



Yancoal
Mount Thorley Warkworth Operations
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Monday 25 November 2019

Attendance

Chairperson

Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair MTW CCC

Company Representatives

David Bennett

Acting General Manager

Gary Mulhearn

Environment & Community Manager

Olivia Lane

Environment & Community Coordinator

Louis Fleming

Community Response Officer

Community Representatives

Ian Hedley

Community Representative

Adrian Gallagher

Community Representative

Stewart Mitchell

Community Representative

Apologies

Jason McCallum

General Manager

Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. WELCOME & 2. APOLOGIES; Col welcomed the group and Louis was introduced as being in the role of Community Response Officer (CRO) for MTW.

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. Ian and Adrian noted that they are on the MTW VPA Committee.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Action Items from the 20 May 2019 Meeting

Action; In response to discussions around the Historical Heritage Funding; Gary to provide Stewart & Ian with contact details for Wesley Warren - Director of the Convict Trail Project in relation to the submission of projects/ideas for the Great North Road.

✓ **Completed;** email sent to Ian & Stewart 12 August, 2019

Stewart and Ian advised that they had not yet made contact with Wesley Warren. Gary added that he had made an effort to get in touch with Wesley to see if there were any updates.

Action; In response to a query from Ian; MTW to provide feedback on the anticipated time frame for the CD Dump to reach final approved height of RL190 and subsequent timing anticipated for seeding that area.

✓ 20 hectares of the CD Dump area will be seeded by the end of 2019, gypsum and compost will be added to the top soil prior to spreading.

Ian queried if MTW were working at the final level and Gary confirmed that height of RL190 will follow the crest as it moves along.

Action; In response to a query from Stewart, Gary to seek the figures on how much land has been pre-stripped in the northern area, that is to the west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road.

✓ In 2018 4.0 hectares were stripped adjacent to North Pit and a further 8.5 hectares in 2019, Gary identified these areas via mapping on Company Presentation Slide 23.

Action; MTW to provide the CCC with a summary of finding and responses undertaken on completion of an internal investigation of their blast in the afternoon of 7 August 2019

✓ **At today's Meeting**

Gary advised that MTW are still actively working with the EPA in relation to this blast. Gary confirmed his advice provided at the previous CCC was that despite MTW's blast processes having suggested that conditions were appropriate to blast, he acknowledged the outcome they had with that event and reiterated that the company does not want that type of outcome to happen again.

To prevent that type of situation reoccurring, MTW have implemented two new processes:-

- 1) The Blast Permissions page has been changed, particularly should there be potential for it to be in the direction of Mount Thorley Industrial Estate (MTIE). In addition, MTW have reviewed other areas around the mine.
- 2) MTW have researched additional weather monitoring and will install a new MET Station in another area of the Pit, once they commence utilising that monitor it will assist the company to ascertain how that can better inform their blasting practices as well.

Ian asked if the mine would consider using weather balloons for accuracy and Gary responded that as the first steps MTW will utilise this new MET station and the changes to their Blasting Permissions. Gary added that MTW is party to the Hunter Valley Meteorological Sounding Joint Venture (HVMSJV) which is a group that involves a number of mining companies in the Upper Hunter Valley.

This meteorological monitoring facility currently provides predictions of weather effects during the day, commencing at 6.00 am. Gary explained that all of the members are working to evolve this system to get what could be termed as semi-real time predictions of what the MET is. Gary felt this monitoring will assist to address Ian's enquiry around atmospheric changes and added that MTW are advocating to expediate the timing for the development of this program, which is currently around six months.

Action; Col asked MTW to provide detail on dust alerts on 7 August 2019, noting that Stewart had been concerned about dust coming off the Dragline at levels higher than the boom around 9.00 a.m. on that day.

✓ **At today's Meeting**

MTW confirmed that three dust alerts had occurred between 8.30am and 9.15am. The operators of key equipment actively engage with the CRO's with requests for inspections to be conducted and feedback to be provided in relation to dust generation. Dragline 103 (WML West Pit) was put on intermittent dust delay at 7.00am for a total of 9.07 hours, and Dragline 102 was put on intermittent dust delay at 7.20am for 2.44 hours. David noted that for DL103 that had equated to around three-quarters of the shift and Gary added that these are examples of standard dust control operations that MTW implement.

Action; MTW to advertise that nominations are open for appointment of up to two community members for the MTW CCC, per the CCC guideline process.

✓ **Completed:-**

Advertising for new CCC members had commenced in the Singleton Argus, with an application close date of 12 January 2020 to allow for the Christmas period. Fliers had also been prepared to be displayed on local noticeboards. A letter with this advertisement will be distributed to MTW's near neighbours during the advertising period.

It was confirmed that this committee had agreed to advertise for nominations of up to two additional community members, per the CCC Guidelines, and Gary noted that Col had been in touch with Joel Herbert at the Department of Planning. Gary provided the CCC with hard copies of this advertisement to share with others in the community that may be interested in joining this committee and confirmed that these fliers will be placed in the Bulga Bridge Cafe and Bulga Tavern as well, he hoped therefore that there would be a good response.

✓ **Action undertaken post meeting:**

Olivia emailed soft copy of the CCC Nomination form to members 12 December 2019

Gary explained the process is for applications to be submitted to Col in the first instance and then forwarded to the Department of Planning who make the final approval. Col added that he had spoken to the Department to see if Dr. Neville Hodgkinson, who is currently an alternate, could be made a full member and that Neville had agreed to this. Col confirmed that all is underway and was confident the required processes could be completed in time to have new members on board for the CCC Meeting in February 2020.

