



YANCOAL
Mount Thorley Warkworth Operations
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 26 August 2020

Attendance

Chairperson

Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair MTW CCC

Company Representatives

Jason McCallum

General Manager

Gary Mulhearn

Environment & Community Manager

Olivia Lane

Environment & Community Coordinator

Community Representatives

Ian Hedley

Community Representative

Stewart Mitchell

Community Representative

Toni Silk

Community Representative

Barb Brown

Community Representative

John Lamb

Community Representative

Stakeholder

Dr. Neville Hodkinson

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins

Singleton Council

Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. **WELCOME & 2. APOLOGIES;** Col welcomed all via Teleconference due to COVID-19 Government Restrictions and conducted a roll call to ensure all members were on board. Stewart asked if an alternate is invited should a full member not be able to attend and Col confirmed that is correct as long as advice is received prior to the meeting.
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 is working for a company that sub-contracts to Yancoal and a family member was inducted at MTW today.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING; *Action Items arising from the 27 May 2020 Meeting***

Action: *In response to a query from Neville, MTW to provide the 2019 Aboriginal Heritage & Historic Heritage Reports to the Community Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG).*

- ✓ **Completed;** Gary confirmed that MTW provided these reports to CHAG on 16 July 2020. Hollee asked if MTW had been out to present to the CHAG and Gary confirmed that whilst MTW have not held a meeting with them as a group, the company has consulted with CHAG and they had been out for heritage actions that MTW have been doing on site.

ACTION 1: *In response to a request from Stewart for hard copies of any reports related to the Cultural Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG), inclusive of the Aboriginal Heritage Report, MTW to liaise with Stewart to ascertain what reports he has in hard copy and those he is seeking.*

Action: *In response to a query from Stewart, MTW to provide detail on how many tonnes of Warkworth sands that have been transferred to Archerfield, which is MTW's northern biodiversity area, to date and the predicted total amount that will be transported.*

- ✓ **At today's meeting;** Update in the Company Presentation, refer to slide 34.

Action: *MTW to present mapping/diagrams at the August CCC Meeting on the proposed final land form for South Pit; to indicate how that is projected to look as contained in MTW's Mining Operations Plan.*

- ✓ **At today's meeting;** Update in the Company Presentation, refer to slides 11 through to 13.

Action: *In response to feedback from Ian and Barb, MTW to provide the diagram of MTW's Air Quality Monitoring System at the August CCC Meeting; inclusive of monitor type and location.*

- ✓ **At today's meeting;** Update in the Company Presentation, refer to slide 14

SOUTH PIT; Development Consent Landform; Gary advised that South Pit is permitted to stay as an open void at the end of MTW's Development Consent and in MTW's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) it was stated that this pit would be left open for underground mining access. Gary indicated the location of the South Pit Void via mapping and provided an explanation on how the landform was approved to remain at the end of Warkworth mine life.

Gary explained however, that it also states in the EIS that *"If the South Pit open void is not required for underground mining access, it would be used for emplacement of overburden and/or tailings"* Extract from the 2014 EIS. Gary confirmed that MTW had advised the CCC that the company has submitted a Mining Operations Plan (MOP) that reflects the change to fill South Pit with overburden.

Gary firstly presented MOP rendered modelled imagery of the South Pit Void as it was approved to stay i.e. not filled and secondly the filled version of that void. Gary described the final landform as being modelled using the micro-relief drainage process that MTW have been using across their site, noting that will lead to a much better final landform for the site. Hollee asked what type of rehabilitation would be utilised on the filled areas. Gary confirmed that rehabilitation is outlined in MTW's MOP but he would need to seek exact detail on the vegetation community that would be on top, explaining that MTW are permitted to do a few different vegetation communities on the surface.

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Hollee, MTW to seek detail from their Rehabilitation specialists on the proposed vegetation community for the final filled landform of the South Void.

Hollee queried the anticipated time frame for the filling of South Pit Void and Gary responded that will take many years going forward. MTW have scheduled the initial stages in the lower sections of the pit over the next couple of years and Gary noted that it will take some time, and will not be an immediately noticeable change given that it is quite a big void.

Stewart asked if MTW are putting in a modification application to fill the South Pit Void and Gary responded no, he reiterated that in MTW's EIS and Development Consent it is permitted for that void to stay open if it was going to be used for underground access, or if it was not needed for that purpose MTW can fill it in with overburden. Gary explained that MTW do not believe access to the South Pit Void will be required for the works being conducted to assess underground opportunity and the manner for MTW to fill this area is for the company to update their Rehabilitation Management Plan and Mining Operations Plan. MTW have completed these updates and put these plans forward to the Resource Regulator.

Stewart queried if that means MTW are not totally abandoning their underground plans and Gary confirmed that is correct, it signifies that the project has assessed that MTW do not need access to that void area to continue their assessment and therefore it does not need to remain open. Stewart asked if the exploration that is currently being carried out is for future underground and Gary confirmed that, as previously reported to the CCC, MTW are still exploring the opportunity for an underground and doing pre-feasibility works to understand that prospect. Stewart thanked Gary for the clarification.

Ian asked to bring to MTW's attention how close the South Pit Void is to the Mount Thorley Industrial Estate (MTIE). Ian advised that the MTIE has put up with dust for many years and he hopes there will be some considerable work done around mitigating the amount of dust that may be created from filling that void. Gary acknowledged the location of the void and confirmed that MTW will be incorporating their dust controls as always, he added that MTW will not be extracting in that area, but rather be emplacing. Gary acknowledged that as works come up and get higher i.e. when operations are on top of dumps, it does always become more difficult but at the commencement of the filling of the South Pit Void MTW will be "in pit" for those works. Gary advised that MTW are pleased about the filling of the South Pit Void as this will result in a much better outcome and landform for how the mine finishes.

Air Quality Monitoring Sites - Overview of Real-time Air Quality Monitoring Network;

TEOM's; These are real time monitors that operate continuously.

Listed on MTW Development Consent and are located at; Warkworth, Bulga and Wambo Road.

