

**SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE
MERTON VINEYARD DENMAN
ON WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2020 AT 5.30PM**

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
	Wayne Seabrook (WS)*	Spur Hill Management Pty Ltd
	Kate Kelleher (KK)*	Mining, Exploration & Geoscience (Department of Regional NSW)
	Cr Stephen Ward (SW)*	Muswellbrook Shire Council
	Noel Downs (ND)*	Group Representative - Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
	Donna McLaughlin (DM)	Manager Health, Safety, Environment & Community – Malabar Coal
	Brett Keeping (BK)	Group Representative - Vignerons & Vineyards
	John Sowter (JS)	Community Representative
	Fiona Webber (FW)	Community Representative
	Susan Pickersgill (SP)	Community Representative
	Tim Wolfgang	Community Representative
APOLOGIES	Les Jones (LJ)	Community Representative
	Aaron Moon (AM)	Community Representative
IN ATTENDANCE	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Minute Taker
WELCOME	The meeting was opened at 5.35pm with the Chair welcoming all attendees and introducing those present in the meeting room and those participating via Zoom (indicated by * above).	
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The Chair advised that there has been no change to her usual declaration appointed by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade to chair this meeting.	No amendments to previously stated declarations from CCC members present.
CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	The minutes of the previous meeting of 12 February 2020 were confirmed.	Moved: BK Seconded: JS
BUSINESS ARISING	Action Item from 12/2/20: 1 Send Minister Stokes media release on IPC to CCC. (Complete 13/2/20) WS advised that Spur Hill EL7429 was renewed on 9/7/20. No other business arising	
CORRESPONDENCE	No discussion.	Emailed with Meeting Notice & Agenda on 15/7/2020.
PRESENTATION ON SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT & MAXWELL	WS & DM conducted the Malabar presentation: Renewal of EL7429 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for renewal of EL7429 for a further 5 years was lodged in October 2019 with Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) (formerly the Division of Resources and Geoscience). The future exploration program is designed to enhance 	Copy of presentation attached.

	<p>the understanding of the geological interface between EL7429 (Spur Hill) and EL5460 (Maxwell).</p> <p>Maxwell Infrastructure Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 30ha of rehabilitation complete in 2020. • Completed an autumn weed spraying program. • Completed an autumn tree planting program. An additional 40,000 trees are proposed to be planted in October. • Undertaken dog baiting and trapping on site and on buffer land. • There are now more than 800ha of rehabilitated pasture and woodland. • BK enquired whether the rehabilitation works had survived the recent rain. DM responded yes. <p>Maxwell Underground Project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS advised that they are waiting for DPIE to complete its assessment report. Whilst he did not wish to speculate, it is hoped that the report will be finalised with a recommendation and draft development consent conditions to the Minister, Rob Stokes for referral to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). • The IPC is on a 12 week time frame, so if the application is put before the IPC by the end of August, it is possible that a determination may be made by the end of 2020, however, this is out of Malabar's control. • FW enquired whether the COVID pandemic would cause delays in the process. WS responded that he wasn't sure, however, DPIE staff were working from home, which may have resulted in some efficiencies. Further, that he hoped that the government would fast track the application, as it is an employment generating project. • BK asked whether the 12 week time frame included the public meeting; with WS responding yes. Advising that Minister Stokes had placed the 12 week time frame for the IPC to determine the application. The IPC will advertise as soon as notified of the application's referral, advising when the public meeting will take place. As is the case with most meetings conducted during COVID – the meetings will be via video-conferencing. • WS advised that when the assessment report is complete and referred to the IPC, he will forward it through to CCC members. <p>Maxwell Underground Project Drilling and Geotech Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malabar has commenced a drilling and geotechnical program on EL5460. • The program includes drilling to collect data on the top and bottom of the proposed drift location and test pits to understand geotechnical parameters for the mine entry area. 	<p>Action: Forward report to members when referred to IPC.</p>
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Maxwell Solar Farm Approval Process

- Malabar has submitted a development application for the Maxwell Solar Farm.
- The solar farm will occupy approximately 105ha of previously rehabilitated areas.
- The EIS & DA were lodged in December 2019 and closed for submissions on 3 February 2020. Currently in the “assessment” phase and waiting for a determination.
- BK enquired whether the application was with Muswellbrook Shire Council. WS confirmed that it was a State Significant Development and therefore with DPIE for assessment.
- WS is hopeful for an approval next month. Malabar will commence working on the connection agreements with AusGrid, etc after the approval has been issued.

COMMUNITY**Martindale Public School**

- Malabar donated gift bags to every student at Martindale Public School during the COVID-19 restrictions in May 2020.
- The bags were full of fun things like bubbles, colouring in books, pencils, drink bottles and much more.