Col noted that he had received an enquiry from an interested party, who had queried when the nomination process would start, so he was pleased there was an awareness of the upcoming vacancies and interest already there. Gary advised he also talks about the CCC to people new to him and/or new to MTW and in those discussions he had also advised that there will be new nominations open and explained the purpose of this forum.

The committee agreed that the viewing of MTW's Dispatch area and a Site Tour be carried forward to 2020 as that would tie in well with new CCC members coming on board, being a good introduction to the business for them.

SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT PLAN (SIMP)

Gary confirmed the finalisation of the SIMP and provided hard copies to members. Gary advised that this plan collates together all commitments that were part of the Environmental Assessment for MTW's Continuation Project process and identifies where the company will undertake actions to mitigate some of the potential impacts in the area. Gary noted that the main topics have been discussed in this CCC forum, including:-

- ✓ **Voluntary Planning Agreements**; how they operate.
- ✓ **Property Agreements Strategy**, around acquisition and mitigation rights in the area.
- ✓ **Management of Properties** in and around Bulga that MTW has had to acquire.
- ✓ **Conservation Funds**; how MTW operate these.
- ✓ **Support for local Schools**
- ✓ **Scholarships and Apprenticeships**; a subject matter of interest to Hollee in terms of economic sustainability
- ✓ **Acquisition of Commercial Facilities**; for example the Bulga Tavern where MTW will work to upgrade these type of facilities to make them sustainable. It was acknowledged that MTW have had good runs on the board with the Tavern and that it is going very well.
- ✓ **Ongoing Community Support Program**; MTW report on this at the CCC meetings.
- ✓ **The MTW CCC**; has been identified as one of the primary communication areas where the company reports back through the CCC on how their business is tracking, shares detail on plans such as the SIMP which is also reported in MTW's Environmental Management Plan.

Table 4.1 in the SIMP provides a list of the social impacts and opportunities categorised under common domains that are used throughout the SIA:-

- ✚ Community sustainability;
- ✚ Social Amenity;
- ✚ Economic Sustainability;
- ✚ Social infrastructure and services;
- ✚ Regional planning and cumulative impacts; and
- ✚ Community and company relationships

Stewart felt that Yancoal should abide by any commitments made in the SIMP by MTW's previous owner and queried if the plan includes all that was in the previous draft. Gary confirmed that the commitments of the EIS, being all part of the consultation undertaken in the lead up to the project, will have been seen in the draft version. Gary reassured Stewart that there had only been slight changes to align the SIMP to Yancoal's goals and policies due to different company approaches. Gary advised that once Stewart had the opportunity to review the SIMP he was welcome to come and discuss this plan with him.

Stewart asked if MTW had re-addressed interviewing local residents and Gary responded that the company had not yet gone out with the SIMP and today's CCC was the first public delivery of this document. Stewart noted that the original draft of the SIMP was out many years ago and Gary confirmed that this plan builds off the Continuation Project approval from 2015.

In response to a query from Col, Gary confirmed the SIMP is now at final for MTW and that the company is not required to submit this to a Regulator, but rather this plan is what the company committed to in their Environmental Assessment. Gary added that the SIMP is drawn on the process with the previous owner, that informed a lot of this Plan, and has now been finalised by MTW.

Col queried the process if people have comments to come back around the SIMP and Gary confirmed there is a review process in the Plan and that MTW will continue to report back through this CCC forum. In addition MTW'S annual review process for their AEMR can accept any further comments as well, which can inform any future review.

Ian asked if the SIMP will be uploaded to Yancoal's website and Gary responded that is not a requirement as part of MTW's Development Consent process but felt the company may be able to do this. Olivia offered to distribute a soft copy to members and Ian advised that would be appreciated.

Action undertaken post meeting:

- ✓ **Olivia emailed soft copy of SIMP to members 12 December 2019**

5. OUT OF SESSION CORRESPONDENCE:

- ✓ Previous Minutes August 2019 Meeting (email 26/09/2019)
- ✓ Agenda & Business Papers (13/11/2019)
- ✓ Business Papers Appendix C – September MEMR (20/11/2019)

In response to a query from Gary, members advised that they were in receipt of all correspondence and Olivia confirmed that MTW had delivered these documents both via hard copies and electronically to the CCC.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES;

Col noted that the Minutes for the Meeting 12 August 2019 had been circulated and following the comments period close had been updated to Endorsed by Chair. The August Meeting Minutes were formally confirmed at today's meeting.

7. PROPONENT REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES - Presented by David & Gary

MTW OPERATIONS

- ✚ Mining production continued in Warkworth and Mount Thorley Operations.
- ✚ Dragline 102 has been working in MTO South since late July.
- ✚ Dragline 103 has been working in West Pit since it returned from a planned shutdown in June.
- ✚ Coal processing and train loading remain per normal operations.

David confirmed that in terms of mining over the past few months, MTW have generally tracked relatively close to plan in terms of production profiles and that most machinery has remained in the same locations since the previous CCC. MTW continue to mine coal at their annualised production rate and it is anticipated that the company will go close to their annual budget for both waste and coal mining.

There had been a few delays with Dragline 102 operating in the southern end of Mt Thorley however it is back in digging now. With regard to the other two Draglines; DL101 is currently in North Pit and DL103 is operating on the lower passes in West Pit, where there will be two passes. For the first pass MTW have utilised their low haul systems to take out a lot of the material in that area over the previous few months.

David reiterated that as a direct result of prevailing wind conditions and the dry weather it had not been unusual for MTW to have a machine down for up to 9 hours of a 12 hour shift. David identified via mapping where DL102 and DL101 were currently working.