Stewart asked if the Bulga TEOM will be relocated once mining ceases in Mount Thorley and Gary responded no, this monitor captures either easterly winds passing over Mount Thorley, or northerly winds from the Warkworth Pit which will keep advancing. Gary explained the Bulga TEOM is an Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) location and MTW have their own modem in there from which they receive a feed.

Dustrak's; These monitors measure PM₁₀ or particulate matter less than 10 microns.

MTW utilise both TEOM's and Dustrak monitors for their alerts but Gary noted that it is the Dustrak monitors that are closer to site. MTW's dust alert system is designed to pick up different concentrations over different averaging periods that may cause MTW to conduct an inspection and feed back to the OCE. *Listed on MTW's Environmental Protection Licences (EPL's) and are located at;* Mount Thorley Industrial Estate, the Dragline Crossing, Warkworth Mining Lease (WML) North Pit, Mount Thorley Operations (MTO) Boundary and the Heavy Vehicle Bridge.

- ✚ **MTW have the following additional monitors to supplement their other monitoring**, these are not listed on either the Development Consent or EPL; Golden Highway TEOM, Mount Thorley TEOM, Loders Pit E-sampler, Charlton Ridge (West Pit) E-sampler. These E-samplers that MTW have installed also provide alerts to the company and the CRO's.
- ✚ **Static Air Quality Monitoring;** 5 x TSP High-volume air samplers (HVAS), 1 x PM₁₀ HVAS, 7 x Depositional Dust Gauges.

Ian asked when MTW receive an alert or a high reading, what is the process and how long does it take for the mine to react. Gary responded that alerts come via text both to the Environment Team and also the CRO'S. Gary noted that it would depend where the CRO's are in the Pit, or in their general inspections, but if the CRO receives an alert they will stop doing that inspection and come back to the alert and inspect.

Neville noted high levels of depositional dust recorded at the Long Point High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) D122 in MTW's May and June Environmental Reporting. Neville felt that he had seen in other reporting that MTW had experienced quite a few power failures on their HVAS monitors and asked if MTW could overcome those sorts of issues in terms of utilising backup power and/or battery supplies. Gary felt Neville's feedback may be in relation to the Barn owl which is a noise monitor that did have some power issues and advised he could take a look at that monitor and provide feedback to Neville.

ACTION 3: In response to queries raised by Neville in relation to air quality monitoring data provided in the MTW Monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports, MTW to review MEMR data and provide feedback in relation to any power failures in the MTW Air Quality Monitoring Network which may have affected data capture.

Action: Meeting to be organised for Gary to get together with Stewart to discuss; Blast Monitoring Plan and Road Closures and also with Barb & Stewart to talk about the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP).

- ✓ **Completed;** MTW provided a hard copy of the Blast Management Plan to Stewart on 19 June 2020 and there was a meeting held with Barb and Stewart on 13 August 2020. A soft copy of the SIMP was provided to Barb on 21 August 2020.

Gary reported that this had been a good discussion and had provided an opportunity to cover a bit more detail than at the CCC Meetings. Gary asked if Barb or Stewart had any further feedback and Stewart agreed that it had been quite a productive meeting. Stewart advised that he is still to finalise a list of requests he has in regard to the alterations to the SIMP and hopes to pass these on to MTW so they can be tabled at the CCC next meeting. Gary was supportive of this undertaking.

Action; In response to a query from Ian, MTW to provide some examples of water storage areas in MTW's rehab that are in place, in the first instance, for erosion and sediment control and for possible future habitat.

- ✓ **At today's meeting;** Update in the Company Presentation; refer slides 16 through to 19.

Action; In response to feedback from members on poor mobile coverage in the Bulga and Milbrodale areas, MTW to review previous investigations with Telstra and provide an update to the CCC.

- ✓ **At today's meeting;** Gary confirmed that MTW reviewed the history of dealings with Telstra and confirmed on 15 December 2016 MTW CCC had met with Thomas O'Dea - Telstra Community Specialist. As a follow on from that there had been a feedback session and presentation provided to the community at a meeting for residents at the Bulga Hall on 9 February 2017.

Ian felt the biggest problem is the fact that mobile reception is continuing to get worse as MTW's dumps get higher, he believed that it has been since MTW has had that very high ridge that there has been no coverage from Singleton. Ian explained this means there is the need to rely on the tower at Brokenback, which is located behind a mountain at Broke.

Ian had drawn up some mapping and advised he could email this out to the CCC, he feels the problem is that there is no longer a clear line of site with any Telstra towers and going back to 2017 is a long time ago when considering the size of the hill that has been built between then and now. Gary said the Telstra presentation does provide some clearer perspective of Telstra's infrastructure and capability, he felt it would be worthwhile to share this as well as it gives some context to what Ian had been talking about and where the towers are located that service the Bulga area.

Col asked if anyone was following up on an update from the Telstra Community Specialist and if contact could be made to seek an update for the CCC. Jason confirmed that he had made two commitments at the previous CCC, one was to find previous correspondence and the second was to re-visit the subject with Telstra. Gary confirmed he would take that second action on board and make contact with Telstra to take another look into the issue of poor mobile coverage in the Bulga and Milbrodale areas. Ian felt if it was possible to get Telstra to conduct some testing now in relation to their provision of mobile services that would be a good move. Gary added that when driving into Bulga he receives an alert about coming into the 4G small network so he felt that may indicate a subsequent update to Telstra services in the area.

Hollee acknowledged Ian's feedback about the increase in the size of the hill, she felt that over a period of three years that Telstra's technology would have advanced. Hollee was sure there would be some sort of major update between 2017 and 2020 as to the leaps and bounds in technology that Telstra could install or assist with. Jason confirmed MTW will talk to Telstra to see if there are options available.

ACTION 4: MTW to contact the Telstra Community Specialist to relay concerns raised by the CCC regarding poor to no mobile phone coverage in the Bulga and Milbrodale areas that continues to worsen. MTW to seek an update on Telstra's current infrastructure, capability and detail of any upgrades they may have completed since 2017, or have planned in the future. MTW to ask if Telstra can conduct some mobile reception testing, including investigating the current line of sight to their Towers located at Singleton and Brokenback.

