



Yancoal
Mount Thorley Warkworth Operations
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 12 February 2020

Attendance

Chairperson

Colin Gellatly Independent Chair MTW CCC

Company Representatives

John Campbell Technical Services Manager
 Gary Mulhearn Environment & Community Manager
 Olivia Lane Environment & Community Coordinator

Community Representatives

Ian Hedley Community Representative
 Adrian Gallagher Community Representative
 Stewart Mitchell Community Representative
 Graeme O'Brien Community Representative

Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council

Observers

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Alternate - Community Representative
 Pending Confirmation as Full Member
 Claire Bennis MTW Community Response Officer

Apologies

Jason McCallum General Manager

Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. **WELCOME;** Col welcomed the CCC and Gary provided a round table introduction to all attendees.
2. **APOLOGIES;** Advised and recorded.
3. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST / CONFLICT OF INTEREST; *Standing Declarations*;** Col advised that both he and Sarah are engaged by Yancoal to provide the services of Independent Chairperson and meeting note taker. Hollee advised that she is engaged by a sub-contractor that does work for Yancoal.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

Action Items arising from the 25 November 2019 Meeting

Action; 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.

✓ **Update this meeting – Plan and areas requested - Reference Slide #10 in Company Presentation**

Gary confirmed that at the previous CCC meeting MTW had provided detail on the 12.5 hectares west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road that had been stripped for some mining up in the north part of North Pit. Gary identified the additional areas where there has been the removal of trees and locations of where MTW have put in Watts Track and the power lines leading down to this track, also water management infrastructure.

Gary acknowledged that Stewart had queried areas that have come back to rehabilitation or vegetation and advised that MTW are going to utilise 17.6 hectares along the edge of Watts track for seed production. Gary confirmed that an additional 64.4 hectares of other disturbance has occurred to date west of the former Wallaby Scrub Road.

Action; 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.

✓ **Update this meeting – Plan and areas requested - Reference Slides #11 & #12 in Company Presentation**

MTW provided plans from the Warkworth Continuation Project 2014 EIS, Chapter 2 - Proposal to identify the SSD-6464 Development Consent Boundary, Mining Lease boundary and MTW's approved disturbance limit within those areas.

Gary identified where the following boundaries were in place and detailed each area via map referencing:-

Development Consent Boundary (red line); this is all activities about the Development that are captured in the EIS.

Disturbance Boundary (dotted area); the extra limit of the pit MTW are permitted to mine up to under that consent and this is within the Development Consent footprint as shown the EIS.

Mining Lease Boundary (hatched area); located within MTW's Development Consent Boundary.

Hollee asked for clarification that there will be no disturbance by MTW past the Disturbance Boundary through the Mining Lease Boundary and Gary responded not under the Consent that MTW has for the EIS. Gary explained that the EIS describes all of those activities and anything that is outside of that would need an additional type of approval.

State Government Buffer Zone; Gary confirmed that MTW had presented the CCC with detail on the Buffer Zone that the State Government has provided which states there is to be no open cut mining within this zone.

Ian queried the blue hatched area on mapping and Gary explained MTW's Mining Leases occupy a point in 3D space i.e. they are on the surface and also at depth and that no two Mining Leases can occupy the same point in 3D space. Gary added there is Coal Lease 219, that is from 20 metres to 100 metres below the surface, captured in the blue hatched area. Then on the surface of that location MTW have their exploration licence area which they are permitted to conduct through that zone. Gary explained the different colours and shadings as representing different coal lease stratification.

Ian asked if the Mining Lease crosses the Wollombi Brook and Gary confirmed that MTW's Mining Lease and Exploration Licence do cross, but not the Development Consent Boundary. Gary confirmed that MTW can and are proposing to explore in that area and this would be conducted under a Surface Exploration Licence. Gary noted that the majority of MTW's continued exploration work is within their mine.

Stewart made note of the protection zone that the Minister had declared to be protected in perpetuity from open cut mining and asked if there were plans to rezone that land to conservation. Gary responded that some of that land is already in MTW's Development Consent as being committed to conservation areas i.e. the Southern Biodiversity Area and the Wollombi Brook Cultural Heritage Conservation Area. Gary explained these will be conserved under mechanisms with OEHL, which is now called the Biodiversity Conservation Division at the Department of Planning.

Stewart raised a past issue with non disturbance areas, he felt the fact that these were never rezoned to conservation had resulted in that status not continuing to apply. Gary responded the State Government's protection zone would prevent the Government from assessing any open cut mining applications in that zone. Stewart asked if the protection zone had been gazetted and Gary confirmed that it is on the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for Mining Petroleum Industries and there is a diagram in there which Gary provided to the CCC when that was gazetted.

Graeme asked if that would prevent the Government from changing their policy and Gary responded that his interpretation was that when Government enacted this Legislation in the SEPP that indicated their intent to meet what they committed to do at the time of the consent.

Stewart believed that if Saddle Ridge had been rezoned to a conservation area by Singleton Council, then it would have remained as a non-disturbance area in perpetuity which would have meant the Government could not have changed that status. Stewart explained his understanding is that unless land is rezoned to conservation there is no reassurance that cannot be altered by future Legislation. Gary acknowledged that as being part of the history of what has happened in terms of MTW's approval and confirmed he has today presented the current terms of what their Consent is and what the State Government has done since with the protection zone.