David identified an excavator that is similar to MTW's new Liebherr 9800 (L9800) which is the first one of its types that the company will have on site. David explained this 800 tonne hydraulic excavator was being constructed and anticipated to go into production in early December.

David noted the L9800 will not be an additional machine but rather a replacement for the 4100 shovel that had been parked up a few months ago. MTW are also looking to park up another 500 tonne Hitachi excavator in the early part of 2020.

Ian asked where the L9800 would go into operation and David responded that it will work mainly in the West Pit, with some potential to operate in the North Pit as well. David explained this excavator will be utilised on the high passes for the type of digging that the draglines currently do. David identified the footprint via mapping of where all MTW's machines are operating, including where this new L9800 machine will dig. Ian asked if the L9800 was fitted with sound attenuation and David confirmed that is correct, Gary added that all equipment coming on to site has to be sound attenuated.

Gary advised there is some more coal extraction for Loders Pit and MTW are on track to have this pit completed by September 2020. That will see the closure of DL102, which will most likely be parked up and decommissioned. Gary confirmed that during that period MTW will be constructing the Loders Pit Tailings Storage Facility which will be in the north west corner of the open cut void.

Ian asked if that area in Loders pit would then become a dump on completion of mining and David confirmed the dumps will continue through. Currently there is a different array of dumps situated around the middle of the pit, but once works are completed down in that area during 2020, MTW will look to build those from the base up. David recalled speaking at a previous CCC about MTW working to expatriate backfilling when the southern end is finished.

Ian asked if there would then be the intention to build bunding on the western side as MTW go along and David confirmed that is what the company would like to do, David went on to identify the locations of rehabilitation on the upper levels via mapping. David added that when MTW have access to these areas the intent is to fill them in progressively, heading backwards, and for rehab on that slope to be similar to what has been completed in South Pit. David provided an overview on how MTW plan to fill in the last void and Stewart queried how long that may take. For a definitive time frame David advised he would need to review MTW's schedules but could advise that it would be approximately 12 months before MTW would be dumping there. David explained there is a fair amount of material that will need to go in to get back up to a natural ground level, so it would be progressively after that due to this volume of material.

Ian queried if that would include a Tailings Dam (TD) and David explained that the TD is planned for the very northern end, as per MTW's Development consent and that there is a bund wall that goes across the southern end of the pit that separates the tailings dam from the dumps at that end.

Gary asked if community had any questions on MTW's operational update and Stewart queried the proposed depth of the Tailings Dam. Gary explained that it is mainly at the base depth, therefore MTW will not have to build this up too much prior to commencement, due to it getting larger at the top as it comes up the embankment. Gary confirmed there is a requirement for the TD to be finished at a height where MTW can achieve a certain level for the final landform, inclusive of capping.

NORTH OUT OF PIT DAM (NOOP)

- ✚ North Out of Pit Dam (NOOP) works will commence with mining equipment in 2020.
- ✚ NOOP is part of MTW's Mining Consent and will provide improved water security / balance position at MTW.
- ✚ Infrastructure and test blasting initially.

EXPLORATION

- ✚ Exploration activities have continued within the current mining leases.
- ✚ A 2D Seismic survey due to commence in coming months.
- ✚ Approximately 62 kilometres of survey to occur and exist along existing site tracks, minimising disturbance.

Gary noted that one new element regarding this exploration work to share with the CCC is that MTW are proposing a 2D seismic survey and identified a similar piece of equipment to what the company will use. Gary explained this work is conducted by a buggy mounted seismic surface, which is a vibrating hydraulic plate that comes down and engages with the ground and vibrates for a period, then stops and moves on to the next source, at about 25 metre intervals.

MTW's exploration team will be utilising this machine within the pit area first, then surrounds, including some additional areas out into the west. Due to the nature of this machine, all movement will be on existing tracks so that will minimise disturbance.

PLANTING & FENCE IMPROVEMENTS

Gary noted that members will have seen the new plantings along the Warkworth Mine side of the Putty Road and advised that this is part of MTW's visual tree/bush screening programme to fill in some of those areas. Gary advised that if these plantings are successful that may then limit the amount of bunding that would be required. Gary acknowledged there are a few years ahead for these to grow up, therefore MTW will continue to maintain these plantings to support their growth. Gary advised that MTW's security fence has also been extended from the former Wallaby Scrub Road to along this area as well.

MONITORING

Gary advised that YTD there had been nearly 7,000 assessments undertaken by MTW's Community Response Officers, with 89 individual assessments recorded as above the trigger for noise over 42 nights. On each occasion MTW had been able to make operational changes to bring noise down within limits, therefore Gary could confirm that the companies continued focus and monitoring process is effective. Olivia added that there had been a total of 4,605 hours in relation to operational downtime, including for both dust (3,474 hours) and noise (1,131 hours). Gary noted that dust continues to be the challenge for everyone with the current smoke haze and dry conditions.

REHABILITATION/DISTURBANCE 2019

Gary confirmed that MTW are on track to meet their target of 80 hectares to be seeded, 50 hectares had already completed to end October. There were 8 hectares ready for seeding planned for November and December. Key works for Quarter 4 2019 include some more bulk shaping in CD in Warkworth, top soil and composting in CD dump and seeding of new rehab in Mt Thorley and CD dump; 41 hectares of Stage 2 rehab in South Pit North, South Pit South and Mt Thorley.

Gary confirmed this will get MTW to their targets which the company holds as being very important. Olivia pointed out via mapping where seeding was projected to happen in 2019 and took the opportunity to pinpoint where MTW's new MET station is located. David identified the GeoFluv landforms that MTW have built this year which are located mainly around the Loders Pit north.