Action: *In response to feedback from Neville; MTW to provide updates on Historical Heritage activities at CCC Meetings going forward.*

- ✓ **Actioned;** Update in the Company Presentation, refer to slides 38 through to 42.

Jason advised the CCC that if there are any areas of the mine they would like to view virtually, MTW has the opportunity to fly a drone out and put a voice over. John responded that would certainly be useful for him, as a new CCC member, to get a better understanding of what is being presented, he noted that members can see detail via mapping but to view it physically would make a big difference. Jason put forward that MTW could do a fly over to identify areas such as the pits, location of the dragline and the like.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- ✓ Link to Annual Environment Review 2019 (26/06/2020)
- ✓ CCC Meeting Minutes Endorsed by the Chair –27 May 2020 (30/07/2020)
- ✓ Notification of Amendment to May 2020 Meeting date (email 9/04/2020)
- ✓ Agenda & Business Papers (12/08/2020)

Stewart noted that he had received the 2018 Annual Environment Review in June 2020, he asked if that time span was acceptable to the Department of Planning Industry & Environment (DPIE). Gary responded that MTW submit this report to the DPIE at the end of March, the Department then has an opportunity to review this and advise if they accept it or not, or if it needs further work. Gary advised that once it is approved by the DPIE that is when MTW distribute it and put it on their website. Stewart was concerned that by the time the CCC got to see the 2018 Annual Report it was some 15 months old and therefore a bit late to have discussions on. Gary confirmed that the monthly monitoring information is provided to the CCC via MTW's Business Papers and is also available on the company website. Gary acknowledged that the Annual Report summarises the whole year's activities, however CCC members do receive that information much more frequently.

Stewart said he finds it easier to make comparisons throughout the 12 month period by reviewing the Annual Report. When looking at monthly or quarterly reports Stewart finds it is difficult to relate one to the other without going back and forth. Gary reiterated that MTW are not able to release the Annual Review publically until it is approved by the DPIE, he explained that more information or changes may be required by the Department, therefore MTW are at the behest of how long it takes the DPIE to approve that report and MTW are not able to publish it until they have done so.

Stewart recalled previously receiving the Annual Reviews in about April, noting that it seemed to take much longer now, he asked if there was a reason for this. Gary responded the 2019 Annual Review was approved by the DPIE within 3 months, so that had been relatively fast, whereas the 2018 Annual Review had taken 10 or 11 months as there had been some going back and forth regarding additional information. Stewart thanked Gary for his response.

- 6. **CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES;** Col confirmed that he had not received any comments back nor any feedback to his question to the CCC if they wanted any changes to the Meeting Minutes format, therefore it was agreed that these will remain as they are. Col advised that following the comments period close the Meeting Minutes had been updated to Endorsed by Chair.

7. PROPONENT REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES;

MTW Operations

- ✚ Mining production continued in Warkworth and Mount Thorley Operations.
- ✚ In Mount Thorley Operations (MTO): Dragline 102 continued to operate in Loders Pit South and is progressing through its final strip, therefore getting close to finishing the coal mining activities in this Pit. The last major production shot occurred in Mount Thorley in August 2020 and a couple of minor blasts remain. MTW are coming closer to the end of coal mining in Loders Pit.
- ✚ MTO: Loders Pit drainage filter bed will be constructed Q3-Q4 2020 with part of Loders Pit becoming waste / tailings emplacement. MTW are installing a drainage filter bed in the base of Loders Pit so MTW are importing ballast rock so they can extract the water that will accumulate in the spoils and from the Tailings Facility. This will enable MTW to bring that water back out. MTW will be delivering 60 to 75 trucks on average per day for about two months coming up and these will be travelling through the Industrial Estate as well.

Ian advised that there has been concern about the speed limits through the Industrial area and contact had been made with Council and subsequently the RMS regarding this. Ian noted that there are no speed limits when coming off the Putty Road, so there seems to be a grey area there where people are speeding, particularly down the main part of the road. Ian asked that if MTW are going to be bringing trucks through the MTIE, could the drivers be asked to remain at a reasonable speed limit because it is quite dangerous. Gary responded that MTW would ask drivers to operate at the 60km/h level and Ian thanked Gary for that undertaking.

ACTION 5: In response to concerns raised by Ian around the increase of MTW's truck movements through the Industrial Area to service the Loders Pit drainage filter bed construction, MTW to request that their drivers operate at the 60 km/h speed when passing through that area.

- ✚ In Warkworth (WML): DL103 has been working in the lower passes of West Pit and North Pit.
- ✚ WML: DL101 was parked up in February 2020. MTW is planning for its return to work in September 2020 and it will be operating on a few of the lower areas to move some of the waste overburden in the Warkworth Pit.
- ✚ WML: Water management ahead of mining (sediment basins / catch drains) will be constructed Q3-Q4 2020. Gary added that MTW are approaching their current sediment basins to the west of their current highwall, so therefore are getting ready and will be constructing their next set of catch drains and sediment basins to the west of the Warkworth Pit.
- ✚ Coal processing and train loading normal operations.

EXPLORATION;

Gary advised MTW continue exploring within their current leases, this is still at greater depths for assessing the reserves for the underground project as well as ahead of mining for resource. In the next coming months, some of MTW's exploration activities will be seen next to the Putty Road, in the small access tracks on their waste emplacement on Mount Thorley and near the corner of their tyre area, also in and around Mount Thorley as well.

NORTH OUT OF PIT DAM (NOOP);

Gary advised that timing for commencing the construction of NOOP has been re-scheduled for 2022.

MONITORING,

YTD from January to June 2020

Olivia advised the total delays for dust were 395 hours and noise were 385, this equated to a total of 780 hours of operational downtime from January to June 2020. For the benefit of new members Gary explained these were in response to MTW's Community Response Officers (CRO's) and MTW's real time dust and noise systems providing the company with information to go out and make checks, either with the sound level meter at night or by conducting inspections during the day. Gary added that MTW's Open Cut Examiners (OCE's) are also active in the pit themselves, the OCE's don't need to be prompted by these external alarms, but rather will take action themselves and activate their own controls as well.

