

**SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE
MERTON VINEYARD DENMAN
ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2019 AT 5.30PM**

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
	Wayne Seabrook (WS)	Spur Hill Management Pty Ltd (SHM)
	Emma Prince (EP)	Division of Resources & Geoscience
	Donna McLaughlin (DM)	Manager Environment & Community – Malabar Coal
	Brett Keeping (BK)	Group Representative - Vignerons & Vineyards
	John Sowter (JS)	Community Representative
	Craig Milton (CM)	NSW Mining (<i>invited guest</i>)
APOLOGIES	Cr Stephen Ward (SW)	Muswellbrook Shire Council
	Tim Wolfgang (TW)	Community Representative
	Noel Downs (ND)	Group Representative - Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
	Aaron Moon (AM)	Community Representative
	Fiona Webber (FW)	Community Representative
	Susan Pickersgill (SP)	Community Representative
	Les Jones (LJ)	Community Representative
IN ATTENDANCE	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Minute Taker

WELCOME	The meeting was opened at 5.40pm with the Chair welcoming all attendees. The Chair introduced Craig Milton, Policy Manager with NSW Minerals Council, presenting on the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) at this meeting.	
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The Chair advised that there has been no change to her usual declaration (appointed by the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, now Minister for Industry) to chair this meeting.	No amendments to previously stated declarations from CCC members present.
PRESENTATION BY NSW MINERALS COUNCIL	<p>CM commenced his presentation at 5.43pm providing background on the origin of the dialogue, which was established following community concern about cumulative impacts of mining. Following forums in 2010 the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue was established in 2011.</p> <p>CM explained the initial structure of the group was based around four thematic groups: Emissions & Health, Land Management, Water Quality and Social Impacts & Infrastructure.</p> <p>CM provided an overview of the projects undertaken since 2011 including grazing trials, school mine tours, rehabilitation progress reports and Hunter River Water Quality Study. A snapshot of the total use that mining activities have on the town water supply was provided via a fact sheet.</p> <p>BK commented on the expected water restrictions to be imposed in the region and whether the dialogue has any information.</p> <p>CM responded that he was aware that it had been raised with DPI-Water, however, was unaware of any details.</p> <p>Members also discussed the European Carp epidemic in the waterways, which is contributing to poor water quality.</p> <p>Recommending that the UHMD may be able to lobby</p>	A hard copy of the presentation was provided to all. See addendum to the minutes.

	<p>relevant government authorities to help fix the problem.</p> <p>CM distributed fact sheets produced by the UHMD on air quality, water balance, rehabilitation and the November 2018 newsletter.</p> <p>JS commented that there are community concerns about dust. Acknowledging that the mining industry does a good job with safety, etc, but with so much exposed open-cuts and open-cut waste dumps, dust is contributing to the problems already being encountered as a result of the drought and agricultural activities.</p> <p>DM advised that the EPA is conducting a Mining Forum next Friday with all local open cut mining companies to discuss air quality management within the current context of continuing drought.</p> <p>CM stated that the UHMD attend the Tocal Field Days, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shows to receive feedback from the community to assist in addressing concerns.</p> <p>Newsletters are produced twice per year, May and November by the UHMD, who also use social media to distribute factual information to the community. The group also works with local government and business chambers on how to engage with the mining sector in terms of procurement, etc. As well as connecting with environmental groups.</p> <p><i>CM left following his presentation. The usual business of the CCC continued.</i></p>	<p>MMH suggested quarterly air quality results for Maxwell could be included in Spur Hill presentations.</p>
CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	The minutes of the previous meeting of 27 February 2019 were unable to be confirmed, as community representatives present were not at the previous meeting.	Holdover for ratification at the next meeting.
BUSINESS ARISING	Maxwell EIS and Solar project update provided in the following presentation.	
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12/3/19 - Email from DM regarding an incident that occurred at the Maxwell Infrastructure site on the 29/10/18. <p><i>Item covered in presentation (see below).</i></p>	Emailed with Meeting Notice & Agenda on 8/5/19.
PRESENTATION ON SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT & MAXWELL	<p>WS & DM conducted the Malabar presentation:</p> <p>Spur Hill Seismic Survey Field work concluded late October 2018. Collected data is now being processed and interpreted.</p> <p>Maxwell Infrastructure Rehabilitation Rehabilitation of Maxwell Infrastructure is continuing with the shaping and placement of inert material, tree seeding as well as planting of tube stock. 50 head of cattle are grazing in the rehabilitated paddock with good results.</p> <p>Water discharge Incident DM provided a full explanation to members regarding the water discharge incident that occurred on 29/10/18, where mine water being pumped to a dam for stock water, overflowed and went onto adjacent grazing land owned by AGL. The incident was self-reported by Malabar and then investigated by DP&E and the EPA. The EPA issued a fine for not operating the pump in a proper and efficient manner.</p>	Copy of presentation attached.