Gary showed the areas where MTW were conducting this Stage 2 seeding, noting that some of these areas had already been seeded to grass type species. Gary identified where the company will conduct 60 hectares of seeding to final seed mix, which are the endangered ecological communities, during 2019 and going into future years.

In response to Stewart's query regarding where MTW had cleared for mining to the west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road Gary provided mapping to identify this area and added there had been 3D excavation up in that area as well. Gary confirmed that the disturbance area for 2018 was 4.0 hectares and then 8.5 hectares in 2019.

Stewart clarified that he had been seeking the total disturbance area to the west of where the company is operating, including tree clearing and removal of vegetation, as he felt these would come under disturbance. Gary confirmed Stewart's interest was in the total extent i.e. including tracks and areas such as for water management infrastructure and Stewart confirmed that is correct and also around any other clearing that is well in advance of mining. Gary noted that MTW would have done some clearing with some of those areas transferred back into rehabbing and could provide that detail for Stewart prior to the next meeting.

ACTION 1: In response to a query from Stewart, MTW to provide the total disturbance area to the west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road inclusive of; tree clearing and removal of vegetation, access roads and the fire trail, and for water management. MTW to also provide detail around the areas that have been transferred back into rehab. Action to be undertaken out of session prior to the February 2020 CCC Meeting.

WEED MANAGEMENT Q3 - Q4 2019 & BA WEED MANAGEMENT Q3 - Q4 2019

Gary provided a list of weeds targeted in MTW's operational areas and in the Southern and Northern Biodiversity areas for Q3 and Q4. Gary confirmed that there tends to be the same sort of targets and that weed management remains an ongoing process for MTW.

PLANTING AREAS Q3 - Q4 2019

Gary provided an overview of infill planting that had been completed in the Southern Biodiversity areas 1, 3 and 5 and the Northern Biodiversity area, MTW were planning to do planting in the northern area but that is pending an access arrangement. MTW have been using some of their tube stock to infill plant in some existing planted areas.

Gary noted that MTW's planting program in 2018 had some good achievements and that monitoring of plantings is conducted at 3 and 6 monthly points to see what the survivability is, and if there is the requirement, they will go back and infill plant. In addition MTW have continued their watering operations across all 2019 infill areas. Gary noted that 2019 planting at the Goulburn River Biodiversity area had commenced with 25 hectares of Yellow Box-Grey Box-Red Gum grassy woodland and 24 hectares of River Oak Riparian Woodland.

MTW's plan is to conduct planting in Warkworth Sands Woodlands in 2020 and will use the sands that are harvested from there to transport over to the new area. Stewart asked if that sand was to be transferred to Archerfield as he felt MTW's approval had been based on the sands at that location being identical to the Warkworth Sands to enable the growth and sustainability of the same plants. Gary clarified that MTW has conducted two methods; with some plantings straight into sand and others utilising a material that has proven to get a better result. Stewart agreed the second approach would get a better outcome as he believed that to be the correct material for that Woodlands species.

VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT Q3 - Q4 2019

Gary provided an overview of programmes co-ordinated with the Local Lands Services (LLS) and adjoining landholders and detail around MTW's more targeted programs. In addition, there had been a program undertaken by ANU/Birdlife Australia to protect the Regent Honeyeater.

BUSINESS PAPERS

- ✓ Business papers provided to CCC prior to meeting, includes summary of; Complaints, Incidents, Environmental Monitoring, Rehabilitation, Website Uploads and Community Investment Update.

Gary asked members if they had any comment or questions around the monitoring data that MTW had provided via their Monthly Environmental Reports and confirmed that these reports are also available on the company website.

Ian remains concerned about the use of pink tree guards, he said recent visitors from overseas had queried what the areas were where these guards were in place and their feedback had been that these areas looked like a garbage tip. Ian has to agree that they look terrible, he queried MTW's requirement to use the pink guards and had hoped that MTW would consider changing the colour.

Gary reiterated that this choice it is to do with the light spectrum as research has demonstrated that the colour pink reflects and focuses the red fraction, concentrating this photosynthetic energy to enhance plant growth i.e. they allow the red part of the light spectrum to hit the plants. Gary added that these guards are very thick so they can also be re-used and confirmed MTW's choice had been as a result of advice they had received from the experts.

Ian plants a lot of trees and had not come across that information, he would like to see some supporting information such as the manufacturers claim on the benefits of growing trees using pink guards over green. Ian reiterated that the areas where the pink guards have been utilised are now a very unsightly part of Bulga and that many guards had faded to white anyway. Gary advised that he would look to source that data for Ian who responded he would be very appreciative of that.

Col asked if there were any further questions regarding the Business Papers or Company Reports.

Stewart asked for some clarity on the location of the SSD 6464 Consent, he felt that the area identified on the plans that MTW utilise are indicating the total coal lease area and not this consent and Gary responded that it is both. For map referencing, Gary explained to Stewart that the red line is the Development Consent and the dotted line is the Disturbance Boundary. Gary confirmed that SSD 6464 is within MTW's Development Consent boundary and clarified that within the area that Stewart was querying there is also the Wollombi Brook Aboriginal Conservation area, the Southern Biodiversity area and advised that those areas are outside of MTW's approved disturbance footprint. Gary identified these areas for Stewart via mapping and explained they are described in there as being part of the development activities e.g. for conservation in MTW's approvals.

Stewart asked if these areas had gone through with the original approval and Gary confirmed that is correct. Gary offered to show these to Stewart via the Development Consent, explaining that is the document from the Planning & Assessment Commission that has all the approved plans, including indicative staged plans, and confirmed that the same line is used on all of those plans. In addition, Gary identified both Warkworth's and Mount Thorley's lease lines for Stewart.