Gary confirmed the mapping presented at today's meeting will be available on MTW's website via the 12 February 2020 CCC Presentation and are also contained in MTW's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Action; 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.

Gary advised that road closures for Charlton Road are mandatory when blasting in Loders Pit West due to distance between the blast and road. Closure of the Putty Road during Loders Pit blasting will be minimised where possible, however as Gary explained previously MTW continue to take a conservative approach, so if there is a chance that there could be wind in the direction of the Putty Road, the company will set up for a road closure in the instance that it may be needed. Gary added that MTW may not enact the closure and that is standard practice for the company on a lot of their blasts both north and south.

Stewart noted that the blasting text notifications do not separate Charlton and Putty Roads, indicating both will be closed at the same time. Olivia confirmed that is generally correct based on the principal that MTW will take that precautionary measure and set up for a potential closure of the Putty Road, however MTW still have to fulfil their obligation to notify the public that they would be enacting a road closure. Olivia reiterated that MTW may not actually need to shut the road when the blast occurs and Stewart confirmed he now had a better understanding as his interpretation of the text notification was that the Putty Road it is automatically closed.

Stewart queried if Charlton and Putty Roads could be separated and Gary responded the location of where Charlton Road comes in and meets the Putty Road has an influence as well on the road closure placement given there would be potential for traffic from Charlton Road to enter into an area beyond where the closure is in place.

Olivia added that the majority of blasts in Loders Pit over the last 12 months have been on the southern pit area, so generally there would be a requirement for MTW to shut both roads. MTW now have less than six blasts proposed for Loders Pit, so Olivia noted that it is likely that MTW will be doing a lot less road closures along there moving forward from Loders Pit. Ian queried the duration of the final six blasts proposed for Loders Pit and John envisaged that blasting to finish at the back end of 2020, explaining those shots are at the southern end of the Pit, near the Bulga Mine Boundary.

Stewart thought if the meteorological conditions had potential to affect Putty Road from a distance of 1.5 kilometres then the wind velocity would be too high to blast anyway and clarified he was talking about the area from the junction of Putty and Charlton Roads to where the dragline was operating down on Salt Pan Creek, behind the bund wall in that corner. Stewart believed that distance would be over 1.5 kilometres and was of the understanding that MTW are only required to close a road if the blast occurs within 500 metres.

Gary confirmed the 500 metre exclusion zone is in place for safety reasons, so that is true for potential fly rock ejections. Gary added that rule applies on site as well where MTW keep their people outside of that zone. John reiterated that it would be an unwanted scenario should MTW experience a blast emission that created a fume event that could potentially cross the road if MTW were not set up ready to stop people from driving through and that is why they are set up ready to enact a closure.

Stewart asked if it would be a breach of consent conditions for dust or fumes to leave MTW's property and Gary explained that MTW have both Mount Thorley and Warkworth premises and that these operate as a combined site. MTW's Blast Management Plan, that has been approved by the Regulators, states that when MTW close and occupy the Putty Road, that is considered part of their premises.

Stewart still believed it was not necessary to close Putty Road in a lot of instances when the meteorological conditions are suitable when blasting in Loders Pit, he said it is an inconvenience to the travelling public and feels that MTW should, where possible, not advertise Putty Road unless that road is going to be closed. Stewart's concern is that people will have to assume the Putty Road will be closed and will only find out if that is the case when they get to the actual road closure.

Gary acknowledged Stewart's feedback and understands that travel is planned around notifications, he said that MTW had wanted to clarify that it can be due to precautionary measures that the company will plan for a Putty Road closure but may not need to enact this.

Stewart felt it would be more convenient and useful to the public if MTW only needed to close Charlton Road and left Putty Road off the closures.

John acknowledged that MTW needs to find the balance around the requirement to shut roads for public health, he reinforced Gary's feedback that should there be potential for fume across the road and someone to travel through that there is the possible health impacts versus the inconvenience. Stewart asked if MTW could stop the fumes from crossing and John responded that the road closures also relate to dust and reported that fume had been minimal over the last 14 months.

Ian felt that Stewart had a valid point noting that he had been stopped for a blast that was down the very far end of Loders Pit and all the dust went across towards Broke. On that particular occasion Ian could not work out the reason for the road closure either as the wind was obviously a northerly. Ian agreed road closures can be an inconvenience for people like himself who run companies that have staff travelling back and forth between the two business premises. Ian confirmed that he and his staff plan their travel around MTW's blast notifications and agreed if the advertising says a road will be closed but it is not that this would be an unnecessary inconvenience.

Action; *MTW to consider and respond to comment regarding PM10 monitoring at the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate (MTIE).*

Gary explained that the MTIE Dust Trak is located close to MTW's boundary and is a requirement of their Environment Protection Licence (EPL). MTW also receive direct feed from the Mount Thorley OEH TEOM which is located a few kilometres past the MTIE. Real time PM10 data is received by MTW from both of these monitors and any trigger will lead to an inspection by one of MTW's CRO's who will then feed back to the operations.

The data from the Dust Trak, that is located between MTW and the MTIE, provides daily averages that are published on MTW's website on a monthly basis within the EPL reports. Gary noted that PM10 data from the Mount Thorley OEH TEOM is publically available at: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/current-air-quality>. Gary confirmed the MTIE Dust Trak Unit and the OEH TEOM are the two monitoring systems that MTW currently have in place and have been approved by the Department of Planning and the EPA.

