

MAXWELL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 June 2023

Via Zoom * & in attendance at the Maxwell Boardroom No. 2

GROUP	NAME	ORGANISATION
CCC MEMBERS PRESENT	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Jennifer Lecky (JL)	Community Representative
	Peter Horder (PH)	Community Representative
	Brian Atfield (BA)	Community Representative
	Michael White (MW)	Coolmore / Godolphin Representative
	Kemer Edwards (KE)	On behalf of De-Anne Douglas; CEO Wanaruah LALC
	Theresa Folpp (TF)	Muswellbrook Shire Council
MAXWELL REPRESENTATIVES	James Johnson (JJ)	General Manager; Development & Operations
	Donna McLaughlin (DM)	Manager Health, Safety, Environment & Community
	Teagan Rutter (TR)	Community Administrator
	Michelle Eckersley (ME)	Environmental Coordinator
APOLOGIES	Susan Pickersgill (SP)	Community Representative
	Mark Bowditch (MB)	Community Representative
	Stephen Ward (SW)	Community Representative
	De-Anne Douglas (DD)	CEO Wanaruah LALC
	Alex Newton (AN)	Maxwell Environment & Approvals Coordinator
OTHER	Sarah Purser *	Independent Minute Taker
1. Welcome and Introductions	LA opened the meeting at 11.08 am welcoming all and introducing Brian Atfield (BA) as a new community representative from Jerry's Plains. LA advised that BA is on a few other CCC's in the district, LA noted that BA is a retired Farrier from the surrounding area and knows a lot of property owners. Acknowledgement of Country by LA.	LA
2. Apologies	Advised and recorded.	LA
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	<i>Standing Declarations</i> ; LA is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE), and engaged by Maxwell to Chair this CCC Meeting. MW is a consultant and representative for Coolmore and Godolphin. SP provides secretarial services as an external contractor to Maxwell.	LA
4. Confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting	The finalised Minutes of the previous CCC Meeting held 15 March 2023 were emailed to members 17 April 2023.	LA
5. Business Arising from the Meeting held 15 March 2023	LA confirmed the last Meeting held on 15 March 2023, included a briefing to members on the proposed modification to extend the operating life of the Antiene Rail Spur Development Consent. There were four action items from the 15 March 2023 meeting: Ongoing: Members to forward "Community Questions" 14 days in advance of scheduled meetings. ✓ LA confirmed no questions had been put forward but was happy to take questions during this meeting.	LA