Olivia advised that for MTW's noise assessments, the CRO's continue to take hand held noise assessment measurements of a night. For the first half of 2020 there was a total of 3,771 assessments undertaken; the individual number of assessments above trigger were a total of 39, and the number of nights above trigger in total were 24. Gary advised that on each of those occasions where MTW had been above the trigger, operational controls were undertaken to bring the noise levels back to inside their limits within a 75 minute time period, which is MTW's approved Noise Management Plan process.

In response to a query from Hollee, Olivia advised that the noise alarms that CRO's receive, in terms of MTW's real time noise monitoring, will prompt the CRO to go out and use the hand held device to take a noise reading as a validation process. Barb asked MTW's response time for taking action in relation to both noise and dust alerts. Olivia responded that if the CRO's receive a noise alert from any of MTW's monitors they will proceed straight to that location to take a measurement. Olivia added that this same scenario applies to both noise and dust. Jason confirmed that as soon as MTW get a trigger the CRO would go immediately and there is no delay. Barb was pleased with this response as she had wanted to hear that MTW takes action straight away. Olivia added that the CRO's are also out doing routine measurements, so they will be conducting these regardless of whether there is an alarm received. Olivia clarified that once the CRO complete their 5 minute reading that is when MTW's 75 minute criteria commences should the reading come back above the trigger level.

Jason explained that the CRO's role is to be proactive, should they see some dust or noise levels increasing they actually liaise with the OCE and alter operations so ultimately MTW do not need to stop. Jason explained if MTW do stop, operations lose ground, so the value is in actually identifying a situation before it occurs and making the changes prior to exceeding the limits. Barb was pleased to hear that attention to those situations is done very quickly and Jason added it should be done prior, so if MTW does receive a trigger the CRO's are challenged around how MTW could have done better. Jason explained the issue is that should levels get to the trigger, that is then at the point of shutting equipment down, and MTW would much rather redirect equipment to keep it running and operations moving, as once equipment is shut down it takes a long time to bring back up again.

In response to queries from Ian and Hollee, Olivia provided an overview of MTW's delay codes in their system. Olivia explained that "environment" is predominantly associated with any noise delays that would occur on site. Dust has its own delay code as do fog and rain. Gary said that MTW want to record what type of delays there are across the operations and the OCE's will direct which code to put in when they do encounter a delay, so MTW can track how well they are going with their operation. The OCE's have additional delay codes that they will utilise for other reasons; such as operational issues.

REHABILITATION / DISTURBANCE 2020

Rehabilitation reforecast for 2020; 44Ha seeded.

Progress to end of July: Shaped = 27.2 hectares. Ready to Seed = 15.4 hectares.

Key works for Quarter 3 2020 (July to September)

- ✚ Bulk shaping in North Pit North (NPN)
- ✚ Topsoiling and composting in Mount Thorley Operation (MTO), CD Dump and North Pit North (NPN)
- ✚ Seeding of new rehab in MTO, CD Dump and NPN
- ✚ Stage 2 Seeding (part of 2020 program for 69 hectares to final seed mix on historic cover crop areas)

Gary advised MTW have redone their rehabilitation forecast for 2020 and will be starting to move into South Pit and Loders Pit going forward. Gary explained what that will mean for 2020 and subsequent years is that the dump progress rate heading west and getting up to final landform is going to reduce because MTW are going to be putting waste into the voids.

Therefore for 2020 MTW's rehabilitation forecast has come down from 64 hectares planned for this year to 44 hectares and MTW's subsequent years will also lessen due to that reason. Gary noted that this is an important consideration, MTW have been typically operating at around 80 to 100 hectares of rehabilitation as they have been progressing those dumps to the west but there is going to be a change.

Jason wanted to ensure that the CCC understood that because MTW are not at the elevated levels and moving the dumps but rather filling up a hole, that will mean there is no land to rehab. Jason reiterated there will actually be a better landform picture, particularly when MTW do not have that void in South Pit and so it should be a good news story. Members thanked the company for this update and confirmed their understanding.

Stage 2 Rehabilitation Seeding 2020 - 2021;

Gary explained that MTW's MOP will also reflect this change which has been provided to the Resource Regulator. Gary noted that MTW had previously advised the CCC that they had received a notice from the Resource Regulator about rehab progression and that had resulted in MTW changing their category of rehab back one stage in some areas. In response, MTW are doing Stage 2 Rehabilitation Seeding; 69 hectares in 2020 and 68 hectares in 2021.

MTW WEED MANAGEMENT Q2 2020;

Gary confirmed that these programs have continued and MTW have treated a total of 184 hectares to mid year. Gary provided an overview of weeds targeted in the Southern and Northern Biodiversity Areas.

MTW BIODIVERSITY AREAS (BA) PLANTING PROGRAM 2020;

Gary provided an overview of works that MTW are conducting in their Northern BA, Southern BA and Golden River BA. In response to Stewart's query regarding Warkworth Sands Woodlands topsoil movement, Gary provided the following detail;

Northern BA;

Warkworth Sands Woodland (WSW) planting progress:

- ✚ Track maintenance has been completed;
- ✚ a total of 9,112m³ of WSW sand has been stripped at MTW and hauled to the Northern Biodiversity Area;
- ✚ 5,480m³ of this has been spread into strips and seeded with native grasses to increase the groundcover diversity;
- ✚ these strips have been planted with Warkworth Sands Woodland tube stock in August 2020; and
- ✚ the additional 3,632m³ will be spread into strips and seeded with native grass this year with tube stock planting scheduled for 2021.

Gary hoped there will be opportunity for the CCC to do a site inspection to biodiversity areas in the near future and in the meantime MTW are able to provide drone images to show the areas where MTW are working and the progression over time.

Barb commended MTW for taking a leadership role and asked if school children from Broke and Bulga could be involved in some of these-replanting programs. Barb felt it would be a fantastic opportunity for the children to view this rehab, even if it was only a very preliminary participation, as this would give them a much better sense of what community is about.