Ian believes that daily averages are not of any value given they were not effective in stopping an incident with dust that occurred on the 7th of August. Ian felt the daily averages for that day probably did not show as being all that high, however there had been a large dust impact experienced by the people located in the MTIE. Gary responded that MTW react to short term data, not daily data. MTW receive this feed via 10 minute PM10 data from both monitors and that is what the company reacts to and triggers their inspections.

Graeme felt the use of averages is a most imprecise measurement of data and not a very good measure to justify positions and Gary explained there are both short term changes and daily averages in place. For compliance MTW are measured on the 24 hour average but MTW react operationally based on the alarms from their 10 minute data. Gary noted that 24 hour data would clearly be too long a period to be able to effect changes and MTW are actually making changes on an hourly, daily and shift basis.

Gary advised he had reviewed previous CCC Meeting Minutes and learned that Ian's desire for air quality monitoring in the MTIE had been raised on many occasions in the past, inclusive of some discussions having been recorded when Michael Frankcombe of the Department had been in attendance. Gary acknowledged Ian's interest to have this at the MTIE but are only able to respond with what monitors MTW have in place that are used for compliance.

Ian felt not having air quality monitoring within the MTIE was very little help to the people there who have to put up with the dust. Ian acknowledged that MTW will conduct inspections at the MTIE in response to monitoring data that gives a high reading but queried how does that really help the people located there and Gary responded that the limits MTW are provided on their Development Consent are determined on a health basis. MTW are held to these limits on a longer term basis and within that MTW conduct operational controls and that is how they currently operate.

Hollie queried if a CRO received a notification about a concern, would MTW immediately alter operations until the CRO'S investigation had been completed. Hollie felt it could take quite a substantial amount of time for the CRO to go out and physically check and provide feedback. Gary responded that MTW would not necessarily effect an immediate action and confirmed the OCE's would also be fed back that information. Gary explained that MTW would need to go out and conduct an inspection as in some cases issues are not related to mining operations, so they do need to verify the notification prior to affecting any changes.

Hollee asked, as an example, if there were alerts from a dust monitor but staff could not physically see the cause, would MTW potentially get a water cart out there straight away while waiting for the CRO to make an assessment. Gary confirmed there is potential for that type of action, adding that MTW have their own on site controls; there are also continuous checks being conducted within the operation by MTW's Open Cut Examiners and there are also all of their Operators providing feedback as well. Then there is the surrounding Dust Monitoring which may trigger an additional inspection outside of MTW's premises.

Ian personally feels this system falls down on occasions due to him having to phone MTW about dust, he felt it was wrong that he could see the dust coming from the crusher when the OCE's couldn't and that has resulted in Ian feeling that the OCE's may be either ignoring it or that MTW's system is not working effectively.

Gary said MTW had appreciated Ian's feedback on that occasion and hoped that issue had been covered off in previous discussions regarding the water controls on the crusher had been identified. Gary acknowledged that whilst the water controls had been operating they had clearly not been controlling the dust and reiterated that in response to this MTW have made changes that they hope will have resolved that particular issue.

Ian clarified his main point was questioning why MTW's OCE's or environmental people out in the field could not see the dust that was coming from the crusher on that occasion when Ian could see it clearly. Olivia responded that it was her understanding that there was communication and feedback occurring either during or prior to Ian passing the crusher on that occasion requesting that MTW conduct inspections of that area.

Ian believed that emissions from a crusher should be a very easy issue to manage and it should never have got to the state where there was plume of dust flowing straight across to the MTIE and Gary supported this feedback. Ian added that was not the only occasion there had been issues with that crusher nor the first time Ian had talked to Gary about it. Gary reiterated that MTW have implemented some changes to the crusher and are hopeful these will address concerns properly now and Ian acknowledged his response. Graeme said there is still not a guarantee that what has been put in place will work and Gary confirmed that MTW will continue to monitor the crusher.

ACTION; *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.*

✓ **Update this meeting**

Gary advised he had detail in hand to respond to Ian's question as to what the wind conditions were at the time of the blast that caused the dust event over at MTIE and would provide the actual blast permissions that were referred to.

Gary explained that permissions are for two locations; one for the middle of West Pit north and the second one is at North Pit. Gary advised this is the procedure that MTW had been following for a long time and they are the same Blast Permissions that are in MTW's Approved Blast Management Plan. Gary explained the arcs indicate some of the directions that MTW were looking at the time, and on review and reflection of the incident on 7 August, MTW have made changes to those Blast Permissions in response to what happened. Gary explained that at the time of that blast, the rules MTW were operating under that say if it is ok to blast or not had confirmed that it was ok to blast. Gary acknowledged the blast behaved in a different way and that is why MTW subsequently implemented some changes.

Gary explained how weather conditions are shown on the blast permissions diagrams, he noted the shot in discussion was at 1.49 p.m. and identified the data that indicated every minute leading up to that. Gary added that there is an operator watching these weather conditions at the time MTW are making the decision to blast and this gives MTW one of their internal authorities to blast.

Ian queried if wind direction was indicated by a red arrow on the page and Gary confirmed that is correct. Ian could not understand how the data would have come up with a pattern as shown when wind had been blowing towards the MTIE.

Gary advised that MTW have changed their Blast Permissions since that blast to include the MTIE and indicated an arc that now goes out to the MTIE and includes some of the rules. Gary noted that at the time of the incident MTW were operating to blasting permissions that had been approved by the Department of Planning and that MTW had not had that type of issue in the past. Gary acknowledged there had been an issue with that blast and explained how MTW reacted to that. Gary and Olivia provided a full explanation of MTW's Blasting Permissions.

