

# CLARENCE COLLIERY PTY. LIMITED

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## CLARENCE COLLIERY

### MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM, 28TH NOVEMBER 2011

**Present:** Sue Graves (Chairperson), Karen McLaughlin (Blue Mountains Conservation Society), Jessica Heath (Lithgow City Council), Skye Ellacott (Lithgow City Council), Richard Moon (Clarence Community Representative), Greg Shields (Mine Manager Clarence Colliery), Greg Brown (Environment Co-ordinator Clarence Colliery), Edwina White (Regional Environmental Manager, Centennial Coal)

#### 1) Meeting Open and Welcome

Sue Graves welcomed members of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to Clarence Colliery.

#### 2) Apologies

Wayne Marshall (Lithgow City Council)

#### 3) Confirmation of meeting minutes from previous meeting

The CCC confirmed acceptance of the CCC meeting minutes dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

#### **4) Business arising from previous minutes**

Action items were read and reviewed from the CCC meeting minutes dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

#### **5) Correspondence**

Nil

#### **6) Clarence Colliery Operational Report, Update and Review**

A review of operations and reporting at Clarence Colliery since the last meeting.

##### ***Operations:***

- Review of mining since last meeting:
  - GS provided an update on the mining operations at Clarence Colliery noting that operations were currently in the western area of the mine.
  - Poor mining conditions have been experienced in the western areas of the mine. This will mean that mining will cease short of the proposed mining areas and the mining equipment will be relocated.
  - Mining equipment is planned to be dismantled and moved over the next fortnight.
  - GS explained how the FCT was a very complex piece of equipment and it will take at least a fortnight to pull apart and reassemble the FCT.
  - GS explained that belt conveyors were being reinstalled to allow operations in the eastern end of the mine; the belt system had a life of approximately 30 years.
  - GS explained that there were approximately fifty additional contractors on site to assist with the relocation of equipment.
  - GS presented a map to show the layout of the mine and the mining lease boundaries. GS discussed the proposed new mining area to the east known as the 800 Area within ML 1583.

### ***Environmental Performance:***

Non – compliance with EPL - 1 pH Exceedance:

- pH Exceedance
  - Clarence Colliery exceeded the pH limit at Licence Discharge Point 2 as prescribed within Environmental Protection Licence 726 during discharge of water on the 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
  
- pH Event:
  - The exceedance was identified from the control system of the Water Treatment Plant.
  - The pH of the water released was pH 9.1 from approximately 8.30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 until approximately 9.00am on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
  
- Water Sample Result:
  - The discharged water from Licence Discharge Point 002 reported to the Main Dam. The Main Dam was sampled at 11.00am on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
  - The pH result was pH 6.93.
  
- Actions Taken:
  - Notification made to the Office of Environment & Heritage.
  - Notification made to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure.
  
- Outcome:
  - The Office of Environment & Heritage reviewed the pH event and decided that given the exceedance was relatively minor, occurred for only a short period of time and had no environmental impact; that no further action would be taken other than requesting a copy of the report outlining the findings of Clarence Colliery's investigation into the incident

#### Audit of Exploration Licence 5072:

- Greg Kininmonth, Environmental Officer with the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services came to Clarence Colliery on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Greg monitored auditors from AECOM undertaking the audit of Exploration Licence 5072.

#### Clarence Water Transfer Scheme:

- A meeting was held in October with Lithgow City Council to discuss and update information and design requirements for the pumping station and pipelines proposed for the water transfer scheme.

#### ***Community Activities:***

##### Cultural Heritage:

- Attended a meeting with the Gundungurra people on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Lidsdale House. Presented an overview and update on operations at Clarence Colliery during the meeting.
- Attended the Muggadah Launch on the evening of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at the Scenic World Centre in Katoomba.
- Attended NAIDOC day on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at the Lithgow Showground.

##### Swampcare:

- Swampcare Day at the Zig Zag Railway on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Assisted the swampcare group to plant seedlings in Browns Swamp.

##### Connected Waters Symposium:

- Streamwatch/Bushcare's stream and groundwater testing results and soft engineering swamp restoration works.

## **7) Subsidence Management Plan Application – 700 West/800 Area (Edwina White)**

Process overview:

- Intent to prepare SMP advertised 5 August 2010
- Submission of SMP advertised 24 November 2011
- SMP is on display at the LCC, Clarence Colliery and website
- The submission includes:
  - a. Three folders
  - b. Volume 1 with 8 Appendices
  - c. Volume 2 with 3 Appendices
  - d. Plans (as required by the SMP Guidelines)

An SMP application includes:

1. A Written Report covering
  - Proposed mining system and resource recovery
  - Community/ stakeholder feedback
  - Statutory requirements that apply to the application area
  - Expected subsidence and its potential impacts
  - Supporting specialist assessments
2. The proposed Subsidence Management Plan.
3. Approved Plans

Stage 1 - Information Gathering

- SMP Risk Assessment – late September 2010
- Community Consultation and advertisements, to identify those key stakeholders likely to have an interest in the project.
- Review of surface, baseline monitoring, subsidence prediction.
- Groundtruth the surface area, field surveys

Stage 2 – Draft SMP Development

- Impact assessment, geotechnical assessment, conceptual monitoring program, mitigation and remediation strategy.
- Preparation of SMP.