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Stewart, MTW to provide plans from the EIS to clarify the SSD-6464 Development Consent Boundary, Mining Lease boundary and MTW's approved disturbance limit within those areas.

MANAGEMENT PLANS / REPORTING

- + Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme annual reports for WML (EPL1376) and MTO (EPL1976) submitted to the EPA 2/7/19. There has been no discharge from MTW in the last year.
- + DPIE approved the following Management Plan updates on 28/08/19. These plans were updated as a routine matter in accordance with the Mount Thorley Warkworth Complex Development Consents (SSD-6464 and SSD-6465):
 - ✓ Environmental Management Strategy
 - ✓ Noise Management Plan
 - ✓ Blast Management Plan
 - ✓ Air Quality Management Plan
 - ✓ Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
- + EPL 24 Annual Return Report for Mt Thorley Coal Loader submitted 27/09/19.
- + DPIE: Revised Annual Environmental Review Report 2018 was submitted to DPIE on 13/9/19 in response to DPIE request for amendment. Gary added that this report has not been published for 2018 as MTW have provided additional information on this and await DPIE approval prior to publishing.
- + Annual National Greenhouse and Energy Report (NGER) submitted to the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator 31/10/2019

8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS - Community Feedback

Gary confirmed that there had been no other agenda items raised and Col called for community feedback.

Stewart Mitchell

Stewart advised he was still seeking clarity around the Putty Road closures and that his request had been for this road to remain open when the blast is in the southern end of Mount Thorley, being 1.5 Kms away, if it is not in a windward direction. Stewart believed that Putty Road is included in the road closures every time there is activity in Loders Pit. Stewart would like to see something done about this, he feels some of the Putty Road closures are outside of the guidelines that stipulate this procedure when the blast is 500 metres from a road.

Stewart noted that the Putty Road is the most closed road in the State for blasting, at least two to three times per week, and Ian felt it would be more frequent than that. Stewart is concerned as this is quite inconvenient, not only for locals, but also through traffic and he would like the Putty Road to remain open unless a blast is critically close. Ian felt the same could be said for blasts in the northern area, where he had been pulled up for blasting that had been further up near the Golden Highway, and that had seemed to be a long way away to be held up.

Gary confirmed he had responded to this in general terms for Stewart reiterating that MTW's blasting team do sometimes set up road closures to go as a precautionary piece, due to forecast wind directions, but they are not always enacted. Gary explained that this precaution is in place should there be the case that blast dust or fume were to happen and allows MTW to act in a prompt way to exclude traffic from that area while a potential cloud passes. Gary reiterated that should there be an issue MTW may not be able to get there physically quickly enough to do a road closure and he feels this is the right approach to manage that risk.

ACTION 3: Gary to provide detail to the CCC regarding the requirement for MTW to close the Putty Road when there is blasting activity in Loders Pit.

Stewart said he had previously provided an example of a blast in the southern end of North Pit, that was 2.5km from the Putty Road but MTW still closed this road. On this occasion Stewart felt that blast had been much closer to the Golden Highway which had not been closed and David responded that closure would have been due to wind direction.

Stewart felt if MTW were blasting down near Bulga Coal, and the wind was westerly, that the company would not need to close the Putty Road. Stewart was concerned that it may be a stock standard procedure that comes out as an alert that every time Charlton Road is closed the Putty Road is also closed. Gary said he could look into that example, he acknowledged Stewart's feedback and agreed that it was likely that MTW would not plan to shut the Putty Road if there was forecast westerly winds. To add context, Gary advised that MTW put out their blasting forecast for five days and that may change daily. Gary explained that road closures will be updated in the notifications on MTW's website based on any new forecast in wind direction and reassured Stewart that their staff are watching this all the time.

Stewart advised he is getting a lot of complaints regarding the sometimes very short notification regarding delays in the blasting time, he explained that people try to make appointments outside of the advertised time and if the timing suddenly gets put back an hour or two that throws all their planning out.

Gary asked if members subscribe to MTW's blasting text service and Stewart confirmed that he does. Gary explained that via this service a notification will be sent with a road closure prediction within a one hour period and if there is an update to that a new text will come. Gary explained that MTW had identified an issue with this service being that the text has both the old and the new time, so the company is working to put more detail in to clearly identify the updated time. Gary confirmed that MTW are working on assisting the community to make their travel easier to plan and acknowledged that this as an issue that the community does face.

Ian asked if there was a reason that MTW blast around 1.00 p.m. i.e. in the afternoon period, he feels that is potentially the worst time of the day for wind and asked if they could blast earlier. David responded that MTW do try to go earlier and that an ideal time would be around 10.30 to 11.00am, he agreed with Ian that winds can tend to be more subdued at that time of the day.

David explained that time frame would only be achievable if conditions are suitable and added that generally the timing will be dependent on temperature inversions and having to wait for that layer to lift. David added that blasting earlier in the day may then put MTW at risk of an overpressure event and that consideration also needs to be given to how long it takes to tie up shots, as some can be prepared sooner whereas others take longer depending on the number of holes.

Olivia added that based on community feedback to Travis, her understanding was that historically MTW have tried not to interfere with bus schedules and peak hour/work related traffic and that is the reason why MTW work to avoid those time slots as well, given that can be quite a busy period on the roads.

Stewart asked if the Fire Trail had been getting much usage from the Rural Fire Service and Gary responded there had not been any requirement thus far. Stewart queried a recent fire at Warkworth and asked if fire services would have gone the long way around. Gary advised that MTW did not get a request from the RFS to use the path for that event and Adrian confirmed that Jerry's Plains Fire Brigade attended to that fire.