Calvary Muswellbrook

- During June 2020, Malabar donated three large hampers and flowers to the residents at Calvary Muswellbrook who were experiencing reduced visits from relatives during the COVID-19 restrictions.
- The residents received cards, CD's, DVD's, board games, puzzles, handcraft activities, personal care products and writing sets.

St James' Yarning Circle

- During the school holidays, Malabar installed a yarning circle for the children at St James Primary School in Muswellbrook.
- The use of the yarning circle is an important process within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The Yarning Circle has been used for centuries to learn from a collective group, building respectful relationships and to preserve and pass on cultural knowledge.

Mental Health First Aid

- Malabar has partnered with not-for-profit organisation “Where There’s a Will (WTAW)” to provide youth mental health first aid training in Muswellbrook.
- The training, will be run on the 1st and 2nd of August, is open to everyone, including parents, sports coaches, teachers and youth workers from the Upper Hunter.
- The cost of this course is fully funded by Malabar.
- A link was provided in the presentation:
<http://muswellbrookymhfa.rsvpify.com/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ND requested that a copy of this flyer be provided to him. • Discussions from members on the demise of the local newspapers in print form. • ND advised that the Hunter Valley Times is a new newspaper and has reasonable rates for advertising. <p>Air Quality Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM presented the Maxwell Infrastructure PM₁₀ TEOM data, which provided long term tracking data and results of 24 hour averages. • DM noted that there were no exceedances. • BK enquired whether the spikes were influenced by smoke from bush fires. DM indicated that the smoke had impacted the results, stating that whilst they are not an operating mine, all spikes were still investigated. <p>Complaints Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No complaints registered in this reporting period. • Zero complaints for the 2020 calendar year. 	<p>Action: Complete – emailed 30/7/20.</p>
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KK advised that DRG is now Mining, Exploration & Geoscience, which is under the Department of Regional NSW (not DPIE). • BK commented on the difficulty in communicating with the broader community without the Denman News and Muswellbrook Chronicle. • SP advised that updates on the Denman community are available electronically via a Facebook page titled 'Denman District eNews' which is run by Dexter Burkill. • BK noted when this CCC commenced it was about the Spur Hill project; now it is more around Muswellbrook. How do people know who to contact? • WS responded that the old Drayton CCC, (re-named Maxwell Infrastructure CCC), is still operating which captures the Maxwell project. There is also a separate Antiene CCC jointed with HVEC (BHP) in regard to the rail spur. It is hoped that if approval is granted, Malabar would be able to make the community consultation process more efficient by running less CCCs. It would be ideal to combine the Spur Hill and Maxwell CCCs. • KK commented that the merged CCCs would need to continue to provide communication about EL 7429. MMH advised that she would comment on this item at the end of General Business. • SW advised that the Hunter Valley Times has replaced the Muswellbrook Chronicle and the Singleton Argus. • ND recommended that Malabar provide information to Muswellbrook, Denman & Sandy Hollow community pages. Commenting that if Council imposed an additional \$100 levy on everyone's rates each year, that this would be enough funding to support a decent newspaper with an Editor and staff. • WS stated that Malabar will be producing newsletters 	

	<p>more regularly and also would encourage the community to view the project website for up to date information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP asked WS whether he was aware of the new subdivision in Almond Street, Denman and wondered if it was associated with providing housing for potential workers. WS commented that he was unaware of the development. MMH recommended that SP make enquiries with Muswellbrook Shire Council. • MMH advised that she would be preparing a report for the Minister's consideration regarding the future of this CCC. This CCC is a sunset committee and expires in September 2020. The Chair will write to Minister John Barilaro and ask to extend the term of this committee until a decision is made on the Maxwell Project (expected December 2020/January 2021). The objects of the Ministerial Charter and DPIE guidelines for community consultation are the same. MMH acknowledged that members are volunteers and this committee have been excellent representatives of their community, taking on the information from the company and making suggestions. MMH advised that she would make the recommendation on that basis. It will be the Department's call on whether the CCCs will be merged or whether recruitment would commence to start afresh. If this occurred, current members could re-apply. MMH sought members' feedback with no objections received. Most stating that it made common sense to proceed this way. • In any event, the CCC is still required as part of the recently renewed EL and therefore this committee would continue until a determination is made on the Maxwell Project and the possible merging of the CCCs. 	
NEXT MEETING	It was proposed that the next meeting of the CCC take place at Merton Vineyard, Denman on Wednesday 14 October 2020 commencing at 5.30pm.	

Meeting closed at 6.15pm with MMH thanking all members for their participation.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Forward project assessment report to CCC members when referred to IPC	WS/MMH
2	Email Mental Health Flyer to ND	DM- completed 30/7/20