Barb noted that this is environmental and this is restoration, she believed this is extremely important as it is those children that will live the years to see the outcome of the re-planting programs. Gary confirmed that MTW would be happy to take those children out on an educational basis (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) but would need to keep the planting works assigned to their contractors. Gary added that MTW do have school tours to the mining part of the operations. Barb felt this would be a really neat project and Gary agreed, adding that MTW are proud of the works they are doing out in those areas and hope that they will be very successful.

Stewart asked if there were drone pictures of the Southern Biodiversity Area as it would be good to have a look to see how MTW are going with this BA. Gary confirmed that MTW have progress shots, as they are also interested to see how this project goes, and confirmed MTW could get some drone imagery of the Southern BA.

ACTION 6: In response to a feedback from Stewart, MTW confirmed they could get a drone view of the Southern Biodiversity Area to present to the CCC.

VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT;

MTW continue to co-ordinate their Pest Management Programs with the Local Lands Services (LLS) and other large land holders, this ensures that all programs are undertaken at the same time across the broader Hunter Valley areas.

Regent Honeyeaters on the Biodiversity Areas (BA's);

Gary presented a picture of the first Regent Honeyeater to be observed on the Putty offset. Gary felt this was positive news as it confirms that the offset is in the right location and also providing the correct habitat and resting spots. Gary noted the return of the Regent Honeyeater was a great story for MTW adding that they have been seen coming in and successfully breeding up in the Goulburn River BA as well. Stewart asked if MTW are doing anything to address the feral cat problem and Gary confirmed that feral cat trapping is scheduled for Q3 and Q4. Stewart advised there are a lot of feral cats around, he believes they are a bigger threat than foxes and wild dogs as far as bird life goes.

ACTION 7: In response to concerns raised by Stewart about feral cats being a threat to bird life, MTW to seek feedback from their Wildlife Controllers around sightings and numbers.

Ian advised that he had conducted a baiting program at the same time as National Parks. Ian agreed that there seemed to be a lot of cats in the Milbrodale area and noted the fox population is still fairly high. Ian felt there had been a reduction in the number of dogs but the pig population had increased, particularly over the last 12 months. Gary responded that MTW has had some success with feral pig management, adding that Commercial Kangaroo Harvesting and opportunistic shooting as required is scheduled for Q3 and Q4.

Goulburn River & Putty Biodiversity Areas;

Gary provided an overview on the bird monitoring locations.

MTW HISTORIC HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

- ✚ The 2019 Historic Heritage Compliance Inspection was undertaken in Q1 2020 by Arrow Heritage.
- ✚ MTW has budgeted for works to address significant historical heritage management actions in 2021 and the 2022 reporting period.
- ✚ MTW is currently in the process of updating the Historic Heritage Management Plan to align with the proposed schedule of works and address the actions from the 2020 Independent Environmental Audit.

Gary advised that MTW have had an independent Environmental Audit conducted which reviewed how MTW were tracking against Heritage items. The following three Heritage Sites were looked at for the 2019 Compliance Inspection and Gary noted that both Neville and Stewart had been in attendance. 1. Former RAAF Base Bulga Mess Hall, 2. Springwood Homestead, 3. Mount Thorley Red Brick House

MTW Historic Heritage Management - ACTIONS

ITEM	STATUS
Undertake drone surveys across MTW's HH sites	Complete; Drone imagery surveys completed in Q1 2020
Develop project schedule and preliminary budget for HH actions required under MTW HHMP's	Complete; Project schedule developed in Q1 2020 for feed into budget process
HH Project Plan to be included in the MTW 2021 to 2025 budget	Complete; HH projects included in E&C budget
Coordinate lawn maintenance and weed spraying across HH sites	In Progress; Site inspections undertaken with MTW land management contractor. Works to be undertaken in Q4 2020. Annual program of maintenance to be undertaken at each site.
Obtain quotes for white ant treatment at Springwood and the Red Brick House	In Progress; To be obtained in Q4 2020
Arrange for asbestos to be removed from Red Brick House and RAAF Mess Hall area	In Progress; Currently seeking quotes for this work
Coordinate next meeting of CHAG for Q4 2020 to present on the HHMP 3 year implementation works plan	Meeting yet to be scheduled
Encourage CHAG members to put forward community historic heritage management projects.	The SSD-6464 development consent Historic Heritage Conservation Fund (HHCF) funded by MTW is administered by Singleton Council under a partnering agreement. MTW will be engaging with Council on HHCF processes in Q3-Q4 2020. CHAGE may apply for funds to be assessed by HHCF process

MTW Historic Heritage - Drone Survey Imagery - March 2020

Gary presented aerial pictures of the Red Brick House, Springwood and the RAAF. Gary acknowledged they are in relatively poor state so there is some maintenance that MTW have to plan for and that has already been recommended in MTW's Management Plan.

Neville felt that issues around Historic Heritage stem back to actual compliance. With regard to the "Historic Heritage Compliance Inspection" Neville acknowledged that particular scenes were inspected and identified to look at but at that time it had been asked that it be recorded that there had been an expectation for some sort of implementation time line for activities around those three properties. Neville was concerned that when these properties are inspected year after year they remain in the same condition. Neville feels maintenance of these properties should be on priority, he believes the long term vision of what the community may get out of these properties i.e. as potential tourist ventures or even property that may be resided in, is not being given enough consideration.

Neville acknowledged that he and Gary had talked about this and that steps have been taken by Yancoal to improve the situation. Gary confirmed that MTW have recognised that there has been some legacy around Historic Heritage, including items not progressed by previous ownership, and that Yancoal had not moved these forward since taking over the site. Gary acknowledged that MTW has conducted some inspections of general condition over the last two years that hadn't progressed, however now there is a plan to move forward and those actions have been budgeted for.

Gary reiterated that MTW have had an independent Environmental Audit this year, which is an undertaking that MTW have to do for their Development Consents. Gary reassured Neville that the audit looked at all of MTW's Development Consent Conditions, and the auditors had also recognised that there had been some lag in relation to Historical Heritage. MTW had already identified that as well and now have a plan to move forward. MTW are revising their Management Plan to reflect the updated timings of what they are proposing to address these legacy issues. Gary advised he was more than happy to discuss this further out of session with Neville.