Gary confirmed that prior to the bushfire season the RFS had conducted another inspection of the trail and met to ensure that everyone was comfortable with the formal protocol in place to have the gate opened quickly and to show fire services through. Gary said that the RFS were happy with the protocol and Olivia advised that MTW does also monitor bush fire situations.

Stewart asked with regard to air pollution, could MTW provide detail on the location of monitors that the company utilises, he understood there is monitoring located on MTW's boundary with Bulga Coal. Stewart asked if this monitor is a common one with Bulga Coal and Olivia responded that MTW have their own next door to theirs. Stewart felt that Bulga Coal might have two monitors in that position and Gary advised they may also have a TEOM, which is a high volume air sampler.

Stewart was concerned that those monitors may not be correctly positioned in relation to the main stream of air pollution and dust that goes up the valley and queried if that is the most ideal location. The reason Stewart asked this is he feels the volume of heavy dust follows along closer to Charlton Road, more than it does where that monitoring is located, which is also higher ground.

Gary confirmed that monitoring locations are captured in the AEMR and identified this boundary monitoring for Stewart via mapping. Olivia identified where the Loders Pit E-Sampler is located; in the gateway mid-way down Charlton Road. Gary added there is also a TEOM at Bulga Village and another E-Sampler located at Charlton Ridge, these provide coverage for MTW from a few different angles, including for north-westerly's and south easterlies that might potentially impact on Loders Pit.

Gary noted that the monitoring Stewart was enquiring about is close to MTW's boundary and operations. Gary explained these monitors are used to trigger operations i.e. to see if MTW need to conduct inspections or make changes due to local effects.

In addition, MTW have compliance monitors which are in receptor locations i.e. the nearest to people and the data from these is what the company has to report and comply with to meet Government requirements. Gary confirmed they do both types of monitoring 1) in terms of feeding back to operations and 2) in terms of compliance with their Development Consent i.e. the company has to comply through monitoring located at Bulga Village, the RFS, MTIE and Long Point.

Ian felt that all the monitoring closest to the operation would work well in relation to vehicle movements but may not work well when MTW blast as that goes up into the air and would make very little difference close to the mine.

Ian believes the biggest issue for Bulga and the MTIE is where that blast material comes down from those shots. Gary responded that should be picked up by MTW's receptor location monitoring, as they are representative of property, not right at the Pit.

Stewart asked if MTW had any comments regarding the amount of air pollution that is currently in the Valley and Gary acknowledged it is difficult with conditions being dry and tough for the whole Valley. Gary noted that MTW realise and feel this as well, so they consistently run their controls which are effective in making the company change their operations. It was acknowledged that it is not just one mine generating dust but the reality is that there are many sources contributing, along with the impacts of drought, and Stewart confirmed that he understood that.

Gary had attended the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Annual Forum where data had been presented from the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network, including some data from monitors further afield, such as areas in Sydney and out west. Gary noted that all of these monitors were showing an increased trend because of the drought, so the conditions are not just in the Valley but many people are experiencing this everywhere.

Ian Hedley

Ian advised in response to an invitation from Kristy; Hedweld's Managing Direction, that Jason had visited their factory and they were very appreciative that Jason had taken the time to discuss their issues and have a good look around. Ian felt the meeting went very well and Jason had then corresponded with Kristy indicating that he appreciated and was understanding about the extra view on Hedweld's situation. Jason undertook to implement some changes which Ian believed had been done, noting that there had been a big improvement in conditions during daylight.

Ian added that there continues to be a lot of dust at night, he understands this may be due to inversions and particularly in Bulga due to afternoon easterlies, so whilst conditions have improved and Ian appreciated Jason's visit, he feels MTW still need to be aware that at night quite a few dust impacts are still being experienced. Gary confirmed that MTW do not make any changes at night and continue to maintain their controls for dust mitigation, Gary felt that the recent settling of dew was another factor.

Ian noted that MTW had advised that they have dust monitoring between the mine and the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate (MTIE), he understood that data was available on the website but he had been unable to locate this and queried if MTW post those results. Ian explained that conversation had come from him requesting monitoring in the MTIE and it was said that there is already a monitor located between the mine and MTIE and was told he could see the results of that online.

Olivia clarified the data that is published on MTW's website is from the PM10 Compliance Monitors that are attached to MTW's Development Consent, being located at; Bulga, the former Wallaby Scrub Road (which will be moved to Wambo Road) and at Warkworth. Olivia apologised for the misunderstanding and explained to Ian that the data from the MTIE monitor is not on MTW's website and that there is no live feed for that particular one but rather only the ones described as being attached to MTW's approvals.

Ian was very concerned that there is not a full awareness around the potential impact of PM10's on people working in the MTIE due to that data not being measured. Ian would like to see some results of monitoring in the MTIE because regardless of the fact that issues most often happen at night, this then lands on the ground and when staff come in and dust equipment off of a morning, they are stirring up that PM10 again and breathing this.

Ian would like to see more clarity as to what is the position with potential PM10 dust in the MTIE and for some confirmation that it is safe for people to work there and if not, should these businesses put safety procedures in place e.g. a requirement for staff to wear dust masks. Ian said his staff have to dust and clean down equipment regularly and that is a real part of his business as this cannot be sold with dust over it. Ian's concern is that it may be ascertained in the future that there is a situation similar to passive smoking i.e. a secondary effect on people who may be placed at risk when asked to blow down dust that is potentially high in PM10 content.