Ian noted the location of the blast in relation to the MTIE and felt the wind should have indicated that it was heading in that direction on that day. Gary explained the MTIE was not previously covered by an arc and the arcs in this case had only been for road closures. Ian still questioned why MTW had not taken into consideration the fact that the wind was blowing directly from the blast site towards the MTIE. Gary responded the conditions had not been considered a risk to the MTIE under the previous rules and reiterated that MTW had not experienced an example of a blast causing an issue under those rules.

Col noted the evidence of what occurred in that blast event and acknowledged that MTW have implemented changes in response. Gary confirmed that MTW undertakings were to lower the risk of that type of event repeating and this includes MTW now predicting to not only account for the arc towards Bulga Village but also to the MTIE. Gary confirmed the arc to the MTIE has been implemented and requires an additional level of approval for MTW to detonate a shot.

Ian remained surprised that MTW blasted in that location during strong winds given the location of their own workshop and people, and also those in the MTIE. Gary reiterated that MTW had not had an example in recent times of a blast under those conditions causing an issue either to MTW or the MTIE and acknowledged this one behaved differently. Ian responded that there have been a number of blasts that have sent dust over to the MTIE and Gary believed they would not have been to the extent of the one in discussion.

In response to a query from Neville, Gary explained that MTW have a requirement for a Blast Management Plan which includes the rules that MTW operate under. Gary noted that MTW had previously advised the CCC that there had been some changes to road closure areas due to the NOOP dam and also updates to blasting permission rules that are more stringent than the previous ones. Graeme queried who would be the delegate of the Mining Manager and Gary said this would usually be the Superintendent of Dragline Drill & Blast who is qualified to make that type of decision and the expert in that space.

Ian queried the wind speeds on the blast permissions and Gary confirmed that at the time before the shot, MTW received 1 minute wind speeds of 4.1, 4.4, 4.7, 5.1 metres per second and Olivia confirmed wind direction was 285 degrees. Gary clarified that is 10 minute rolling average and the one minute average was 6.9, 6.5, 6.5 m/sec he added that MTW look at both the 1 minute and 10 minute averages.

Hollie asked if there had been a change in the Blasting Permissions if for example there was a wind speed of 6.5 in MTIE's direction and Gary advised MTW are doing a larger external review of their blasting permissions with an Air Quality and Dust Dispersion Expert. Gary explained MTW made those initial changes immediately based on what was seen on the day, and are doing this additional review to provide the company with more confidence as well.

Col asked if that review could be provided to the CCC and Gary confirmed MTW could present the outcomes in the first instance as the company will need to digest and understand that themselves to see if that is the right approach for MTW to use.

ACTION 1: MTW to provide the CCC with a summary of outcomes from the review of their Blasting Permissions that is being conducted by an Air Quality and Dust Dispersion Expert engaged by the company.

ACTION; MTW to provide an update on their Blasting Procedures with regard to stemming at the February 2020

Gary noted there had been comment about stemming at the previous CCC and that other mines had been using narrower stemming and core holes. In response Gary and John provided the following detail around MTW's blasting elementary.

- Both the bore hole diameter for the stemming and the drilling depth are important.
- A bigger hole is required when dealing with greater depth, such as on the overburden passes.
- Other mines may only be drilling to 12 to 15 metres, whereas MTW are drilling an average of 27 to 28 metres which does require a bigger diameter bore hole.
- All of the blast design is based on fracturing the rock.
- To have a smaller diameter holes would result in MTW needing to have a lot more blasts to get the depth. This could lead to a risk in the detonation of explosives being incomplete and subsequent risk of fume if the rock is not fractured correctly.
- MTW use diameter bore holes of 270 mm for that reason i.e. a bigger overburden pass has bigger holes.

Stewart queried if MTW were using more explosives or having bigger blasts than in the past and John responded that the blast would not necessarily be bigger for individual blasts as MTW are conscious of overpressure as that can impact if there are blasts that are too big. Stewart said he had received complaints from some of the community in Bulga about blasting in North Pit, who had said that this causing a lot of ground vibration and property shake in Bulga itself which Stewart estimated to be a distance of approximately 6 kilometres away.

Gary confirmed that blasting is measured in Bulga Village and reported monthly in the MEMR (Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report). Stewart said residents had not experienced this issue in the past, so he had wondered if MTW may be increasing their charges. Gary responded that blasts would be reasonably similar in level and it is common for MTW to record around 2mm per second with MTW's limit being 5mm per second. Stewart said he would not like to experience a blast at 5mm and it was acknowledged that you would likely hear and feel the blast at that level.

Stewart asked if there was no real explanation as to why those houses were being affected by the blasts and John responded that MTW do a great deal of analysis to make sure they are not reinforcing vibration waves. MTW also use maximum instantaneous charge and John explained that means there is only a certain amount of charge used once to get MTW within that limit. Stewart asked if MTW are blasting fairly close to the former Wallaby Scrub Road and MTW confirmed they do on occasions and that their neighbouring mine also blasts in that vicinity as well.

