

**SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE  
MERTON VINEYARD DENMAN  
ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 5.30PM**

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

<b>WELCOME</b>	The meeting was opened at 5.30pm with the Chair welcoming all attendees.	
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	The Chair made her usual declaration (appointed by the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) and advised that she is no longer a Board member of the Mine Subsidence Board as it was dissolved on 31/12/18. This area is now administered by the NSW Subsidence Advisory Office.	<b>No amendments to previously stated declarations from CCC members present.</b>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	The minutes of the previous meeting of 3 October 2018 were confirmed.	<b>Moved: SP Seconded: LJ</b>
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	Nil.	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<p><b>Out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11/10/18 - MMH email on Maxwell Community Open Days to CCC members</li> <li>▪ 7/11/18 - MMH email attaching Maxwell Community Open Days flyer to CCC members.</li> </ul>	<b>Emailed with Meeting Notice &amp; Agenda on 13/2/19. No further discussion.</b>
<b>PRESENTATION ON PROJECT</b>	<p>BD conducted the presentation.</p> <p><b>Spur Hill Coking Coal Project Seismic Survey</b></p> <p>The work is aimed at the identification and definition of sub-surface geological structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The field component of the 2D seismic program was finished in late October 2018 without incident.</li> <li>• Data collected is now being interpreted to map any underground structures. This mapping will be checked against drill hole data. Feedback to date is that the data is</li> </ul>	<b>Copy of presentation attached.</b>

