorley. The company explained that at the end of mine life there will be a mining void, in terms of filling that in, there is money allocated in the company's closure budget and there will be sequencing work on how that will be tactically dumped back in as operations get closer to the end of mine life.

Graeme asked if there will be enough funding and MTW confirmed that the budget is recalculated every year based on cost estimates, size of void etc. Graeme had heard the final void would take 1,000 years to fill with water and its top level would be below the aquifers in the Wollombi Brook and Hunter River, MTW advised they could only talk to working towards the final void and the dump strategy to get there.

MTW advised that not all overburden, but rather a proportion of it, will get transferred across to Mount Thorley over the next 21 years and for now MTW need to dump where they need to keep operating i.e. the reason MTW are dumping high at the moment is due to needing dump space. Stewart felt it would have been easier to backfill rather than to excavate, especially with gravity pushing it in and MTW felt a proportion of that may need to be re-handled. The company advised they have to meet the commitment of the final consent in relation to both the excavation and dump side.

Stewart understood that properties in the Acquisition Zone, that had been acquired by Yancoal, would need to be vacated at some stage due to the reason for their acquisition being that they would become unliveable. Stewart understood that there are a number of properties rented now, so that the company was getting a return, which he felt was alright at the present time as the full effects of mining had not occurred, however he felt once mining had gone through Saddleback Ridge and Wallaby Scrub Road and the impacts kick in, then those houses would be cleared out. Stewart believed that this was a condition of consent and E.I.S. that they were for acquisition, removal and destruction, he was interested to know when they would be vacated as that would result in that number of households being removed from Bulga in the long term.

MTW advised that properties may be up for acquisition upon request, despite that they can be purchased and re-leased out. The normal case in affectation is to give the landowner the opportunity to raise a hand and elect to be purchased, it does not necessarily mean on all occasions that the house is not liveable, on many occasions it can be leased out particularly if the potential impact is around noise.

Stewart raised concerns about the future population of Bulga long-term should properties be left vacant. Graeme was also concerned that the village would become deserted due to the encroachment of mining, making reference to Warkworth Village. Graeme was also concerned about the closure of Wallaby Scrub Road as that is part of the Old Great North Road.

**ACTION 3: MTW to review their Consent in relation to Property Acquisition conditions to seek detail around Stewart's interpretation that he felt this had specified that Yancoal owned properties were to be eventually vacated, removed and/or destructed**

Stewart confirmed that he had felt that there was to be a report issued to the Department of Planning on the trials conducted by the New England University and the success of the regeneration trial they carried out in relation to the Warkworth Sands Woodlands WSW.

Hayley confirmed that the previous Development Consent had said the company needed to do research into the best practice to establish WSW and Bill advised this research was based on improving knowledge around the WSW community particularly in relation to species and soil profiles.

Bill explained the work conducted by UNE was around looking at the soil seed bank which was rated from good quality, medium quality and degraded, to ascertain if it would be valuable as a resource from a re-vegetation point of view. In addition to identifying species in the seed bank that would be useful in the poorer WSW areas, planting trials were conducted. The work MTW are conducting now is taking good quality top soil to areas and planting out with good results being seen where they have utilised top soils.

Stewart asked if sand was being moved from the mine site to Archerfield and Bill responded that they are moving WSW top soil. Stewart felt the approval was based on Archerfield standing on its own with regeneration vegetation out of WSW not needing to be supplemented. Bill explained that this top soil was getting cleared in the mine site. Although MTW did not need to strip areas at WSW to get that for Archerfield and the survival rate for tube stock on non topsoiled areas was around 60 to 65%, there was still some advantage using the topsoil where around 80% survival counts were recorded.

Stewart felt that was not the original intention as an offset and that had been assuming vegetation could be rejuvenated on that land, he felt this indicated that supplementing was required to get a successful hold at Archerfield. Bill advised the value of utilising the topsoil at Archerfield is that it has a bulk sand and clay profile, in addition there is a seed source and organic material, mulching vegetation on the way through prior to stripping the top soil resulted in a lot of microbial activity as well, so there were a lot of good factors volunteering out of this top soil.

MTW confirmed that the intent of the research was to guide the company on the most effective methods to regenerate WSW. Hayley confirmed that detail around that study can be found in Volume 2 of the company's 2014 EIS - Warkworth Sands Restoration Manual - Appendices A to M.

