



WATERMARK COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting No 6

Date: Wednesday 11 March 2020
Time: 10.00am
Location: Shenhua Conference Room, Gunnedah

Attendance: Independent Chairperson
Garry West

Council Representative
Councillor Andrew Hope (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)

Community Members
Mark Kesby (Environment Representative)
Patricia Duddy
Malcolm Heath
Ron Fuller

Shenhua Watermark Representatives
Cornelis Vlok (Project Manager)
Debbie Watson (Community Liaison Officer)
John Trotter (Environment Manager)
Chris Walker (Property Manager)

Meeting Opened: 10.00am

1. Opening of Meeting by the Chairperson

The Chair declared the meeting open and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. Apologies

Councillor Murray O'Keefe (Gunnedah Shire Council)
Greg Griffiths (Indigenous Representative)

3. Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Interests

The Chair asked if there were any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests to declare.
None were declared.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – 11 December 2019

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and any comments from the Committee were requested by the Chair.

- Actions – Item 1 the Chair noted that he had advised the Department of the change in the CCC committee. In regard to the attendance of Chris Walker the guidelines determine the composition of the membership but his attendance will be by invitation to answer questions that are raised by the Committee. All in favour.

5. Correspondence

Nil

**6. Shenhua Watermark Project Report
C Vlok (Project Manager)**

- Pre-construction was completed on-site on the 5 December 2019. A report was compiled and sent to the Department of which an acknowledgement of receipt has been received by Shenhua. The Company is of the view that it has prevented the consent from lapsing.
- The EL Drilling Program commenced early this year. There were 36 holes to be drilled and 30 have been completed to date. The remaining six holes to be completed by mid-April, weather permitting. The sealing and grouting have commenced and will be completed as drilling progresses then the survey and rehabilitation work will be undertaken.

J Trotter (Environment Manager)

- Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) – About twenty five management plans are to be completed of which approximately half require government approval. Of the plans that require government approval two have been approved already (Pre-construction Works Management Plan and Interim Koala Habitat Plan).

The other Management Plans requiring Government approval are in different stages of development:

- Air Quality Management Plan - Revision 4 has been submitted to the Department on 27 February 2020 and the Company is awaiting a response.
- Biodiversity Management Plan - Revision 3 is being reviewed by Shenhua and will be submitted this week or early next week.
- Blast Management Plan - Revision 3 was forwarded to Government on 10 March 2020.
- Traffic Management Plan - Revision 4 is being reviewed by Shenhua.
- Environmental Strategy – is being reviewed by Shenhua.
- Heritage Management Plan - Revision 4 was forwarded to Government on 19 February 2020 and the Company is awaiting the outcome.
- Koala Plan of Management - Revision 2 is undergoing internal review.
- Noise Management Plan - Revision 4 was forwarded to Government on 28 February 2020.
- Rehabilitation Management Plan – Revision 3 was submitted on 28 February 2020.
- Water Management Plan - Revision 2 is being reviewed by the Company and will be submitted to Government later this month or the following month.

The Chair asked if the Company is comfortable with the progress and C Vlok agreed that it was on track.

- M Kesby stated that he has read the minutes of the Koala Technical Working Group's (KWTWG) meeting held in September and suggested that the Committee read these minutes. He noted that there was a newly appointed consultant called Greencap. He asked if a new Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) had been submitted. John advised that the initial document is referred to as Revision 1 with the first 10 chapters completed by Greencap

and this was the version that was forwarded to nominated stakeholders (DPIE, Gunnedah Shire Council and the Koala Technical Working Group; DPIE in turn provided to BCD) for comment. Greencap is currently preparing Revision 2 (first half of the document taking into account comment received and the second half of the document) with input from the Company.

A meeting with KTWG is scheduled for 31 March 2020 but that will depend on the completion of the revision of the KPoM in sufficient time for the members to review prior to the meeting. The KTWG has reviewed the first initial document. It was noted that the KPoM is prepared in consultation with BCD.

M Heath asked if he could review the KPoM document. J Trotter advised that there is a process to follow and that the Committee can contact KTWG members to ask questions. The final approved document will be posted on the Company website and will be provided to the Committee at an appropriate meeting. It was noted that all Management Plans once approved are under continual review and updated as required.