Ian felt it was obvious that the blasting limits agreed on are excessive, his building dates back to 1945 and there had been no cracks in it until blasting came in closer and then Ian had experienced this cracking for many years. Ian advised that MTW's previous owner had people come out to his residence to conduct monitoring and they had reported back that the cracking had been due to clay shifting. Ian questioned that report given there had been the longest drought and heaviest rains since that time and his building does not move any more, adding that when the blasting moved away was when the cracking issues ceased. Ian felt it was going to be very obvious that Bulga residents are going to experience a lot more issues going forward as a result of blasting.

Gary advised that MTW did have some recent claims around property damage from blasting, additional inspections and geotechnical testing were conducted by Structural Engineers who had suggested the same as for Ian's case that the cause was reactive clay soils and the drought. Gary confirmed the soils were tested and the sort of movement that comes out of those reactive clay soils is 20 to 40mm. Ian felt his point had been missed and reiterated that he only experienced issues with cracking in his house when mining came in closer and then once it moved on Ian no longer had any problems.

Gary felt in response that it would be interesting to review how the monitoring results had gone over time, he felt the results would likely be similar due to MTW designing their blasts as a mining operation to stay within what they are allowed to do. Col acknowledged Stewart's feedback that blasting had been noticed to have increased and Stewart confirmed that this had been more noticeable from Bulga. Stewart said there has always been vibrations from the nearer blasts in South or West pits, but for some reason it appeared to be more noticeable when blasting was further north. Stewart acknowledged that MTW's operations are heading towards Bulga and felt that as these head westward towards the former Wallaby Scrub Road the issue may be due to there being no buffer between where MTW are currently blasting and Bulga.

Col noted that Gary had confirmed that blast vibration is measured in Bulga and asked if some historical data could be provided. Gary confirmed that within MTW's Monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports, which are provided to the CCC, that data is also included from each of MTW's Blast Monitors and confirmed that he could review the records over time to see if there had been any shift.

ACTION 2: MTW to review their Blast Monitoring data to see if there have been any definitive changes in results for a period of 2 years.

Neville advised that Singleton Shire Health Environment Group (SSHEG) has been targeting stemming as a means of limiting the release of any plume or fumes into the atmosphere and queried what MTW do in terms of the amount of potential fumes that may go up from a blast.

Gary confirmed that MTW had presented detail on this subject to the CCC and advised that MTW video each blast to look for possible ejections which MTW do not want to happen as this has an influence on the effectiveness of their blast and their aim is to contain the blast in the strata. John added that MTW also utilise crushed rock that is angular and locks in well, he felt the need for consistent gravel was more important than the size of the blast. John advised that dependent on the overall design of the hole MTW generally work at a minimum depth of 4 meters up to 6.5 metres for their overburden blasts.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- ✓ CCC Member Advertisement, also sent to near-neighbours, and MTW SIMP (12/12/19)
- ✓ Request to amend February 2020 Meeting date (23/01/2020)
- ✓ Amendment to February 2020 Meeting date (email 28/01/2020)
- ✓ Agenda & Business Papers (30/01/2020)
- ✓ CCC Meeting Minutes Endorsed by the Chair –25 November 2019 (10/02/2020)

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES; Col noted that the distribution of the Minutes for the Meeting held 25 November had taken additional time due to bushfire impacts and hoped that the CCC would understand what a difficult period that time of the year was. Col advised that following the comments period close the Meeting Minutes had been updated to Endorsed by Chair. The November Meeting Minutes were formally confirmed at today's meeting.

7. PROPONENT REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES;

MTW Operations

- ✚ Mining production continued in Warkworth and Mount Thorley Operations.
- ✚ Dragline 102 continued to operate in Loders Pit South. It was anticipated that DL102 will complete the final strip around September/October 2020 and that will see out the end of Mount Thorley coal mining. Stewart queried if Mt Thorley operations will finish at the end of 2020 and John confirmed coal mining will be completed but MTW will still be using it as a dump.
- ✚ In December 2019 MTW commissioned a new 9800 Excavator.
- ✚ DL103 had been working in West Pit and has now relocated to North Pit.
- ✚ DL101 will be parked up on care and maintenance at the end of February. Gary noted that MTW do not intend to bring DL101 back to life and advised the CCCs that the boom will be visible from the road. John added that DL101 will not remain in that location indefinitely but for the near term will sit in that position.
- ✚ EX321 was commissioned in December 2019 and is operating in the WPN/NPS area.
- ✚ Coal processing and train loading normal operations.
- ✚ Later in 2020, tailings will commence in Loders Pit Void and Gary identified this location via mapping.

Gary advised that in terms of Dragline operations in the base of West Pit there had been delays on that Dragline in response to dust. John added that traditionally the Dragline would conduct two passes however going forward MTW will not be conducting that second pass. John acknowledged that can be a source of dust generation and MTW do not want to send dust off their property.

Graeme asked if by not doing the second pass would that quarantine coal and John responded that MTW will still part the coal but instead of taking the upper material with the dragline and pitching that into a 60 metre hole MTW will take this via a low haul system which is a different means.

Stewart queried MTW's current strip ratio and John responded that West Pit is a little higher than North Pit, overall MTW's strip ratio for the mine is 5.9 ROM tonne. Stewart asked what is happening with Abbey Green and John responded that Abbey Green south contains tailings. John advised there was an opportunity for Abbey Green north but MTW are not going to pursue that as it has been deemed not worthwhile from a strip ratio point of view and also is operationally difficult due to the seams.

Stewart understood that it had been anticipated for Abbey Green south to be completed at the end of 2019 but this discussion indicated there will be another 12 months and John confirmed that would refer to the tailings, adding that he would estimate there to be only 3 to 6 months of capacity for tailings remaining.