Jason acknowledged that Neville had hoped to give a presentation at today's meeting and said for future meetings that members were welcome to send these through to be added to MTW's processes at the time of preparation of the Agenda and meeting materials.

BUSINESS PAPERS

- ✓ Business papers provided to CCC prior to meeting, includes summary of; Complaints, Incidents, Environmental Monitoring, Rehabilitation, Website Uploads and Community Investment Update.
- ✓ MTW MEMR for March, April, May and June provided.
- ✓ MTW Annual Review 2019 link provided.

Gary asked if members had any comments on the company update or in relation to monitoring and environmental performance and Neville provided the following feedback.

Air Quality; Neville felt it would be worthwhile for the mining industry to understand Doctor Bob Vickers opinion around air quality issues, these have also been spoken about by Doctor Au Tuan over the last 10 years, as he feels these are well aligned with what the community is noting. Neville confirmed he has circulated some information from Doctor Vickers to the Mining Dialogue. In relation to air quality, Neville noted that mines still have quite a few compliance problems and they continually talk about the weather conditions affecting their results. Neville said one of the main points to come from the SSHEG is around air disbursement i.e. how pollution is dispersed and he feels this is a subject that mines should be seriously looking at.

Water Monitoring Reports; Neville noted that both the monthly and annual reporting is very technical and asked if MTW could provide the CCC with more simplified detail i.e. a diagram of how water flows, and some indication of the various heights and layers that the mine is getting water from. Neville provided an extensive overview of his interpretation of MTW's water monitoring reporting and queried what these reports are predominantly stating.

Gary responded that the water monitoring reporting is to relay what water levels are over time so that MTW can relate them on an annual basis, for example; in the Annual Review Report there are predictions around what will happen to the surrounding aquifers. In summary, Gary explained that other than reporting on water quality, the reports are relaying what has happened over time and to ascertain that MTW are within range of what has happened over that period. Gary added that MTW are required to monitor against what has been planned in agreement with the DPIE.

In addition, Gary noted that MTW had to consult with the Office of Water, the EPA and DPIE around their Water Management Plan, hence that is the required reporting format. Gary felt the Annual Review of Groundwater that is contained in the Annual Review Report may be simpler to digest, as it refers to how MTW are tracking against what the EIS predicted. Neville feels the type of information around water that community are interested in relate to topics such as; how does mining affect aquifers and detail around how water is taken up and discharged. Gary responded these would relate to water balance, water inventory and water supply, which are different to the environmental and other monitoring that is surrounding the site, and provided the following detail on each topic of interest for Neville.

- **Aquifers;** Whilst there is not much use of the surrounding aquifers MTW still compare against predictions, particularly for the fractured porous rock type aquifers that they are in. MTW also look at alluvial aquifers nearby and monitor the Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River alluvial areas. The most impact that MTW sees is the draw down from mining activity on the coal seam aquifers and the overlying overburden aquifers.
- **Water Supply;** MTW do use a water supply under water access licences out of the Lemington Underground. MTW also bring water in, however that is not currently the case, if required this comes from the Hunter River under a Hunter River Extraction Licence.
- **Discharge;** Gary advised that MTW have the ability to discharge at two locations on a licensed discharge under the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme. MTW have not had to discharge over the past few years but may look at re-starting that process due to rainfall this year having brought MTW's water stocks up.
- **Water Balance;** Gary noted that MTW have more water now than they had in February.

Gary understood Neville's interest had been in interpreting the more technical data and offered to assist with that out of session. Stewart added that other mines provide their CCC's with a schematic diagram of their water plans which shows water input and output, and water usage, he asked if MTW could do the same as it provides all the lines of flow and easy to understand.

ACTION 8: In response to feedback from Neville asking if MTW could simplify their Water Monitoring Reporting to the CCC, MTW to provide an overview of their water balance and water flow that is contained in the Water Management Plan.

Stewart asked if Yancoal owned properties are utilising their water licences. Gary advised his understanding was that some properties are leased with the water access licence and some are not. Stewart queried in the case that the water licence is not with the lease, if the water licence was being utilised. Gary responded that MTW have utilised some of these water access licences for the mine, noting that the company has a High Security Licence as well.

Gary advised that the allocation available to General Security Licenses has dropped right down across the Valley, so that is why it is important for MTW to have a High Security License. Stewart asked if the authorities would agree that irrigation water be used on mine sites and Gary responded that anyone is permitted to trade water within the same zone. MTW can apply to do that and can transfer water, so the actual allocations across the whole Hunter River can be traded between users all the time and that how the system is set up.

MANAGEMENT PLANS / REPORTING

- ✓ On 1/05/20 the Annual Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Biodiversity Compliance Report (2002/629 and 2009/5081) was submitted to the DPIE and DoEE.
- ✓ The Annual Return for MTO Environment Protection Licence 1976 was submitted on 29/5/20.
- ✓ In June, DPIE accepted the MTW Annual Review for 2019. The Annual Review Report 2019 has now been published on the MTW website.
- ✓ An Independent Environmental Audit Report was submitted to DPIE on 17/07/20, along with MTW's response to the recommendations from the audit report. This is per the requirements in MTW's Development Consents (SDD-6464 and SDD-6465)
- ✓ A request for further information was received 24/07/20 from the Resource Regulator in relation the Mine Operations Plan (MOP) Amendment C, which was submitted 31/03/20. The requested information is required to be provided by 4/9/20.
- ✓ A number of Environmental Management Plans were revised and submitted to DPIE on 28/07/2020 as required after submission of the Annual Review report (Environmental Management Strategy, Air Quality Management Plan, Noise Management Plan, Blast Management Plan, Water Management Plan).

8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS***Stewart Mitchell***

Text Blast Notifications; Stewart believes there is an ongoing problem with these notifications and that this system is not working. Stewart provided an example on 26 August 2020 where there had been a notification that there was to be a blast between 12.00 and 1.00 p.m., this notification arrived at 12.08 and the blast occurred at 12.25. Stewart harps back to the situation where people are trying to time their travel or appointments to avoid blast period road shut downs.