Gary confirmed that there is a Dust Track Monitor in that location and that would trigger MTW to conduct an inspection based on an alarm, and whilst it does not show the location the website will indicate what the trigger was that MTW had reacted to. Gary advised, in terms of health, that part of MTW's network is currently set up for the compliance aspect set by the Department of Planning.

Olivia confirmed that MTW do utilise Depositional Dust Gauges and that data is reported in their AEMR's. Gary understood that depositional dust is part of what Ian has discussed and acknowledged Ian's concern that this may be re-mobilised when staff are doing some types of work. In response Gary confirmed that MTW are certainly measuring that dust, they are required to report that detail and the company must remain acceptable i.e. within their limits.

Ian was concerned that MTW do know what the PM10 dust levels are but this information is not shared and Gary responded that the depositional dust data is reported. Ian asked if it was known what percentage of that dust is PM10 and Gary advised that depositional dust data does not provide that breakdown but these levels are ascertained by the PM10 monitors near the mine boundary which are not for compliance but rather inform MTW around operational change.

Ian asked if it would be possible to have a PM10 monitor put into place for a period of time at the MTIE, to provide that data and to ascertain the levels in that location. Gary confirmed that there is a UHAQM monitor in place there and that MTW do also review that data.

Ian said that part of the Hunter Valley Racing Association requirements is that a dust monitor has to be in place at their events and that data be provided to Singleton Council. Ian is amazed that this Association is required to do that for one weekends event and yet MTW can operate 24/7 and there is no reporting on how much PM10 lands in the MTIE. Olivia advised that there is the Mount Thorley TEOM but that is not written in as a compliance monitor for MTW's development consent. Col confirmed that Ian is asking for MTW to put in a PM10 monitor in the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate and Gary advised the company would take that on board.

ACTION 4: MTW to consider and respond to comment regarding PM10 monitoring at the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate.

Ian raised the **Action:** *MTW to provide the CCC with a summary of finding and responses undertaken on completion of an internal investigation of their blast in the afternoon of 7 August 2019* and Gary confirmed that this had been discussed at the commencement of this meeting and asked if he could provide Ian with more information. Ian responded that he had wanted to see a summary of MTW's internal investigation and Col had understood from earlier discussions in actions arising that the investigation was still being undertaken by MTW and was not complete.

Gary confirmed that MTW were still dialoguing with the EPA and confirmed the investigation had shown that whilst MTW's permissions had indicated it was suitable to shoot, that they had a different outcome which was not anticipated. In response to this investigation, MTW have changed their blast permissions, therefore a different decision would be taken given those same conditions.

Ian felt that MTW would have reported detail around wind speed and direction, this data was important to Ian as MTW had stated that the wind was in a certain direction and that the speed was below 8 metres per second and both of these did not correspond with the readings that Ian had. Gary confirmed that MTW can provide detail to show that when the decision was made to blast, that it was within their blast permissions, despite what happened after that point.

Ian felt part of MTW's internal investigation would have covered what actually had happened and Gary confirmed that is correct and that MTW had reported at the previous CCC that the blast had been within their blasting permission and Gary will provide the data that confirms this. Gary added that in response to this blast, MTW have undertaken an action to change their decision making process should there be the same weather conditions when they are preparing to blast.

Col understood that Ian had wanted to see the results of MTW's collation of data from their internal investigation into that blast and Ian added that he had anticipated there would have been a written report that the company would have tabled at today's meeting. Col asked MTW to provide a summary out of session as he believed that data would already be in existence and Gary confirmed that MTW would provide what the blast permissions were when the company took that decision to blast.

To make his request clear, Ian confirmed that he would like to see MTW's guidelines for firing shots and detail around what was actually happening on 7 August in relation to the weather conditions on that day. Ian noted that Gary had acknowledged the outcome of this blast had been unfavourable and it is the detail on what went wrong that Ian is seeking from MTW.

ACTION 5: In relation to a blast of concern on 7 August 2019, MTW to provide the relevant Blast Permission page, to outline the company's blasting rules, and detail on what the weather conditions were at the time.

Stewart has previously raised questions around the stemming of blast holes and his interest was that MTW's stemming methods are the best possible practice available in order to prevent the huge plumes of dust that can get blown into the atmosphere. Stewart felt there is a need to prevent so much of that energy going up into the air, instead of staying in the ground.

David confirmed that the blasting methods utilised by MTW would not be dissimilar to other mines, in relation to the diameter and depth of the blast hole/stemming. David noted that the quality of stemming is an important factor to ensure this contains the blast energy. David noted that MTW video their blasts and then review where they get stemming ejecting from the holes to make sure the energy is where it needs to be. David would not suggest that it is the stemming that may cause potential dust coming out of a blast but rather that would be more in relation to where the blast energy goes i.e. from the fragmentation of the material and what gets shaken off the walls around it. Gary explained that stemming tends to be around reducing the potential for overpressure and David said if the committee would like more detail around blasting practices, particularly around stemming, that he would be happy to have that provided at the next CCC Meeting.

ACTION 6: MTW to provide an update on their Blasting Procedures with regard to stemming at the February 2020 CCC Meeting.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Monash ALA 73

Gary advised that MTW had wanted to notify the CCC regarding another Yancoal tenement, located over near Broke, where the company is in the process of converting an Exploration Licence to an Assessment Lease. Whilst this is not a MTW project, Gary had felt the need to share this detail as the location is relatively close and Yancoal does have that lease.

Gary advised that detail on this renewal had been advertised back in August 2019 and in addition the company had elected to hold a Community Information Session. Typically renewals of this nature are usually advertised through papers such as the Argus and the Land.

Ian asked how the Broke community would have been made aware of Yancoal's information sessions and Gary responded that the team involved with this project had liaised with Council to identify local Broke Community groups, then notices had been distributed to the operators of those.

