

Maxwell Infrastructure Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Time and date: 10.00am on Wednesday 13 March 2019

Location: Maxwell Infrastructure Meeting Room

Attendees: Jennifer Lecky (JL) – Chairperson
Gerrit DeBoer (GD) – Community Representative
Peter Horder (PH) – Community Representative
Rob Hayes (RH) – Malabar Coal
Rebecca Harcus (RMH) – Malabar Coal
Alex Todoroski (AT) – Air Quality Consultant
Linda Benson (LB) – minute taker for Malabar Coal

Apologies: Donna McLaughlin (DM) – Malabar Coal
Ron Baxter (RB) – Community Representative
Rob Halloran (BH) – 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 Underground Project	Rob Hayes
7	Update on the Maxwell Solar Project	Rob Hayes
8	Environmental performance and management plans	Donna McLaughlin
9	Air quality assessment for Maxwell Underground	Aleks Todoroski
10	Reports, submissions and correspondence	Chairperson
11	General business	Chairperson
12	Next meeting	Chairperson
13	Meeting close	Chairperson

1. Housekeeping and safety

RMH provided information on housekeeping and safety.

2. Welcome - attendees and apologies

Meeting opened at 10.05am.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

AT declared that he is the consultant engaged by Malabar Coal to undertake air quality modelling for the proposed Maxwell Underground project.

4. Confirm minutes from previous meeting

Minutes were accepted by GD and seconded by PH.

5. Actions from previous meeting

ACTION 1 - Once the air quality modelling was completed, the air quality specialist could present the findings to the CCC

Action is complete. Air quality specialist to present at the meeting today.

6. Update on the Maxwell Underground Project

RH presented on the progress of the underground project including that specialist studies were underway for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

JL asked who would be operating the underground mine. RH advised there was no committed strategy at this stage. JL then queried regarding Malabar Coal's experience in underground mining. RH noted company Directors' experience.

7. Update on the Maxwell Solar Project

RH presented the approval process to date and noted that SEARs were provided on the 8 March 2019 and that studies were underway for the EIS.

PH asked what noise would be generated by the project. RH advised noise impacts during construction and operations were likely to be minimal.

GD questioned transport and entry to the solar site. RH advised that a transport study will be completed and access to the site would be via the main gate on Thomas Mitchell Drive.

PH asked if the power generated by the solar panels would be used by the site. RH confirmed that this has not yet been determined, but the panels would be connected to the main grid. It was noted that the solar project would generate more electricity than the mine site would consume.

GD inquired how long the project would take to construct. RH advised that a 12-month construction phase is expected.

8. Environmental Performance and Management plans

RMH advised that the Blast Management Plan was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in January. Hard copies were available for any attendees to take with them.

RMH provided copies of the Environmental Management Strategy that is currently under review. Attendees were requested to take a copy home to review and provide any comments by 10 April

2019. It was noted that any CCC members not present will have a copy of the document sent to them.

RMH provided a rehabilitation update and reported on the introduction of cattle on rehabilitated pasture.

RMH noted four elevated 24-hour average PM₁₀ results were recorded during December 2018 through to February 2019. Each occurrence was investigated, and it was found on each day that predominant winds were not from the direction of operations. UHAQMN results were also high on these days, indicating regional dust events.

GD enquired about dust in the area on Monday 18 February 2019. RMH noted that one complaint had been received for that day via the DPE however the complaint was not specific to Maxwell Infrastructure but referred to all mines in Muswellbrook area. RMH noted that Maxwell Infrastructure provided information to DPE on air quality monitoring and operations for this day. DPE confirmed that no non-compliance was identified.

GD noted that around 12.30pm on this day he saw a large dust cloud over Muswellbrook and that it was very dusty and windy at his house. GD noted that he was the one that had lodged the complaint with DPE. GD noted that he had received a verbal response back from DPE that all mines were working under their limits however he was yet to receive a response in writing.

PH noted that dust in the area now appears worst then in the past.

GD noted that he has replaced three filter cartridges since Malabar installed a water filtration device at his house.

JL asked if Maxwell Infrastructure had wind roses for February. RMH advised that they did not, however, one could be prepared if required.

PH enquired about operations. RH advised that all trucking is being used to cap rehabilitation.

GD noted that he does not think Maxwell Infrastructure's rehabilitation operations are causing the dust issues, PH seconded comment.

RMH discussed community sponsorships and RH provided information on the Merton Vineyard.

9. Air Quality

AT introduced himself and informed the CCC that he was completing air quality modelling for the Maxwell Underground Project. He stated his experience in the industry and his 28 years' experience with air quality.

AT presented on particulate matter, local air quality monitoring, air quality modelling and relatively low indicative emissions that would be generated by the Maxwell Underground Project.

During the presentation the following items were raised:

- GD enquired if coal would be trucked 24 hours a day. RH advised that coal is expected to be transported by conveyor in year 4. Prior to this, trucks would be used in daylight hours only in year 1, progressing to 24 hours a day towards end of year 2 or in year 3.
- GD asked if trains would be loaded 24 hours a day. RH confirmed that they would be. GD & PH both commented about noise in the past from trains being loaded.

- JL asked how many trains would be loaded per day and how long each would take. RH noted that each train might take 3 or 4 hours and that if capacity was ever reached it would equate to an average of about 2 trains per day over a year. Maxwell would work with Mt Arthur Coal to ensure that the train limits of the rail spur were not exceeded.
- JL raised concerns about PM_{2.5} emissions from wood heaters in Muswellbrook. AT confirmed that previous studies had shown that wood heaters were a significant source of PM_{2.5} in Muswellbrook.
- GD asked whether local monitors would have picked up on dust on 18 February. AT indicated that real-time monitors would record general dust levels but smaller events, such as dust from a blast, could sometimes be missed. Information was not available to make specific comments on the day of the concern.
- GD and PH commented on poor industry practices and regulator response in the past. It was noted that industry practices had improved but the scale and number of open cut mining operations contributed to current elevated dust levels.

10. Reports, Submissions and Correspondence

None.

11. General Business

RH advised that Maxwell Infrastructure had been approached by Aurizon with a proposal to store trains on the rail loop. Maxwell Infrastructure have agreed to Aurizon's proposal. RH noted that trains will not be left running idle. RH noted that some minor track maintenance work is required prior to trains being able to be stored.

RMH provided an update on the water discharge incident that occurred in October 2018 and was reported to the CCC in last meeting. RH noted that with ongoing drought conditions, Malabar Coal identified a parcel of land at the Maxwell Infrastructure site to stock with cattle. The initiative required fencing of an area of pasture mine rehabilitation, selection of a grazier, procurement of cattle yards and filling a dam with stock water. Unfortunately, due to human error water that was being pumped to the dam for stock water overflowed and spilled onto adjacent grazing land owned by AGL Macquarie.

The incident was investigated by the EPA and the EPA have since issued Malabar with a fine for contravening condition O2.1 of our Environment Protection Licence by not operating the pump in a proper and efficient manner. The EPA have stated that 'Fortunately, on this occasion there is no evidence of harm to the creek environment'.

As discussed last meeting, several measures have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again. Malabar Coal takes its compliance and environmental obligations very seriously and is committed to assessing and managing the risks associated with its operations to prevent any future events.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next CCC meeting would be held on Wed 12th June 2019 at 10am (prior to the Joint CCC commencing at 11am)

13. Meeting Close

JL thanked members for their participation and the meeting was closed at 11.49am.