Stewart said 9.00 a.m. seemed to be the normal time for blasting warnings but he had provided an example to Gary where the blast time had been subsequently altered on four occasions throughout the day, with it finally taking place sometime in the afternoon. Stewart said the changes in blast times give no security to the local community as far as having a smooth drive to or from Singleton. Stewart feels this is very much in need of some attention and hoped there could be a better arrangement whereby Yancoal would advise a blast time at 9.00 a.m. and abide by that time.

MTW reviewed the blast notifications for 26 August and Gary advised it appeared that there hadn't been a blast notification to come out at 9.00 a.m. which he believed should have been the case. Gary advised he would take a look into that blast for Stewart to see what happened, noting there had been a slight change of personnel within that Department. Gary confirmed that is not the way MTW wants to operate, the expectation is if MTW are having a blast and road closure that there is a notification at 9.00 a.m. and if there are any updates those would come thereafter. Stewart said a longer lead time for notifications of blasting delays would be helpful to warn the community of when the road closure is going to happen, he feels that 5 to 10 minutes prior to blast time is really not much value to anyone.

Groundwater Test Results reporting; Stewart was concerned that in reference to Warkworth Sands test results both with the pH readings and the standard water level readings, that the graphs were identical for March and June quarterly reports, he wondered if the March graph had been repeated in June in error. Gary confirmed that these reports are quarterly, so in the June report compared to the March, there is an extra monitoring location on those graphs. If Stewart required further assistance with interpretation of the graphs Gary was happy to do that out of session.

SSD-6464 Approval Area; Stewart said that he has raised his concern previously about MTW stating the SSD-6464 approval area is the same as the overall mine lease area and believes that to be incorrect. Stewart understood the approval area for mining under SSD-6464 is shown as the boundary roughly where the new fire trail goes through Wallaby Scrub, he has seen that in a few maps and encouraged MTW to look at the map dated 8 June 2016 which clearly shows the total boundary area for the SSD-6464 and he believes that is not the actual boundary of the overall lease granted.

Gary explained that the Development Consent Boundary is the same as the Mining Lease for SSD-6464 but the disturbance that is permitted within the Development Consent Boundary footprint is less than that, he confirmed this goes out to the RFS Track known as Watts Tracks, therefore those boundaries are correct. Gary confirmed the Development Consent maps with the DPIE for the Planning Assessment Commission's determination, shows exactly those boundaries. Gary added this does not permit MTW to mine out there, the limit of disturbance is also shown on the DPIE's maps and that is within the overall Development Consent footprint. Stewart queried Mount Thorley and Gary responded Mount Thorley's Development Consent is as shown as the consent was granted.

Protection zone; Stewart queried this zone that has been placed on a part of the mining lease area which is outside of the SSD-6464 consent boundary and asked where does MTW sit there in regard to disturbance. Gary confirmed that he had previously given a presentation on this exclusion zone to the CCC and would be happy to provide that again. Gary clarified that the exclusion zone is the area where open cut mining applications are not permitted, he confirmed this area is within MTW's Development Consent that Stewart is talking about i.e. the one that is on MTW's mining leases but it is outside of where the disturbance footprint is. Gary confirmed that State Environment & Planning Policy says no open cut mining applications will be allowed in that zone. Stewart thanked Gary and advised Col he had no further feedback.

John Lamb

Lighting; John had noted in MTW's complaints review that there had been an increase in concerns around lighting and he had received the same feedback from community that the impinging bright white lights on the northern horizon are considered to be intrusive by a number of people, he asked if MTW could do anything to improve this. Gary confirmed that lighting had come to MTW's attention and is something they are acutely aware of. In response to lighting complaints this year MTW have been doing additional on-site communications and reviewing procedures and processes. Gary advised that MTW's approach is that there is a lighting procedure in place which is provided and communicated to all those that are setting up lighting plants. Gary said one issue may stem from the number of different people that set up these lighting plants on any particular shift but MTW's main focus is to have lighting sorted at the time of the set up each night.

In addition, MTW's CRO's will do a lighting review when they start their shift by inspecting the operation from various vantage points to check that the right set up is in place. CRO's will feed back to the operations and advise if any lighting looks poorly set up to enable these to be fixed. Gary had also undertaken a 6 week lighting review to try and identify if there were any systemic issues that MTW could see that is outside of those processes. Gary said that this investigation had not identified anything in particular but it was to ascertain if there were any patterns around shifts and the like. Gary noted that is how MTW are tracking in response to complaints and any changes required, he reassured John that MTW are well aware of lighting concerns and they are working to address that.

John noted when heading west along the Putty Road towards Charlton Road that MTW have a truck park pad on the right hand side that is well lit up. John advised that those lights do appear very bright to drivers coming down from Billy-Goat Hill, so maybe that is an area that could also be addressed as MTW's CRO's are conducting their inspections. John believed there were likely to be some fixed lights around that truck pad, he noted there are a number of trucks typically parked up there, and that one or two of the lights shine directly up the road.

Gary responded that MTW had conducted an external Fixed Lighting Plan Audit against the Australian Standard as their Development Consent requires them to have their fixed lighting sources meet those standards on lighting impacts. From the audit MTW's fixed lighting areas were deemed appropriate but Gary advised John that he would take his feedback on board around lighting in the truck park up area and get that one pad area checked again to review what the outcomes were there and to see if there had been any other changes. Gary noted that the lighting that is harder to manage are the ones that are moved on a daily basis in the actual mine and MTW have been strongly focussing on those.

ACTION 9: In response to feedback from John in relation to concerns around fixed lighting located at the truck park up area at West Pit South, MTW to review the lighting within this area and advise if there have been any changes made since their lighting review.

Dust; John advised that over the last few months it had been noted that there had been a vast increase in dust, not only in the general area, but particularly noticeable when driving along the Putty Road between where the CRO's do inspections up on the hill, coming around the left hand bend and down to the intersection at Charlton Road. John advised there is a tremendous amount of dust across the road and in the trees.