	<p>Item: DM to discuss seed mixes with MB to see if the native vegetation could incorporate or trial bush tucker species.</p> <p>✓ <i>Completed</i>; DM confirmed that MB had sent through a species list and DM had caught up with MB. DM noted there were quite a few existing bush tucker species already in the seed mix being used at Maxwell and Maxwell are looking to include two more additional species as a result of the review. The current vegetation is not mature enough for harvest however this might be of potential down the track. TF asked if the species list could be shared with Council. DM agreed.</p> <p>ACTION 1: DM to share the bush tucker species list with Muswellbrook Shire Council.</p> <p>Item: DM to engage with neighbouring Horse Studs and Vineyards in relation to the Antiene Rail Modification</p> <p>✓ <i>Completed</i>; DM confirmed that she had reached out to Hollydene and neighbouring Horse Studs and whilst no meetings had been requested DM confirmed that offer is still available.</p> <p>Item: LA to send SW the Minutes for the Maxwell CCC Meeting held 7 December 2022.</p> <p>✓ <i>Completed</i>; by LA.</p>	
<p>6. Correspondence Report</p>	<p>4/4/23; Email to members with the draft minutes for review. 17/4/23; Email to members with the finalised minutes. 2/6/23; Email to members with agenda for today's meeting. 20/6/23; Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>7. Update on Spur Hill Project and Maxwell Mine James Johnson (JJ)</p>	<p>Spur Hill Exploration; Preparations for the 2D seismic programme that will occur in 2023 are progressing, JJ indicated on mapping where 2D seismic lines are planned. TF queried if the seismic process is like a photo or if it is drilling and JJ responded there is no drilling in the seismic program, he explained the process involves a series of geophones that are used on the ground for signal. Drilling locations will be confirmed on completion of this program and analysis of data. MW queried how the seismic signal is generated and transmitted and TF noted the word seismic makes the process sound large scale.</p> <p>ACTION 2: JJ to provide detail on how the seismic program is conducted and the method for generating and transmitting the seismic signal.</p> <p>Work completed: Archaeological and Ecological surveys completed with final reports expected within the next few weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seismic contractor and geophysicist consultant engaged. ➤ APO (previously ESF4) to be submitted once final reports received. ➤ Landowner liaison to take place once APO approved. 	<p>Slide 3</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planning for acquisition in Q3 of 2023; late August/early September. Acquisition is anticipated to take approximately four days with field preparations required prior to acquisition. ➤ Following on will be a lengthy analysis of data. 	
<p>8. Update on Maxwell Underground Mine James Johnson (JJ)</p>	<p>Schedule: Members were provided with a construction timetable for the period 2022 to 2026 onwards. Maxwell anticipates commencing longwall mining in early 2025. JJ provided an overview of works being conducted in Q2 2023, including but not limited to the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction continues on the mine entry area (MEA) and access road. ➤ Woodlands Hill Portals are nearing completion. ➤ Drift construction is anticipated to commence mid-July. ➤ Various levels of infrastructure are being constructed in the MEA, including overhead aerals. Power lines are constructed and await energisation upon delivery, set up and commissioning of the substation. ➤ Recommissioning of the CHPP has gone well. Maxwell loaded their first commissioning train between 20 and 21 June 2023. ➤ Workforce on-boarding commenced in March 2023 and is continuing. Whynot operation is still to be fully resourced. ➤ The building of the longwall is in progress. ➤ Maxwell are working with their design partner for the conveyor. <p>TF queried how Maxwell are going with sourcing people and materials, and if they had experienced any troubles. JJ confirmed the labour market is currently very tight, production crews for the bord and pillar are short of target. Maxwell have ongoing campaigns around attraction with a local focus e.g. a letter box drop was conducted locally over the last couple of weeks. This was to draw attention to roles offered directly with Maxwell PIM's Mining Group for the bord and pillar operation and Pybar Mining Services for the drift construction. Labour for the drift is well in hand with personnel coming on board to complete that work.</p> <p>LA liked the idea of the letter box drop as sometimes the closest people do not know what is on offer and the fliers could be passed on to family members and contacts. JJ confirmed that there will be a resourcing campaign focussing on the benefit of the two aspects of living and working the Upper Hunter as well as the opportunities of working with Maxwell.</p> <p>JJ confirmed there will also be continuing activity around; community information, road shows and advertising material to attract more people to site, he acknowledged that unemployment figures are low. LA noted that a lot of the workforce are still travelling long distance, either driving or flying in and out, and JJ confirmed that Maxwell are looking to have a stand set up at Newcastle Airport to provide</p>	<p>Slide 4</p>

