

**Maxwell Infrastructure Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Time and Date:** 10.00 am on Wednesday 12 September 2018

**Location:** Maxwell Infrastructure Meeting Room

**Attendees:** Jennifer Lecky (JL) – Chair  
Peter Horder (PH) – Resident  
Gerrit DeBoer (GD) – Resident  
Ron Baxter (RB) – Resident  
Mark Bowditch (MB) – Councillor  
Rob Hayes (RH) – Malabar Coal  
Bill Dean (BD) – Malabar Coal  
Donna McLaughlin (DM) – Malabar Coal

**Apologies:** Rob Halloran (RH) - Resident

**Meeting Agenda:**

No	Topic	Who
1	Housekeeping and safety	Donna McLaughlin
2	Welcome – attendees and apologies	Chairperson
3	Declaration of pecuniary interests	Chairperson
4	Confirm minutes from previous meeting	Chairperson
5	Actions from previous meeting	Chairperson
6	Update on the Maxwell UG Project	Bill Dean
7	Update on the Maxwell Solar Project	Rob Hayes
8	Environmental and Community Performance	Donna McLaughlin
9	Reports, submissions and correspondence	Chairperson
10	General business	Chairperson
11	Next meeting	Chairperson
12	Meeting close	Chairperson
13	Rehabilitation – Pit Tour	Donna McLaughlin

**1. Housekeeping and safety**

DM provided information on housekeeping and safety.

**2. Welcome - attendees and apologies**

Meeting opened at 10.05 am.

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

MB declared that the company he worked for would be undertaking some fencing work for Malabar Coal. MB noted that he had discussed this with Muswellbrook Shire Council and would likely step down from his position on the Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

JL thanked MB for his involvement in the CCC so far.

**4. Confirm minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes were accepted by PH and seconded by MB.

**5. Actions from previous meeting**

There were no actions from the previous minutes.

**6. Update on the Maxwell UG Project**

BD advised that Malabar Coal had received correspondence from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) that the operation of the Maxwell Infrastructure CCC satisfies the CCC requirements outlined in the Maxwell Project Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements. This means that the Maxwell Infrastructure CCC would also be the CCC for the Maxwell UG Project.

BD provided an overview of the Maxwell UG Project, noting the following:

- The proposal is for an underground mine only.
- The mine would produce high quality coals.
- The mine would produce up to 8 million tonnes per annum of run-of-mine (ROM) coal.
- Malabar Coal would utilise the existing infrastructure on the Maxwell Infrastructure site and there would be limited infrastructure at the underground entry.
- Access to the mine would be via the existing road off Thomas Mitchell Drive.
- All land within the application area is owned by Malabar Coal, with the exception of a small area within the transport corridor, which is owned by AGL.
- There would be minimal impacts to existing agricultural activities within the application area.
- The project would have no subsidence impacts on any land used by equine or viticulture critical industry clusters.

MB asked where the vent shafts and lay down areas would be located.

BD noted that they would be included within the surface disturbance area at the pit top.

MB noted that on another mine site he had seen coated rollers to help minimise noise on conveyors. MB questioned whether Malabar Coal had considered using these for their conveyors.

BD noted that the noise modelling was still being undertaken and would assist in identifying appropriate controls. BD also noted most infrastructure would be located in low lying areas.

GD questioned whether the coal would be stockpiled at the Maxwell Infrastructure site and if there would be similar dust issues to what he had experienced in the past.

BD confirmed that the coal would be stockpiled at the Maxwell Infrastructure site however there would be controls in place to minimise dust. BD also noted that Malabar Coal were looking to make some changes to the location of the ROM area so that it would be less exposed.

DM noted that conveyors would be covered and there would be sprays at transfer points and stockpiles. DM suggested that once the air quality modelling was completed, the air quality specialist could present the findings to the CCC. The CCC agreed **(ACTION 1)**. DM also agreed to provide a copy of the Maxwell Project Scoping Report and some information on underground mining to CCC members **(ACTION 2)**.

MB asked how many people would be employed at the mine site.

BD noted approximately 350 people.

## **7. Update on the Maxwell Solar Project**

RH provided an overview of the Maxwell Solar Project, noting the following:

- Malabar Coal would submit a separate development application for a solar farm to be constructed on the Maxwell Infrastructure site.
- Solar panels would be located on areas of previous open cut mining disturbance.
- The solar farm would have an installed capacity of around 25 MW, producing enough energy to power approximately 10,000 homes.
- Due to the size and expenditure of the proposal, Malabar Coal would be submitting a request to DPE for a State Significant Development.