Ian asked where the tailings would go after that and John advised the new tailings dam is on the north western corner of Loders Pit. Gary identified the current main tailings facility that had almost reached its limits and explained MTW do have a Development Consent to raise this further but are electing to move the tailings into the previous facility in Loders Pit.

Stewart asked if the location of the tailings pit would be at elevation and therefore be a risk in case of failure and John responded that it will be completely contained within the void system. MTW are also intending to bring up a highwall so it will not overtop being effectively in the hole. In response to a query from Ian, John advised that tailings are pumped, not trucked.

Hollie asked if Gary could provide an update on MTW's underground investigations and Gary responded this is currently in exploration and feasibility studies. John anticipated that a pre-feasibility report that is to go to the Yancoal Board would be finalised by the end of July.

NORTH OUT OF PIT DAM (NOOP)

- ✚ North Out of Pit Dam (NOOP) works will commence in Q2 2020.
- ✚ NOOP will provide improved water security / balance position at MTW.
- ✚ Infrastructure and test blasting was initially completed in 2019.

Gary confirmed NOOP is still planned to start this year and identified the location via mapping. As previously advised to the CCC, this is one reason why MTW changed their Blast Management Plan to show a different road closure scenario as MTW will be utilising mining equipment for NOOP.

EXPLORATION

- ✚ Exploration activities have continued within the current leases
- ✚ A 2D Seismic survey commenced in January 2020, due to be completed in February 2020.
- ✚ Approximately 62 kilometres of survey occurring along existing site tracks, minimising disturbance.

Gary advised that this seismic work is part of the information that will feed into the geology for the pre-feasibility study.

MONITORING

Olivia noted that at the back end of 2019 MTW's operational downtime had significantly increased as a result of the bushfires. Olivia advised that MTW were showing around 6,000 hours across the year for environmental delays and that she would confirm this figure. Approximately 20% of these were for noise and the other 80% were as a result of these bushfires. Olivia noted that it could be seen that there was a lot more equipment reported as MTW record this by the type of pieces of equipment they have. MTW had a similar figure in what is noted as "Environment" which Gary explained normally means noise, however being an environment code MTW's downtime for bushfire smoke over November and December was also recorded there.

For noise monitoring the CRO's conduct hand held assessments, for the complete year 2019 MTW conducted 8023 assessments, 93 of those were above trigger and that led to 45 nights above trigger in total. In December 2019 MTW had zero nights above trigger.

As Gary has reported previously, those times that MTW goes above the trigger are when MTW get direct feedback from their CRO's to the OCE's resulting in equipment and operational changes. MTW are out doing at least two rounds of this monitoring and also react to triggers from their real time noise monitoring system. On each of those occasions MTW changed their operations, reduced what they have out there, and then re-test within 75 minutes. If results were satisfactory operations would continue on that lower level from that point forward so Gary was able to confirm this process is still being effective for MTW.

Ian queried how the bushfires created downtime for MTW and Gary advised MTW's response was to take a very precautionary approach when those conditions were first experienced and at times were standing down equipment. John added that visibility was a concern to start with and also the air quality index.

Like many business, MTW were trying to understand how to deal with the air quality issues across the State and in response MTW went down a risk assessment pathway and developed action response plans, so at certain levels of PM2.5, or if the visibility was really poor, they took appropriate action e.g. shut down operations. Gary noted that physical activities were also considered, in terms of their staff doing physical work, so MTW would limit what work was conducted outside.

Graeme queried if there was some commonality in terms of the times that the CRO's take their readings and Claire responded that MTW does need to take daylight savings into account and that it is typically as night falls when the CRO's are consistently hitting those locations in pretty much a uniform manner, so that does keep it consistent. Claire confirmed that the CRO's are conducting two rounds at a minimum and given that MTW are reacting to triggers as well she noted that timing needs to be relatively similar.

Graeme felt there may be variations as the CRO's go around and Gary confirmed that is right but noted that MTW's initiative to engage CRO's to conduct hand held assessments was a great deal more than other mine sites and the highest level that Gary was aware of with the intent of conducting checks every single night, that some other business only conduct once a month. Gary confirmed that this effort is for MTW's purpose as well as they not only want to stay compliant but run their equipment as best they can.

Neville felt it was positive that MTW had come up with their own decisions on how to evaluate the smoke conditions in relation to their business and asked if they would release their methodology. Gary confirmed that MTW would talk to their peers about it and added that MTW had also taken advice from an Occupational Hygienist who are familiar with PM2.5.

Neville could see the Government investigating the impacts of the bush fire period and felt mines have got a component of that in terms on how it affected their operations from a different point of view that they might not even consider. Neville felt it was worth documenting and Gary confirmed that MTW now have a risk assessment that they can use and discuss with peers.

Graeme queried unsafe workplace conditions and John responded there is a lot of focus from the Regulator on air quality. MTW conduct a due diligence monitoring program on their workforce to look and monitor for this. John said there is a requirement for prep-plant workers, drillers, shot firers and those in similar roles to complete 6 monthly monitoring and that is from a compliance point of view. On top of that MTW do their own range of personal monitoring.

Wambo Road TEOM; The new Wambo Road TEOM has been installed and integrated into MTW's systems, this will replace the Wallaby Scrub Road TEOM which has now been decommissioned. The new location has been approved in MTW's Air Quality Management Plan and is representative of the nearest privately owned receptor. The location is further from the active mine area currently advancing to the west and reduces the need for contractors to access the Southern Biodiversity Area.