<p>Mine Entry Area (MEA) Earthworks</p>	<p>information to those flying in and out. Maxwell are looking at what they can do to attract people to work locally, they also have a new to industry program that kicked off with PIM's, who are starting recruitment of employees to put through an eight week training program. This program provides opportunities to people that have not previously worked in underground, or that may have compatible skills. Maxwell continue to work on attracting experienced people as well.</p> <p>MEA Dams: JJ identified works in progress; Woodlands Hill Mining Drift Portal, surface structures and mine entry area. JJ advised there are two dams. The Mine Water Dam is the larger dam which is effectively a containment dam for any water runoff from disturbed areas and where all the water will go. Water from this dam will pumped to a treatment plant and is all but complete now. The Sediment Dam is a smaller one which then overflows to Mine Water Dam.</p> <p>Woodlands Hill Portal: JJ showed the visual difference of this Portal as at 8 March and 7 June 2023. JJ identified the bench levels around the edges, noting there will be some support to stabilise this for long term safe access. Maxwell drilled holes ready for blasting down to the floor area which was done without issue. In the next few weeks Maxwell will install portal culverts. In response to a query if Maxwell are expecting to do any more surface blasting JJ responded there is potential that blasting may be required for the construction of a dam in the portal area. It was confirmed that any blast would be relatively small.</p>	<p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p>
<p>9. Management Plans & Environmental Performance Donna McLaughlin (DM)</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Update: DM confirmed that Michelle Eckersley has come on board to look after mine rehabilitation, offsets and all land management activities. Maxwell are planting 21,000 plants in the Southern Offset Area and Southern Void. TF queried if weather conditions had forced Maxwell to make changes to any species and if they would change planting numbers if the forecast was for a continued dry spell. DM responded that hadn't occurred to date and confirmed that Maxwell conduct watering if it gets dry as they need to ensure what is planted can be maintained. DM noted that there had been some difficulty sourcing some plants due to local nurseries not producing the quantities that they have in the past (due to cooler weather conditions). Maxwell are committed to getting the right species and have had to reach out to a few different nurseries further afield to secure these. In response to a query about watering plantings, DM confirmed that Maxwell use clean water, as opposed to water from voids.</p> <p>Weed Management & Feral Animal Programs: Maxwell have conducted spraying of golden wreath wattle, boxthorn, pampas grass and spring rush. Five hectares of the invasive golden wreath wattle was mulched. Feral animal management programs are underway inclusive of pig trapping, dog baiting and targeted shooting.</p>	<p>Slide 8</p>

<p>Dust Monitoring</p>	<p>BA queried if pig trapping is conducted using bait stations and ME confirmed that is correct.</p> <p>Land Evolution Modelling:</p> <p>On 22 December 2022 Maxwell was issued with a notice from the Resource Regulator to engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake an assessment of the rehabilitated landform and surface water management structures to address any instability and erosion risks. Christopher Waygood, Principal Mine Closure Specialist for WSP was engaged by Maxwell to undertake and prepare the Assessment Report.</p> <p>DM advised that Christopher does a lot of design work for GeoFluv in the Hunter Valley. Christopher ran his evolution model over landforms and measures were comparable around areas of concern. Maxwell identified that some drop structures need to be widened and are having a detailed design prepared, Maxwell is committed to making those changes. Further testing of the rock material found that the rock was generally competent. MW queried if any of the engineering assumptions had been based on climate change going forward, whilst it is not known what that is going to be, there most likely will be more extreme climate conditions. DM noted that the initial modelling undertaken looked at vegetation versus non-vegetated landforms. Whilst this doesn't necessarily address climate change considerations it does provide a worst-case scenario.</p> <p>ACTION 3: DM to ascertain if Climate Change was taken into account for modelling.</p>	<p>Slide 9</p>
	<p>The Assessment Report proposes the following remedial works are undertaken to address areas of concern:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Diversion of surface water away from the North Void highwall and reduction in the volume of water reporting to the erosion point. 2) Re-directing the contour banks at the East Void to flow towards the rock structure to the west and re-shaping (where possible) and seeding the eroded slope. 3) Geomorphic landform designs have been generated for the older rehab area above the Southern Void and involves the removal and reconstruction of contour banks whilst minimising the impact on areas that are already well vegetated and stable. 	<p>Slide 10</p>
	<p>DM advised the Assessment Report has gone back to the Resources Regulator for their review.</p> <p>PM₁₀ at TEOM-1 (Maxwell Infrastructure) annual 24 hour average trending below criteria, results for 8 May 2023 were not captured due to monitoring calibration.</p>	<p>Slide 11</p>
	<p>PM_{2.5} at TEOM-1 (Maxwell Infrastructure) trending well below annual average, results for 8 May 2023 were not captured due to monitoring calibration.</p>	<p>Slide 12</p>