Stewart felt that the Department of Planning had been concerned if that would be successful or otherwise and asked if the Department furnished a report that it had satisfied their requirements. Hayley advised Development consent DA-300-9-2002-i (superseded by SSD-6464) required a detailed research program for the Warkworth Sands Woodland (WSW) Community (Schedule 4 Cond.3). The approved Biodiversity Management Plans under SSD-6464 now guide the re-establishment of WSW. Therefore, the company had met requirements by providing the information that is in that EIS, subsequently approved by the Department of Planning and new Management Plan under the development consent.

Stewart understood there had been a Bond or Guarantee and asked had that been sorted? Bill confirmed a bond had been submitted by Yancoal per their consent and that is held by the Division of Resources and Geoscience. The intent of the bond is if the company are not able to demonstrate that they are successfully doing re-vegetation there, the Government has access to those funds to take over that.

Bill advised that there continues to be a re-vegetation program underway with activities including planting, maintenance, weed control and monitoring to demonstrate the company is being successful. That will then be submitted to Government to show that MTW are heading in right direction and if they do not think the company are doing enough or not successful, they have the Bond they can fall back on.

### **Christina Metlikovec**

Christina advised that a number of local Bulga residents have expressed an interest to be on the CCC and asked if people from other areas would be eligible to become members. Col confirmed that members are to be local or within the affected LGA area and that Singleton would be representative of this. It was felt there was a reasonable representation from Bulga, however it was put to members if they felt more community members were required and Stewart added that he understood there could be up to seven community reps. It was noted that the CCC Guidelines state the point of community members is to bring other residents issues into the CCC and to take information back out.

**DUST UPDATE 5-8 MAY 2018; requested by Ian**

Hayley advised there had been a fair bit of downtime reported for this period. Monitoring results were provided that showed MTW in compliance with management conditions. Hayley advised that both she and Community Response Officers respond to any dust alarms and that when Hayley was out in the mine site at the time the pictures were taken it was quite foggy. Hayley confirmed that MTW had responded to any alarms and visually inspected the perimeter as required. Hayley explained that she had wanted to advise what actions had been undertaken on that Monday morning and confirm that MTW had been in compliance with operational criteria, however she was mindful that this was in response to a direct enquiry from Ian so she would like him to have the opportunity to discuss this and respond.

**ACTION 4: Col asked Hayley and Gary to take the feedback and data presented in their Dust Update 5-8 May 2018 to Ian out of session.**

**10. General Business & Future Dates****EXPLORATION LICENSE APPLICATION; presented by Gary**

Yancoal have submitted an Exploration License Application (ELA) within their existing operations to investigate whether deeper seams are prospective. A plan of the ELA area was presented to CCC members. The ELA will be advertised in the Singleton Argus and The Land newspapers

Adrian queried if that may lead to any potential underground mining and the company responded that they will have to check the resource to see if it is minable, conduct more studies around the exploration licence area, and that a lot of desk top work was being done. Gary explained these works were within the current mining lease but just deeper.

**11. Next Meeting : Monday 13 August 2018 : 2.00 p.m. / Future Meeting; 12 November 2018****ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Action	Page	Description
1	2	<b>Hayley to investigate re-wording text in the Blast Notification SMS System to indicate "updated" time frames to road closures and the possibility for MTW to differentiate between WML and MTO Blasts.</b>
2	4	<b>Col asked that MTW seek detail on the Property and Expression of Interest / Tender Process for the Cockfighter Tavern from the listing Agent; Manenti Quinlan and provide this to members post Meeting.</b>
3	10	<b>MTW to review their Consent in relation to Property Acquisition conditions to seek detail around Stewart's interpretation that he felt this had specified that Yancoal owned properties were to be eventually vacated, removed and/or destructed</b>
4	10	<b>Col asked Hayley and Gary to take the feedback and data presented in their Dust Update 5-8 May 2018 to Ian out of session.</b>

**ONGOING ACTIONS**

**May 2017 CCC;** MTW to keep the CCC up to date in matters pertaining to C&A's application to Singleton Council to close Wallaby Scrub Road, either at a meeting, or out of session should there be any update outside of two weeks prior to the next CCC Meeting.

**December 2018 CCC;** MTW to keep the CCC posted as to when the Lease for the Cockfighter Tavern may be ready to go out for Public Tender and anticipated re-opening date for the Pub when known to Yancoal.

**Ongoing;** Update to be provided at each Meeting.