Gary noted the section of Putty Road that passes through where John has described is very close to MTW's operation and confirmed that the company does receive some complaints of the nature that people can see dust across the road. Ian said he rarely complains but agreed with John that sometimes the dust is terrible through that section of Putty Road. Ian believes this dust is having a significant impact on the trees along that stretch, some of those trees are 100's of years old and he feels they are so coated with dust now that they are literally dying from suffocating.

Gary felt there would most likely be a combination of mining impacts in there. Gary described the area as being at the end of what is MTW's Pit and due to the predominantly northerly winds there, even if MTW are not operating there can still be some dust coming across that area. Gary said that MTW are managing their road generated dust as best they can but the operational area is such that it is a visible and notable source. Gary could confirm that there are three monitors in that area and alarms will trigger an inspection by MTW. Gary reassured John that is an area that MTW inspect regularly but it is difficult due to the location and in accordance with the geometry of the pit.

Neville Hodkinson - Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG) Summary Presentation to the CCC

Historical Heritage; Neville explained that SSHEG's target is to resolve issues around Yancoal's purchase of Coal & Allied from Rio Tinto, specifically in relation to the commitments and undertakings that were made by previous ownership and the conditions of consent and management plans that had come from that. Neville advised that due to there being three parties involved in matters around Historical Heritage; the Department of Planning, Yancoal and Singleton Council, he believes there needs to be a formal audit from all angles to develop a plan on how to proceed. Neville noted that the CHAG dialogue is also associated with this.

Funding; Neville noted another issue, not just for the Bulga community but also other communities in the Hunter Valley, is that they are not necessarily receiving compensation for the impacts of mining. Neville feels this does relate to Bulga in particular, as initiatives that have been put forward in the CHAG seem to have been forgotten by everybody. Neville explained there has been five levels of funding;

1. *Great North Road Conservation Fund*
2. *Historic Heritage Conservation Fund*
3. *The Bulga Community Initiative;* separately founded and funded by Rio Tinto
4. *Mount Thorley Heritage Management;* which Neville believes is really contained in all the processes that are required to be done on a day to day basis for Historic Heritage in mining.
5. *The Mount Thorley Warkworth Voluntary Planning Agreement (MTW VPA),* which he understands is conditional on being compensation for the Bulga Village and local community. Neville queried what the Bulga community has received from this VPA, given there has been five years pass since the Approval.

Neville said that he has personally put projects through to Singleton Council and nothing has resulted from these. Neville felt that the recent interest around the potential relocation of Ravensworth Homestead has probably brought the subject of historical properties to the forefront of people's minds. Neville understands that Historic Heritage is not a simple issue and needs a lot of concentrated minds with the right attitude to address these properties in the hope to gain long term tourism or other opportunities that may exist in the Hunter Valley. Col asked if Neville's presentation could be circulated to the CCC and Neville confirmed he would send it to Gary for forwarding.

Cr. Hollee Jenkins; Hollee advised she will be monitoring the infill of the South Pit Void as she believed there will be potential for dust to blow all the way through and out the back of the Mount Thorley corridor, she asked if MTW could provide some information about dust mitigation measures for that infill.

ACTION 10: In response to a request from Hollee, MTW to provide an overview of the dust mitigation measures that will be in place for the infill of the South Pit Void.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS; Yancoal Community update

Black Summer Bushfire Emergency –Yancoal Contribution;

Gary provided an overview of commitments to assist local communities and financial contributions that Yancoal had undertaken in response to the devastating bushfires last summer.

Community Support Program (CSP);

Gary provided an overview of the organisations that are being supported in 2020 through the MTW CSP noting that some events have had to be postponed until later in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19, he confirmed that MTW will maintain those funding commitments.

The CSP program invests in community groups working in the areas of health, social and community, environment, education and training.

The 2020 round of applications for support in 2021 will be advertised in Q3-Q4 2020, closing on 6 November 2020.

Information can be found at <https://insite.yancoal.com.au/community> or email mtw.csp@yancoal.com.au

10. NEXT MEETING : Wednesday 25 November at 2.00 p.m.

Col hoped the group would be able to come together for the next CCC Meeting and potentially have a Site Tour.

Gary agreed and thanked all their attendance at today's meeting.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: In response to a request from Stewart for hard copies of any reports related to the Cultural Heritage Advisory Group (CHAG), inclusive of the Aboriginal Heritage Report, MTW to liaise with Stewart to ascertain what reports he has in hard copy and those he is seeking.

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Hollee, MTW to seek detail from their Rehabilitation specialists on the proposed vegetation community for the final filled landform of the South Void.

ACTION 3: In response to queries raised by Neville in relation to air quality monitoring data provided in the MTW Monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports, MTW to review MEMR data and provide feedback in relation to any power failures in the MTW Air Quality Monitoring Network which may have affected data capture.

ACTION 4: MTW to contact the Telstra Community Specialist to relay concerns raised by the CCC regarding poor to no mobile phone coverage in the Bulga and Milbrodale areas that continues to worsen. MTW to seek an update on Telstra's current infrastructure, capability and detail of any upgrades they may have completed since 2017, or have planned in the future. MTW to ask if Telstra can conduct some mobile reception testing, including investigating the current line of sight to their Towers located at Singleton and Brokenback.

ACTION 5: In response to concerns raised by Ian around the increase of MTW's truck movements through the Industrial Area to service the Loders Pit drainage filter bed construction, MTW to request that their drivers operate at the 60 km/h speed when passing through that area.

ACTION 6: In response to a feedback from Stewart, MTW confirmed they could get a drone view of the Southern Biodiversity Area to present to the CCC.

ACTION 7: In response to concerns raised by Stewart about feral cats being a threat to bird life, MTW to seek feedback from their Wildlife Controllers around sightings and numbers.

ACTION 8: In response to feedback from Neville asking if MTW could simplify their Water Monitoring Reporting to the CCC, MTW to provide an overview of their water balance and water flow that is contained in the Water Management Plan.

ACTION 9: In response to feedback from John in relation to concerns around fixed lighting located at the truck park up area at West Pit South, MTW to review the lighting within this area and advise if there have been any changes made since their lighting review.

ACTION 10: In response to a request from Hollee, MTW to provide an overview of the dust mitigation measures that will be in place for the infill of the South Pit Void.

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.