ACTION 3: Olivia to provide the location, via a road number, where the new TEOM has been installed on Wambo Road to the CCC via email.

North Warkworth Meteorological Station; A new meteorological station has been installed at North Warkworth on top of the dumps and is being integrated into MTW's systems. Once sufficient data review and comparison has occurred, the wind speed and direction data from the met station will be tested with the sites blast permissions pages. This is intended to assist the Drill and Blast team with decisions regarding firing blasts. Gary noted that this will also address some feedback from the CCC where it had been queried if the monitor at Charlton Ridge had been reflective of the area. The rainfall data from the new met station will also assist relevant site personnel by providing better visibility of the variability in rainfall received across the site.

REHABILITATION/DISTURBANCE 2019

Rehabilitation target for 2019 is 80 hectares seeded

- ✚ 82.7ha seeded to the end of December 2019
- ✚ Only 24.9hectares of the planned 60 hectares of Stage 2 seeding had been completed in 2019 due to dry conditions
- ✚ Rehabilitation target for 2020 is 64 hectares seeded.
- ✚ Key works for Quarter 1; January to March 2020:-
 - ❖ Stage 2 seeding in remaining 2019 areas
 - ❖ Bulk shaping in MTO and CD Dump
 - ❖ Topsoiling and composting in MTO, CD Dump and NPN
 - ❖ Seeding of new rehab in MTO and NPN

Gary explained that stage 2 seeding relates to going from an area where there is a grass cover crop on top, to the final ecosystem which are trees and shrubs. This year MTW have a rehabilitation target of 64 hectares to be seeded and that will continue in the area that MTW conducted last year and is primarily due to what MTW's Mine Plan progression is going to be for this year. Gary noted the CCC often query disturbance and whilst he did not have the exact number he could confirm that this was within 60 hectares.

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 particularly to ensure that rehabilitation can succeed. Ian had noticed that green cestrum and lantana had come back with vengeance and Gary confirmed that those are being targeted as part of MTW's weed management.

Planting Program; In 2019, restoration work included infill planting over 11,000 tube stock into 129 hectares of Central Hunter Grey Box – Ironbark Woodland and River Oak Forest in the Southern Biodiversity Area (BA). Infill of 9,000 tube stock was planted into Warkworth Sands Woodlands in the Southern BA. Infill planting also continued at the Northern BA with 3,000 tube stock planted into Warkworth Sands Woodland plots. Planting at the Goulburn River Biodiversity Area to increase the suitability of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater commenced with 17,000 tube stock planted into the cleared areas of Yellow Box – Grey Box – Red Gum Grassy Woodland and riparian woodland areas.

The 2020 planting program includes Warkworth Sands Woodland planting that is scheduled for the Northern BA and infill planting will continue in the Southern BA and Goulburn River BA

Ian had noticed trees had been planted very close together and given his own experience with trees competing, particularly in the drought and very few surviving due to this, he was concerned about MTW's success rate. Graeme felt MTW would have an idea of the size of a mature trees and plant accordingly. Olivia confirmed that MTW plant for succession and then if plantings are not successful they will then modify this through an infill plant. Gary acknowledged the importance of watering for tree survival as MTW do not want them to fail.

Stewart asked if MTW were still transporting Warkworth sands across to Archerfield and Gary confirmed that will be occurring if not in this quarter next quarter. Stewart asked if MTW were currently excavating the sand and Gary explained that when MTW do their pre-strip areas for mining, it will be then that they pick up the sands and transport them over to Archerfield.

Tree Guard Update; Gary confirmed that MTW will no longer be using the pink tree guards, he explained the supplier has moved to producing a black product that is made from 100% recycled plastic. The supplier has chosen this tree guard product to align their business strategy with reducing their demand for new plastics in order to reduce environmental impact and MTW are currently assessing this new tree guard type. Areas that have already been planted will continue to use the pink tree guards until they need to be replaced and in response to Ian's query MTW advised information surrounding the use of pink tree guards can be located on the manufacturers website <https://www.globallandrepair.com.au/planting-system/>. Ian was very happy to receive this news and in response to a query from Hollee, Olivia advised her understanding is that these tree guards are made using recycled product and that they are biodegradable as well. Hollee was interested in the length of time the guards would take to biodegrade and Gary confirmed MTW will take that into account in their decision making.

VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT

Gary provided an overview of MTW's pest management for 2019. MTW's 2020 vertebrate pest programs will be coordinated with Local Land Services and adjoining landholders, so these programs are undertaken at the same time across the broader Hunter Valley areas. Gary felt this was the right approach to be involved in that broader Hunter Valley scheme to target different species of vertebrae pests and confirmed that MTW are very active in this space. Ian and Graeme advised that they had noticed an increase in pig numbers after the drought.