	<p>DM explained the controls that have been put in place to prevent any future incident occurring.</p> <p>Maxwell Underground Project – EIS Preparation Specialist studies are well underway for the preparation of the EIS. Layouts for underground access, infrastructure and coal transport have been completed and underground layouts drafted.</p> <p>Maxwell Project – Social Impact Assessment (SIA) DM provided an update of the SIA undertaken by Dee Elliott (DE) for the Maxwell UG Project, identifying project benefits such as jobs, economic stimulus flow-on effects and community investment. As well as royalties and taxes to government authorities.</p> <p>Project impacts were also identified regarding cumulative effects on housing affordability, environment, traffic, demands on health and education services.</p> <p>Key strategies for mitigating issues were presented, inviting members of the community to make confidential contact with DE should they want to discuss and/or provide feedback. DM also noted that there will be further opportunities to provide feedback on the SIA as part of the EIS.</p> <p>Maxwell Solar Project – Approval Process The SEARS for the solar project were issued in May 2019. Malabar will be submitting a separate DA for this project. WS provided a briefing on the projects capacity and capabilities.</p> <p>Community Malabar continued to support the Upper Hunter Show and the Upper Hunter Education Fund, which provides financial support for tertiary education for local students. New sponsorships included the Denman Junior Cricket Club and the St Heliers Heavy Horse Field Days.</p> <p>Complaints Register No complaints have been registered for 2019, however, concerns raised by ND regarding the water discharge incident have been documented. DM discussed the matter with ND and explained that the event was conveyed to the Maxwell Infrastructure CCC.</p>	
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>	<p>BK raised concern with the impacts that workers coming from out of area are having on the local economy, reporting that 4 out of 7 hotels have closed in Muswellbrook, shops such as Big W are shutting and the volume of traffic on the Hunter Expressway as they leave the area. While mining is booming, rental properties are scarce in Muswellbrook. This demand on rental properties may be due to DIDO & FIFO workers. JS commented that it is impossible for people to get somewhere to rent in Muswellbrook at the moment.</p> <p>BK asked WS what systems will be in place for local people to obtain jobs with their projects.</p>	

	<p>WS responded as advised at earlier meetings, that it is the company's preference to use local people, including managing health and safety concerns. Malabar will be encouraging a local contractors' register. However, due to the specialised work required for underground mining, it will be necessary to bring experienced staff in and to build on this experience through training, providing opportunities for multi-generations working over the life of mine.</p> <p>WS also commented that traditional retail stores are being impacted by changes in purchasing behaviour, namely the internet.</p> <p>BK asked MMH what the requirements were for CCC members and their attendance at the meetings. MMH confirmed the importance of the community representatives' role on the CCC. Whilst this committee operates under the Minister's Charter, it generally functions under the Department of Planning guidelines for CCCs. As such, should members miss three consecutive meetings without apology, they may be replaced. However, this is not the case for this CCC, with regular attendance by most members.</p> <p>EP advised the CCC that the new Minister for the Mining Act is the Deputy Premier, the Hon. John Barilaro, Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade.</p> <p>The Department of Resources & Geosciences will continue to exist and operate.</p>	
NEXT MEETING	It was proposed that the next meeting of the CCC take place at Merton Vineyard, Denman on Wednesday 4 September 2019 commencing at 5.30pm.	

Meeting closed at 7.15pm with MMH thanking all members for their attendance.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Advise CCC when EIS is lodged with DPE	WS/MMH
2	Include air quality monitoring in future Spur Hill presentations	DM/WS