RH asked the CCC for their feedback on the project and what they considered to be the potential impacts associated with the project.

JL asked if Malabar Coal had started discussions with AGL regarding the selling of the electricity.

RH confirmed that Malabar Coal had been in discussions with Ausgrid not AGL.

MB questioned whether the panels would be north facing and if the reflection off the panels would impact any neighbours.

RH noted that Malabar Coal did not have that detail yet however all visual impacts would be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

GD noted that in the past Anglo had told the community that impacts from the Drayton mine site would be minimised however he felt that this did not occur.

PH noted that he was glad it was not another open cut mine.

MB noted that the focus should be on minimising impacts going forward. MB also noted that he thought it was good that Malabar Coal were consulting early in the approval process and wanting feedback from the CCC.

BD noted that he would be happy to arrange specialists working on the EIS to meet with the CCC and discuss any major concerns.

MB noted he had some concern regarding noise during construction and suggested specialised coated bolts could be used to minimise the noise when tightening them. MB also noted that dust control on access roads should be considered and minimised.

RB asked how long the construction would take.

RH responded with approximately 12 months and would involve on average 50 people.

JL noted that she thought it was a fantastic site for a solar farm.

## **8. Report on Maxwell Infrastructure's Environmental and Community Performance**

DM provided an overview of the site's rehabilitation performance, noting that 30 ha of land had been rehabilitated this year using a pasture mix.

DM noted that all air quality monitors were below regulatory criteria. DM noted that no audible noise was identified from the Maxwell Infrastructure site during the monthly attended noise monitoring surveys.

DM noted that Malabar Coal had received one complaint which included a request to consider paying for a residential roof to be cleaned and repaired. A representative from Malabar Coal went to visit the resident and discuss their concerns. After undertaking a review of the historic and current air quality monitoring data, the resident was advised that Malabar Coal would not pay for the roof to be cleaned and repaired however an alternate offer was made to install a first flush system and an undercounter water filter.

DM provided an overview of community sponsorship:

- Four plants and a magnolia tree were donated to Muswellbrook Public School for National Tree Day. Malabar Coal also provided some volunteers to help the kids with planting.
- A defibrillation unit was donated to the Upper Hunter Riding for the Disabled and Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

## **9. Reports, Submissions and Correspondence**

DM noted that Malabar Coal submitted a revised Air Quality and GHG Management Plan to DPE for feedback and approval. Malabar Coal were currently working through the feedback from DPE.

DM noted DPE had approved the audit team for the Independent Environmental Audit. The on-site audit will be undertaken towards the end of October.

DM noted that DPE approved the amended Annual Environmental Management Report. A copy was provided to all CCC members and is available on line.

## **10. General Business**

GD noted that the complaint referred to earlier in the meeting was from him and that he had expert advice from the roof repairer that the damage to his roof was from dust fall out.

GD noted that he had to clean out and replace his gutters due to the dust fall out from the mine. GD also noted that when Drayton cleaned his water tank that residue from the tank covered his paddocks. GD believed that the dust had also discoloured the brick work at his residence.

JL suggested that this issue was a personal issue between GD and Drayton and not a community matter.

RB noted that the issue of dust fall out from all the mines was a common problem.

MB noted that you need to look at the wind speed and direction to determine where the dust was coming from. To say that all the dust was from one mine site was unreasonable.

GD noted that there was no pollution at his residence ten years before the mine had started. GD also noted that he was not referring to the last two to four years but the build up of dust over a 30-year period.

MB questioned whether GD had recently had his tanks cleaned by the company.

RH confirmed that this happened approximately 12 months ago.

GD confirmed this was correct.

MB suggested that GD should focus on how he can make sure his concerns around dust are addressed in the Maxwell Project EIS.

BD agreed that air quality would be a key focus in the EIS and that Malabar will have to achieve what is modelled in the EIS.

GD asked why residents in the Antiene area were no longer receiving free loads of potable water.

RH noted that it was his decision to stop the loads of water as the site was no longer operational and dust being generated from the site was minimal.

MB asked if feral animal management on site was also coordinated with leasees on the buffer land.

DM confirmed that it was.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next CCC meeting would be held on 19 December 2018 at 10.00 am.

#### **12. Meeting Close**

JL thanked members for their participation and the meeting was closed at 12.05 pm.

PH, GD and RB stayed back to participate in the rehabilitation pit tour.