P Duddy asked if the mine goes ahead how will the Company protect the Koala. C Vlok noted that the KTWG is a panel of highly qualified and experienced experts and the KPoM is being prepared by consultants with input from the KTWG, DPIE and BCD and we believe that the KPoM will address all concerns regarding the protection of Koalas.

C Vlok stated that if there are any issues regarding Koala CCC members can raise them with the KTWG members to address or to raise for discussion at the next KTWG meeting. J Trotter noted that the government has laid out the requirements in the Development Consent and the Chair noted that the Company is held accountable to those plans.

The Chair stated that to progress the issue the KTWG minutes are available on the Company website and suggested that the Committee read these. If there are any these can be raised at the next meeting CCC for the Company to respond.

- Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) – J Trotter noted that the difference between the RMP and other plans in regard to the CCC is that in accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 55 of SSD-4975, Shenhua must consult with the CCC in the preparation of the RMP.

It is anticipated that DPIE asks us to provide evidence that the Company has consulted with the CCC regarding the RMP. J Trotter tabled copies of the RMP – Revision 3 to the Committee to review. He noted that Revision 1 was provided to the CCC in March 2019 for comment. The comments from the CCC were provided to the consultant SLR for input into Revision 2. Revision 2 was provided to DPIE on 19 November 2019 at State and Federal government levels. Comments were received from the State Government but none from the Federal Government which is not unexpected as they had made previous comment. The Company is now preparing Revision 3 taking into account comments received from Revision 2 and this was forwarded to DPIE, Gunnedah Shire Council and DoEE for review on 17 February 2020.

The key changes between Revision 1 and 3 are:

- Reference to issued EPL

- Cross referencing the Biodiversity Management Plan, Koala Plan of Management, Heritage Management Plan and the Rehabilitation Management Plan.
- Introduction of additional wording around native fauna and Koala habitat.
- Departmental name changes eg OEH becoming BCD.
- Additional wording around native seed collection.
- Capping of carbonaceous material nominated to have minimum depth of 3m of inert material.
- Minor changes to Trigger Action Response Plan

M Heath asked about the process for seed collection. J Trotter gave a brief overview of the complicated process involved in native seed collection and noted that it is a revolving process depending on climate, environment, availability of seed and appropriate contractors with the required skills. Cr A Hope said a good example of rehabilitation is Werris Creek mine and that the self seeding process is now working and creating its own environment.

7. General Business

- R Fuller asked how many more exploration drill holes are left to complete? C Vlok replied that there were six bore holes left to finish which should be completed by the second week of April. R Fuller asked where they were located and why in that location? C Vlok advised that the drilling is for geological exploration to support the mine planning and development and for additional geotechnical and coal quality assessments. Drilling is to meet government requirements.

M Kesby asked if more drilling will be required to complete the mine plan and does this need to be done before the mine plan? C Vlok advised that four stages of drilling have been completed between 2009 and 2011 and this is Stage 5. Further drilling will be completed but it is not required prior to the ML application. Drilling will continue through the life of mine.

Discussion took place on the interception of water in regard to bore hole drilling. J Trotter advised that water is always found in the coal seams and we have a licence to remove that water within those seams present in an approved open cut pit during mining. The water in the coal seam is not the same water aquifer that is used for agriculture – it is a different geological basin. The bore holes are, on completion, grouted to prevent cross contamination of different coal seam aquifers. J Trotter noted that the mine's draw down model was accepted as part of the mine's approval process and following a subsequent challenge to the model, DPIE had commissioned its own independent expert to advise it. J Trotter further advised that the groundwater model would be subject to periodic review as would the Water Management Plan (and all other Environmental Management Plans) once approved.

Cr Hope advised that the Quipolly Creek issue in regard to lack of water for farmers was mainly due to the raising of the dam wall which reduced the flow of water within the creek.

In relation to Werris Creek mine, P Duddy raised the issue of flood waters being diverted due to the mine and was advised by Cr Hope that mines are designed so that excess water flows into the mine. This to ensure that in a major rain event excess water will not flow onto other properties.



8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:

- Wednesday, 10 June 2020 unless there no issues to raise then the meeting will be postponed at the determination of the Chair.

Further meetings to be held on:

- Wednesday, 9 September 2020
- Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Meeting Closed: 11.10am

Action Items

Item	Action	By Whom	Responsible Officer	Status
1	Chair to advise the Department of the changed composition of the CCC membership	Chairperson	Chairperson	Completed