Community Investment

Gary provided detail on the organisations that had been awarded support in 2019 and advised that MTW had received 30 applications for the next round which were currently being reviewed for Yancoal's 2020 program. Gary explained that the Community Support Program (CSP) invests in community groups working in the areas of health, social and community, environment, education and training. Further information can be found at <https://insite.yancoal.com.au/community> or email mtw.csp@yancoal.com.au

Gary explained that MTW's CSP is transitioning to an annual application process and people that MTW have supported this year have been notified on how this program will be going forward, therefore towards the end of each year there will be an opportunity for people to apply for funding to be assessed by MTW. Gary added that the Community Support Program is advertised extensively through the Singleton Argus and through some of Yancoal's community groups that do the funding.

CCC Feedback

Gary informed members that he had received some feedback regarding the operation of this CCC that had suggested the way MTW were presenting information and the discussions in this forum were not allowing for good feedback and engagement. This feedback had been of concern to Gary as he had hoped there was an open and transparent dialogue in this forum to talk about these and any other matters. Gary had wanted to provide this feedback to the CCC and ask if members had any comments around this.

Ian reiterated that he has spoken on numerous occasions in these CCC meetings about Yancoal engaging with the local community, as that would go a long way to address that type of feedback. Ian said the community do approach himself, Stewart and Adrian asking for certain things to be raised, which they do, and also ask questions on what is happening around MTW's business.

Ian added that as CCC representatives they each have their own contacts within the community that they disseminate detail from these meeting too, but Ian felt it is not the easiest process to get information from this forum out of the Meeting Minutes or from Yancoal's website. Ian feels that this is a big problem and there needs to be a better way to get these sorts of messages across to all of community and one way this may be improved is for the community to be directed where to look for information.

Ian explained that as part of the VPA process there was a call for a Community Notice Board and he understands that Yancoal are willing to have this placed between the Bulga Tavern and Cafe. Ian advised that VPA Council members had recently met with the Hall Committee and he hoped, given the funds had already been allocated, that this notice board would be underway soon.

Gary advised that the company do talk to the community as well, he was understanding that some people may not be comfortable approaching MTW but he encouraged the CCC to let community know that they are welcome to phone his team. Gary noted the value of the existence of the CCC allowing for community representatives to bring any issues into this forum for discussion.

Gary confirmed that MTW are looking to hold a community event and noted that is in the SIMP as one of the range of initiatives that the company will be undertaking. In regular talks with community Gary noted that feedback was that they appreciated getting company Newsletters.

Ian noted that those two initiatives had proven to be successful for MTW's neighbouring mine and that there are always a number of their information sheets in the Tavern and Cafe, and that business conducts Community Sessions typically twice a year. Ian said these sessions provide an update on the mines business plans that then flows into a social event that goes very smoothly and Stewart acknowledged that the community do appreciate these.

Col reiterated that community engagement / information sessions had been talked about in this forum for a number of years and agreed it would be a good measure and have a good impact for Yancoal to have a community meeting. Ian added that people are very happy with what Yancoal achieved with the Tavern and there is a lot of goodwill there now, so it would be a good time to build on that.

Stewart noted that in the past the Tavern had a public notice board inside the premises and asked if Yancoal could put one in a similar vicinity such as on an outside wall or fence beside the Pub as there is a lot of patronage now. Ian explained there had been discussions around two forms of signage; one was to be an electronic board located at the Bulga Hall, which he believes to be going ahead, and the second is the hard copy Notice Board he had already mentioned.

Ian added that a lot of notices, including about local events such as the Hall Disco, are placed on the shelf inside the Bulga Cafe where they are distributed or placed in the window. In addition, the Tavern also displays event notices.

Ian advised should MTW want to have notices placed at the Bulga Hall to contact Jan Hedley who is President of the Hall Committee. In addition, Jan quite often conducts voluntary letter box drops for local events, such as the Bulga Christmas Party, and quite often people add other notices to be included in those drops. Ian felt that works well if MTW wanted to get any messages out to the local community and Gary confirmed that MTW will also conduct a near neighbour Community Update.

10.NEXT MEETING

Gary thanked the CCC for their time and their contribution and wished all a Merry Christmas.

10. NEXT MEETING

Monday 10 February : 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. at MTW Boardroom

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Action Carried Forward; MTW to organise a viewing of their Dispatch area in conjunction with a future CCC Meeting

Action Carried Forward; In response to a suggestion by Adrian, MTW to organise a Site Tour in conjunction with a future CCC Meeting to assist members to understand the mine layout.

ACTION 1: In response to a query from Stewart, MTW to provide the total disturbance area to the west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road inclusive of; tree clearing and removal of vegetation, access roads and the fire trail, and for water management. MTW to also provide detail around the areas that have been transferred back into rehab. Action to be undertaken out of session prior to the February 2020 CCC Meeting.

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Stewart, MTW to provide plans from the EIS to clarify the SSD-6464 Development Consent Boundary, Mining Lease boundary and MTW's approved disturbance limit within those areas.

ACTION 3: Gary to provide detail to the CCC regarding the requirement for MTW to close the Putty Road when there is blasting activity in Loders Pit.

ACTION 4: MTW to consider and respond to comment regarding PM10 monitoring at the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate.

ACTION 5: In relation to a blast of concern on 7 August 2019, MTW to provide the relevant Blast Permission page, to outline the company's blasting rules, and detail on what the weather conditions were at the time.

ACTION 6: MTW to provide an update on their Blasting Procedures with regard to stemming at the February 2020 CCC Meeting.