

Maxwell Infrastructure Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Time and date: 10.00am on Wednesday 18 March 2020

Location: Maxwell Infrastructure Meeting Room

Attendees: Jennifer Lecky – Chairperson
Mark Bowditch – Community Representative
Peter Horder – Community Representative
Ron Baxter – Community Representative
Donna McLaughlin – Malabar Coal
Rob Hayes – Malabar Coal
Sam McDonald – Malabar Coal

Apologies: Carolyn O’Brien – Muswellbrook Shire Council
Robert Halloran – Community Representative

Planned 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	Donna McLaughlin
7	Update on the Maxwell Solar Project	Rob Hayes
8	Environmental performance and management plans	Donna McLaughlin
9	Reports, submissions and correspondence	Chairperson
10	General business	Chairperson
11	Next meeting	Chairperson
12	Meeting close	Chairperson

1. Housekeeping and safety

Donna McLaughlin provided information on housekeeping and safety including addition measures that have been put in place to access the Maxwell Infrastructure site in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

2. Welcome - attendees and apologies

Meeting opened at 10.05 am.

Apologies received from Carolyn O'Brien and Robert Halloran.

Jennifer Lecky noted that Gerrit de Boer had provided a letter of resignation since the last meeting and was no longer a member of the Maxwell Infrastructure CCC.

3. Declaration of pecuniary interests

None.

4. Confirm minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by Ron Baxter and seconded by Peter Horder.

5. Actions from previous meeting

None.

6. Maxwell Underground Project update

Donna McLaughlin presented on the progress of the Maxwell Underground Project, noting that there had been no change since the last CCC meeting in December. As discussed in the previous CCC meeting at least 75 per cent of the submissions received by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) were in support of the Project.

7. Update on the Maxwell Solar Project

Rob Hayes advised that the Maxwell Solar Project Environmental Impact Statement was placed on public exhibition in December 2019 and closed in February 2020. Rob Hayes indicated two public submissions had been received which were in support of the project. Thirteen submissions had been received from public authorities. No objections were received. Maxwell Solar are currently preparing a response to submissions.

9. Environmental Performance and Management plans

Donna McLaughlin noted that the revised Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan (SCMP) was approved by DPIE on 18 February 2020. A spontaneous combustion specialist attended site to assess and provide input into the revised SCMP which was updated to reflect the change of ownership, current operations and recent capping work that had been undertaken on site.

Mark Bowditch asked if Malabar were aware of what methods Mt Arthur Coal (MAC) were using to manage spontaneous combustion along the joint boundary between the two sites.

Rob Hayes explained there is no active spontaneous combustion on the boundary between Malabar and MAC however joint thermal flyovers had been undertaken previously. Donna McLaughlin explained that there would be communication between Malabar and MAC if there were any issues.

Donna McLaughlin noted the revised Water Management Plan (WMP) was approved by DPIE Water on 18 February 2020. The revised WMP was updated to reflect the change of ownership, current operations and revised water monitoring locations.

Donna McLaughlin noted the Flora and Fauna Management Plan was submitted to DPIE on 7 February 2020. Donna McLaughlin noted the Environmental Monitoring Program was submitted to DPIE on 21 February 2020 to reflect in the revised WMP.

Donna McLaughlin explained that a new Mining Operations Plan was being developed for FY21 and FY22 and include the following rehabilitation activities:

- Tree planting in existing mine rehabilitation within the conceptual woodland corridor to increase species diversity and improve connectivity.
- The installation of nest boxes in suitable canopy trees to assist with fauna movement across the site.
- Cleaning out of existing contours on mine rehabilitation to improve water management and minimise erosion.
- Reseeding areas of existing rehabilitation where there has previously been poor vegetation establishment.
- Implementing a targeted weed management program across the site for high threat exotic weed species.

Mark Bowditch asked whether the nest boxes would be placed in existing trees. Donna McLaughlin noted that they would be.

Donna McLaughlin provided a rehabilitation update, noting that there are more than 700 hectares of rehabilitated pasture and woodland at the Maxwell Infrastructure site. Donna McLaughlin also noted that weed spraying (targeting prickly pear) had commenced.

There were twenty-four 24-hour average PM₁₀ results that exceeded impact assessment criteria during the December 2019 to February 2020. These were attributed to extraordinary regional dust and bushfire related events. Donna McLaughlin noted that a summary of the exceedance investigations would be sent out with the minutes.

10. Community

No complaints were received between December 2019 and February 2020.

Donna McLaughlin discussed community sponsorships and events including: The Great Cattle Dog Muster, Making Muswellbrook Program, Mt Arthur Wild Dog Association, Upper Hunter Show cattle events (now cancelled), Denman Sandy Hollow Junior Rugby League Football Club, Denman Rugby League Club, Hunter Coal Festival and the Upper Hunter Education Fund.

11. General Business

Peter Horder asked if the CCC would be replacing the position previously held by Gerrit de Boer. The CCC discussed advertising for a new position. Ron Baxter suggested advertising for a new position if the Maxwell Underground Project is approved. This was agreed upon by the CCC members.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next CCC meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 9 am.

13. Meeting Close

Donna McLaughlin thanked members for their participation and the meeting was closed at 10:30 am.