	<p>good. The dry season has helped the study.</p> <p><b>Drayton Open Cut Rehabilitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of the site is progressing well. There has been some improvements with the seed mix.</li> <li>• At the end of December 2019 there was over 120ha shaped and over 90 ha seeded.</li> <li>• Looking at the design to make the area more natural looking with drainage lines, etc.</li> <li>• Happy for some autumn rains to come along to help.</li> <li>• Recently, 50 Angus-Charolais cross steers were welcomed to the site. The steers are from Coolie Angus, a beef cattle business in the hills of Merriwa and are being managed on site by a local landholder from Bureen Road.</li> <li>• Having cattle on the rehabilitated pasture allows better control of grass species, promotes species diversity and reduces the risk of bushfire. It has been found that the rehabilitated pasture provides more feed for stock during the drier conditions than typical rural grazing land.</li> <li>• The 140 ha paddock has held up well given the dry conditions</li> <li>• Malabar will continue to monitor cattle health and pasture growth. The cattle will likely be removed after July and sent to market. ND asked if they were being supplementary fed – DM advised, no, just grazing on pastures.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Maxwell Underground Project – EIS preparation</b></p> <p>Planning on producing high quality coals with at least 75% of coal produced capable of being used in the steel manufacturing industry. The balance would be exported thermal coals suitable for the new generation High Efficiency, Low Emission (HELE) power generators.</p> <p>Underground mining means significant lower impacts than an open-cut mine.</p> <p>Layouts for underground access, infrastructure and coal transport completed.</p> <p>Specialist studies are underway for preparing the EIS.</p> <p>Currently looking at the potential noise impacts on properties that surround the project In terms of Social Impact – around 350 employees will be required for the project once in full production. The company has been</p>	
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	<p>speaking with Council and community groups on issues that may result from these additional employees.</p> <p>Transport and traffic are being investigated in terms of the effects in the road network including Thomas Mitchell Drive.</p> <p>FW enquired in relation to health studies for air quality and noise, both for the project and the cumulative effects. BD advised that the company is putting together base line information for the area. AM asked if another dust monitor would be placed in the township of Denman to obtain baseline data. BD advised that this maybe something to look at for Spur Hill, but not necessary for Maxwell, as it is 8 km away.</p> <p><b>Maxwell Solar Project – Approval Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping report submitted 19/12/18</li> <li>• NSW DP&amp;E to provide SEARS</li> <li>• Studies are underway for the EIS and have started looking at biodiversity, heritage, soil &amp; land capability, visual, transport, and noise (during construction).</li> <li>• It will be a 25MW project, which technically would power all the residential homes in Muswellbrook &amp; Singleton (10,000).</li> <li>• Also assessing the construction work force required for the solar project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <p>In the second half of 2018, Malabar donated and installed a sensory garden at Muswellbrook Public School.</p> <p>A sensory garden is a collection of plants and materials with different textures, shapes, colours, scents and heights and designed to stimulate the senses.</p> <p>Initial work was carried out for National Tree Day on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Following discussions with the teachers, Malabar worked closely to provide what would be needed to build the gardens (beds, mulch, plants, wind chimes, etc). Malabar assisted with planning, designing and executing the planting, including irrigation. The gardens are surrounded by paving, which helps with wheelchair access.</p> <p>A donation was made to Wildlife Aid to help fund rescues, veterinary care, specialised diets and rehabilitation of native wildlife in the Upper Hunter Valley, which was part of the National Threatened Species Day promotion.</p>	
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	<p>Wildlife Aid is a not-for-profit organisation of dedicated volunteers that donate their time and resources to rescue and rehabilitate native wildlife.</p> <p>Malabar Coal has recently sponsored Lauren Browne, a professional event rider who has competed successfully up to CCI 4 start level (an Olympic level) and hopes to be able to compete at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. The sponsorship will go towards covering Lauren's entry fees throughout 2019.</p> <p>DM advised that the company will also be sponsoring the St Heliers Heavy Horse Field Days and several cattle events at the Upper Hunter Show. More information will be provided at the next CCC meeting.</p> <p>SW enquired about local sponsorship for the Denman community with DM advising that they are gold sponsors of the Denman Cricket Club and sponsor both the junior and senior Rugby League Clubs.</p> <p><b>Merton Vineyard &amp; Small Forest</b></p> <p>The Merton vineyard produced a record crop with the grapes being keenly sought after because of their high quality. Small Forest continues to be rewarded for their hard work including another medal for their 2014 Shiraz (gold).</p> <p><b>Complaints Register</b></p> <p>No complaints registered in 2018 and none this year.</p>	
<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	<p>TW commented on the recent Land &amp; Environment Court decision regarding the Rocky Hill mine in Gloucester, partially on the grounds of global warming and climate change. He asked whether Malabar thought this decision had ramifications on its project. BD advised that the impact is unknown at this stage; stating that Rocky Hill was an open cut mine, so climate change wasn't the only reason.</p> <p>LJ commented that their needs to be a balance between water and the environment to make the river sustainable for all and help farmers.</p> <p>SP asked if there was a start-up date. BD advised that they hope to lodge the EIS in June 2019, with the best case scenario for assessment and approval being 12-18 months. Then 2 years to get the long wall going.</p> <p>LJ commented that not all employees could be sourced from the Denman area as underground</p>	

	<p>mining was a specialised field. BD explained that whilst Malabar will need a core group of underground miners Malabar will also be training people with no previous underground mining experience.</p> <p>ND advised of problems in Muswellbrook where people have local addresses in town, so have gained employment, but are only there Monday to Thursday and leave the area. This has forced house and rentals prices up. He enquired if there was a way to ensure the community that employees would be local; perhaps seeking proof of residence or references from previous employees. BD employee location will be considered in the employee selection process.</p> <p>SP asked what type of education locals can study to gain employment with the mine. BD suggested that there will be a wide range of roles to be filled, operators plus more specialised roles including Mining Engineering, Electrical Engineers, electricians, mechanical trades, wash plant operators, environmental specialists, maintenance planners, accountants and commercial roles etc.</p> <p>ND asked if the aboriginal heritage assessment field work has been carried out. BD advised that it had been sent out. ND to check with his organisation.</p>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	It was proposed that the next meeting of the CCC take place at Merton Vineyard, Denman on Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019 commencing at 5.30pm.	

***Meeting closed at 6.26pm with MMH thanking all members for their attendance.***

**ACTION ITEMS - Nil.**