	<p>PM₁₀ at TEOM-2 (Plashett) DM noted there had been some gaps in monitoring and AN had advised these were due to an air conditioning failure, that subsequently led to monitor failure. The air conditioning unit was replaced 5 June 2023.</p> <p>PM_{2.5} at TEOM-2 (Plashett) All measurements were significantly below the 24 hour and annual impact assessment criteria.</p>	<p>Slide 13</p> <p>Slide 14</p>
<p>10. Community Update Donna McLaughlin (DM)</p>	<p>No complaints were received in the reporting period.</p> <p>Sponsorships & Donations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Muswellbrook High School NAIDOC League Tag Games, funding for sausage sizzle and providing all entertainment and activities for the event. ✓ Sponsorship of the Mt Arthur Wild Dog Association – Bounty Incentive Program. ✓ Donated for the MCCI - Great Cattle Dog Muster event. ✓ Muswellbrook South Public School – Green Team. Providing and assisting with planting fruit trees, topping up worm farms, and filling two garden beds. ✓ Jerry’s Plains Public School – School Camp in November. Covered 80% of each students cost to attend camp. <p>LA queried if JL had any statistics on how well the Cattle Muster had gone in 2022 and JL responded that despite terrible weather conditions it had been a wonderful day with thousands of people in attendance. LA felt the Great Cattle Dog Muster would be a positive event for the area.</p>	<p>Slide 16</p> <p>Slide 17</p>
<p>11. Community Questions</p>	<p>LA called for any questions from the CCC and DM asked that members please reach out to her or JJ should they have any queries relating to the proposed modification to extend the operating life of the Antiene Rail Spur Development Consent.</p> <p>TF queried where the material goes from the excavation at the portal and would this be into any of those voids. JJ responded that material is getting used as part of construction in the MEA and DM added that if there is additional material this would go to the southern void but would likely be a relatively small amount.</p> <p>TF had wondered if there had been any thinking about filling up the voids down the track and JJ confirmed that would remain an opportunity, noting the potential for Spur Hill if approved. DM noted there is a final conceptual landform in the current Maxwell approval. As Spur Hill is not yet approved it would just be an option at this stage.</p> <p>DM provided an overview of the works to be conducted to reach the final landform. TF queried if tailings were being placed in the eastern void and DM confirmed that is correct. TF queried if those works won't prohibit this being potentially filled down the track and DM advised that is correct.</p>	

	JL asked if members were aware of the Melt in Muswellbrook that do 3D printing, she hopes that all will use this service. TF added that there are quite a lot of tools there to use and that the fellow operating it is a wealth of knowledge.	
12. General Business CCC Member Feedback	<p>LA called for any general business and MW queried the timing for the Stage 2 Water Management Plan.</p> <p>DM responded that Maxwell has not commenced this as yet but will come back with the timing and engage with the studs when they commence preparing the plan. MW felt the target had been for the end of this calendar year and DM confirmed she will check, acknowledging that MW wants the Stage 2 Water Management Plan kept on the list.</p> <p>ACTION 4: DM to advise of timing for Stage 2 Water Management Plan.</p> <p>LA closed the meeting at 11.46 am thanking all for their attendance.</p>	
NEXT MEETINGS At the Maxwell Infrastructure Meeting Room & Via Zoom	<p>13 September 2023 11.00 to 12.00 noon Maxwell CCC</p> <p>15 November 2023 10.30 to 11.00 a.m. Joint Maxwell & Mt Arthur CCC (JCCC) 11.00 to 12.00 noon Maxwell CCC</p>	LA

ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Ongoing	Members to forward "Community Questions" 14 days in advance of scheduled meetings.	Community Representatives
1	Share the bush tucker species list with Muswellbrook Shire Council.	DM
2	Provide detail on how the seismic program is conducted and the method for generating and transmitting the seismic signal.	JJ
3	Ascertain if Climate Change was taken into account for modelling.	DM
4	Advise of timing for Stage 2 Water Management Plan.	DM