### Stage 3 – Assessment Phase

- Submission of SMP.
- Publicly advertise SMP submission – November 2011.
- Interagency considers SMP, submissions and issues.
- Approval issued subject to a range of conditions may need to be addressed before mining can commence.

### Stage 4 – Implementation

- Implementation of Mining and Monitoring Plans as described in the SMP.

### Overview of Mining Method:

#### Design philosophy

#### Maximise resource recovery while:

1. Preventing breakage of overburden
2. Preventing ground water inflow
3. Minimising surface subsidence to allow mining under sensitive features.
4. Approximately 50% of resource extracted

### Groundwater Assessment:

- Regional Impacts limited to the Katoomba seam
- Coal seam does not outcrop down dip of the colliery – no creeks or vegetation communities that rely on the coal seam aquifer.
- There will be no incremental impact on the regional hydrology.
- The risk of impact to shallow aquifers primarily results from cracking.
- Cracking is highly unlikely – as evidenced.
- Groundwater monitoring also demonstrates the absence of impacts from this system of mining not only ABOVE the mining area, but adjacent to the mining

### Archaeology Assessment:

- Discussed communication with Aboriginal Community Stakeholders and presented the names of interested parties.

- Considered that the potential effects of subsidence predicted by Strata Engineering (2011) will have no direct impact on the cultural significance and integrity of any of the sites contained within the study area.
- There are a number of recommendations for management that would be included in a Management Plan for the project.

#### Flora and Fauna Assessment:

In total, seven threatened flora species, 32 threatened fauna species and one endangered ecological community listed on the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) were identified with potential or known habitat within the project area. Assessment via a seven part test found that the Proposal was unlikely to significantly impact on any of the identified species or communities.

In total five threatened flora species, nine threatened fauna species, five migratory species and one endangered ecological community listed on the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) were identified with potential or known habitat within the project area. Assessment under the Act found that the Proposal was unlikely to significantly impact on any of the identified species or communities.

Assessment under SEPP 44 found that no ‘Potential Koala Habitat’ occurs within the project area and no further assessment under SEPP 44 was required.

The Proposal is therefore unlikely to significantly impact on any species, population or ecological community listed under the TSC Act, EPBC Act or SEPP 44.

#### Geotechnical Assessments:

A number of studies were undertaken by SEA :

- Thorough review of historical subsidence and mining performance on the surface (12 years);
- Subsidence for all the mining layouts;
- Subsidence from first workings;
- Factors of Safety for pillars;
- Site specific angle of draw; and
- Cliff lines and pagodas.

#### In Closing:

- No significant subsidence is expected based on existing experience, the predictive modelling and the mine design (<100mm, 1mm/m tilt, 2mm/m strain).
- No significant impacts predicted.
- The two highest risks to Clarence from the proposed mine plan were risks to Lithgow No.2 Dam / reservoir.
- Probability low – consequence very high.
- The SMP application has been submitted.
- Now is the opportunity for people/organisations to make submissions and respond to the application made by Clarence.

#### How To Provide Feedback:

- Submissions on the SMP can be made to either:

The Director of Environment,

DTIRIS-DRE,

PO Box 344,

Hunter Regional Mail Centre, NSW, 2310; or

The Mine Manger, Clarence Colliery

PO Box 92,

Lithgow, NSW, 2790; or via email at

- [Community.Clarence@centennialcoal.com.au](mailto:Community.Clarence@centennialcoal.com.au).

**8) Photos of Old Subsidence Areas on the Newnes Plateau**

Photos presented of pagoda's taken by the Environmental Coordinator at Clarence Colliery from the locations of the rock cracks provided in photos to Clarence Colliery by KM.

**9) General Business**

- KM enquired about stockpiles of overburden material on REA III and the REA IV development.
- GS explained the stockpiles of overburden material on REA III were excavated from REA IV during development of the site. The overburden material is proposed to be used to cap REA III when the site is decommissioned.

**10) Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to occur on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 10am.

**11) Meeting Closed**

The meeting was declared closed at 12.30pm.

**12) Actions**

Action	Responsibility	Date	Complete
Review CCC Terms of Reference after twelve months of acceptance.	Clarence CCC	February 2012	
Present volume of coal fines collected from REA III to date	GB		