BUSINESS PAPERS

- ✓ Business papers provided to CCC prior to meeting, includes summary of; Complaints, Incidents, Environmental Monitoring, Rehabilitation, Website Uploads and Community Investment Update.
- ✓ Appendix C –MTW MEMR October and November 2019 provided. December 2019 will be included for next CCC Meeting Business papers

ACTION 4: Olivia to confirm equipment downtime hours for YTD 2019 that had been in response to dust and distribute the MEMR Report for December 2019 via email to the CCC

- ✓ Appendix D –MTW's Annual Environmental Review for 2018 has now been published on their website Olivia advised this is a very lengthy document but should members like a hard copy to let Gary know. *(a hard copy can be provided upon request)*

Ian noted that dust complaints had dropped and said he had personally observed a decrease in dust. Ian acknowledged Stewart's feedback regarding blasts being more noticeable and noted from MTW's reporting that complaints had increased over the past four months. Gary said the nature of calls to MTW regarding blasts over the year had been relatively consistent with callers often just enquiring on some detail around the blast, not that they had a particular issue with their property. MTW have done some property investigations during the year and Gary noted there had been a decrease in calls in December 2019 and he also felt people may have been more focussed on the bush fires at the time, having had more important things to do around their properties.

MANAGEMENT PLANS / REPORTING

- ✚ Finalisation of the MTW Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) occurred in early November 2019 and was provided to CCC members. The SIMP is a commitment from the 2014 EIS. SIMP has been published on MTW website.
- ✚ DPIE has indicated acceptance of the MTW Annual Review for 2018 (DPIE letter received 21/1/20). Annual Review now published on MTW website.
- ✚ EPA Annual Return for EPL 1376 WML was submitted to the EPA on 29/01/2019.

8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Gary confirmed no additional agenda items had been put forward.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Community update

Community Consultation Committee –New Member Applications and Update; Four applications had been received from community interested in becoming members of the MTW CCC. Gary explained the process was for Col to review these and submit his recommendations to the DPIE, it was anticipated that new members would be on board for the next Meeting to be held 6 May 2020.

Community Update Letter; Gary confirmed that this was distributed by MTW to the local community that surround their operations in January 2020 and that he had received good feedback that the information had been useful. MTW provided a lot of similar operational information that is shared at the CCC meetings i.e. where they are mining, their exploration activities and also advised the finalisation of the SIMP and that MTW were seeking two new members for this CCC and the application process.

In response to a query from Hollee regarding holding a community event, Gary responded that this has been discussed with MTW's Business Management Team and an event is planned for April 2020. Gary said the first community update had been to introduce MTW as a mine and provide an update on what they are doing, then the next letter will be around this community event to encourage local residents to go along and meet MTW's team.

Bushfire Emergency –Yancoal Contribution

Gary provided an overview of Yancoal's contributions during the bushfire emergency period which had been in the form of; a \$500,000 corporate donation, offers to match employee donations and community support.

Community Update

Community Support Program

Gary provided detail on the organisations that had been awarded support in 2019, he advised that MTW had received 30 applications for the round which closed in November 2019 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 noted that Singleton Schools Learning Visible Wellbeing Project was MTW's largest sponsorship for 2020 and has been in place since last year with 11 schools in the local area. Graeme asked if MTW's Scholarship Program had any emphasis on specific faculties and Gary responded the focus is mainly around science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Community Feedback

Ian; confirmed he had nothing further to raise but asked if Gary could spend some time with him to gain a better understanding around the Blast Permissions Page.

Neville; asked to provide an update on the Singleton Shire Health Environment Group (SSHEG). Neville advised SSHEG had recently conducted a 10 year review that including looking at some of the work that had been done by the Mining Dialogue and the various mining companies. Neville explained that the SSHEG has a focus on air quality, specifically around PM2.5's, and acknowledged the impact of the recent bushfires. Neville said there were two focus points that had come out of this review 1) the dispersion of pollution and 2) Cultural Heritage.

Neville advised that the SSHEG has presented a proposed project on dispersion to the Mining Dialogue for their review. Gary confirmed that the modelling that is done at the time of the EIS does look at dispersion and weather records. Gary advised that MTW are beholden to what they have been approved and permitted to measure and that is the space in which the company operates and what is presented in the CCC forum.

Stewart; Stewart queried the time lines for the posting of Meeting Minutes to MTW's website and Gary explained that this occurs after the comments period close when MTW receive notification that they have been endorsed by the Chair and that this is commonly a one month turnaround. Stewart asked if the CCC Minutes are published on the Department's website and Gary advised the requirement is for MTW to put these on their own website.

Stewart advised he had reviewed the SIMP since the last meeting and noted that there had been some changes and omissions from the original draft. Stewart was disappointed that MTW did not go back out to the community and address these as there have been some significant changes that the community have experienced in the 3 years since the first draft. Stewart advised he is gathering some feedback on the SIMP and Gary said Stewart was welcome to discuss that with him. Stewart was concerned that these comments on the SIMP would be too late to be considered and Gary confirmed that he can accept feedback at any time about any of MTW's Management Plans.

10.NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6 May 2020

Col thanked all for their attendance and closed today's meeting.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: MTW to provide the CCC with a summary of outcomes from the review of their Blasting Permissions that is being conducted by an Air Quality and Dust Dispersion Expert engaged by the company.

ACTION 2: MTW to review their Blast Monitoring data to see if there have been any definitive changes in results for a period of 2 years.

ACTION 3: Olivia to provide the location, via a road number, where the new TEOM has been installed on Wambo Road to the CCC via email.

ACTION 4: Olivia to confirm equipment downtime hours for YTD 2019 that had been in response to dust and distribute the MEMR Report for December 2019 via email to the CCC

Actions Carried Forward; MTW to organise a viewing of their Dispatch area and to organise a Site Tour in conjunction with a future CCC Meeting to assist members in understanding the mine layout.