



WATERMARK COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting No 4

Date: Wednesday 8 May 2019
Time: 10.00am
Location: Shenhua Conference Room, Gunnedah

Attendance: Independent Chairperson
Garry West

Council Representative
Councillor Andrew Hope (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)

Community Members
Ron Fuller
Mark Kesby (Environment Representative)
Greg Griffiths – arrived at 10.35am

Shenhua Watermark Representatives
Debbie Watson (Community Liaison Officer)
Gerry McDonald (Human Resources Manager)
John Trotter (Environment Manager)

Meeting Opened: 10.13am

1. Opening of Meeting by the Chairperson

The Chair declared the meeting open and thanked everyone for their attendance. He advised of the following apologies.

2. Apologies

Patricia Duddy, Malcolm Heath and Cr Murray O'Keefe.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Interests

The Chair asked if there were any new Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests to declare.

None were declared.

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes – 13 February 2019

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and comments requested. P Duddy had raised concerns on the recording of the comments of biodiversity offsets made by Cr O Hasler and that they needed to be expanded. The Chair stated that he regarded the comments raised by Cr O Hasler were from a council perspective regarding rates.

Actions - see Action Plan table below.

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. Shenhua Watermark Reports

J Trotter provided an update on the progress of the 24 Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) that are required under the Development Consent and Federal Approval. Prior to the mine commencing the Plans are required to be approved by different agencies. Each of the Plans are in different stages of development and some plans require consultation with stakeholders. These plans are progressing in parallel with each other.

He noted that there is a consultation meeting being held with EIS Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) on the Heritage Management Plan (HMP) on 9 May 2019. The RAPs are identified stakeholders regarding Aboriginal heritage. The Gunnedah & District Historical Society and other stakeholders have also been consulted with in context of historical or European heritage. A draft copy of the HMP has been sent to RAPs with a letter of invitation noting the purpose of the meeting is to provide them with the opportunity to make comment. These comments will then be considered in the preparation of the final plan for approval.

In regard to the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) the Chair asked when the relevant other Plans will be presented to the CCC. J Trotter advised that we are required to consult with DPE, OEHL, Council and CCC on the RMP. The Chair noted that it is difficult to assess the RMP if the other Plans linked to it are not available for the CCC to view. These included the Biodiversity Management Plan, Water Management Plan, Sediment Management Plan, Heritage Management Plan, Weed and Pest Management Plan and the Bush Fire Management Plan.

J Trotter advised that the RMP will not be approved by the Department until there is a Mining Lease (ML) in place. This requires the Company to make a payment to the NSW Government of \$200 million. The Company is still awaiting the outcome of the Section 10 appeal under the Federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act so this affects the Company's decision to apply for a ML.

J Trotter noted that the requirements for EMPs are part of the Conditions of Consent. At this point Shenhua has not taken up the Consent and hence the Consent Conditions have not taken force. The recent modification to the Consent (December 2018) to the Consent describes pre-construction work. Pre-construction work can be undertaken before the majority of EMPs have been approved – for those that require approval by a Government regulator.

J Trotter discussed the relationship between the RMP and the Mining Operations Plan (MOP). Currently an approved MOP is required before mining activities can commence. However, the requirement for a MOP comes from a ML condition. As the Company does not currently hold a ML, there is no current requirement for a MOP. Furthermore, the Division which requires a MOP – the Resources Regulator – is currently introducing the 'Rehabilitation Reform Project' under which a MOP is being superseded by a RMP. The Draft RMP provided to the CCC for consultation was prepared with the objective of satisfying both the requirement for a RMP as detailed in the Development Consent but also satisfying the obligations detailed as part of the Rehabilitation Reform Project (refer '*Code of Practice: Rehabilitation Management Plan for Large Mines, July 2018*').

The Chair noted that the CCC is a key committee that brings informed people together to monitor the Project and adds to the transparency of the Project. He noted that it is difficult to make informed decisions without the appropriate information being supplied to the CCC.

The Company will need to make a decision on whether the draft plans nominated by the Chair (see below) will be tabled for the CCC to view.

J Trotter advised that the Water Management Plan is in preparation stage. The Koala Plan of Management is more difficult in that a Koala Technical Working Group (KTWG) needed to be developed under a Development Consent requirement and two meetings of the KTWG have been held since the Group was formed. The consultant to be engaged by the Company to prepare the plan has to be determined by consultation with the KTWG, Council and OEH and accepted by DPE.

G Griffiths noted that an Aboriginal representative should be included on the KTWG as this is an important issue for them.

The series of other EMPs were agreed to by the Company as part of the Statement of Commitments and are internal documents that do not require external approval. All EMPs are dynamic documents that will be modified on a periodic basis and will be placed on the Company's website so that the community can access, read and make comment upon them.

The Company is hosting a site visit which is being held next week with the Federal Department Environment and Energy (Water, Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Plan approvals), DPE, OEH, DPI Lands and Water, and the Resource Regulator to familiarise them with the site. This will assist them understanding the aspects of the Management Plans and ultimately with the approval of these Plans.

M Kesby enquired who had developed and reviewed the Rehabilitation Management Plan. J Trotter noted that three government agencies will be reviewing the draft plan which has been provided for consultation. He stated that SLR (with an earlier connection to Global Soils) prepared the document and drew upon the Conditions of Consent which were then referenced back to the EIS.

Rehabilitation Management Plan Feedback

The Chair asked for any comments on the RMP. A general discussion was held and individuals have provided their comments to the Company.

- The Chair referenced the Plans that were noted in the RMP and how these plans linked to the RMP. He raised concerns regarding the CCC being able to view them and he will discuss this with the Department (DPE).
- M Kesby tabled comments which provided some local knowledge of the area. He felt that some recommendations in the RMP were not appropriate for this area.
- G Griffiths noted that trees need to be those that are local to the area and case studies on understory's need to be investigated. The Plans are a positive thing for the Community as they become a regulated document that has to be abided by so long as the document is developed correctly.
- Cr Hope noted that Liverpool Plains Shire Council staff had reviewed the Plan and had no issues with it.

EL Drilling

- J Trotter advised that Shenhua is proposing to commence further EL drilling in 2019 which is in the tender process at the moment. The main purpose is for coal structure and quality. There will be future requirements for installing water monitoring bores and possible drilling for water in the hard rock. Any water found, before it could be used by the mine, would require a lengthy water licensing process.

- Cr Hope noted that Council has a water allocation that can be commercially sold on a casual basis. Is there an opportunity for Shenhua to gain excess water from GSC? J Trotter stated that it would be difficult as a pipeline would need to be installed. Only water from the same groundwater source could be used without building a pipeline to deliver the water to the mine.

7. General Business

- R Fuller noted the recent water issues that were in the newspaper and the conflicting articles. G McDonald suggested that the UNSW research is legitimate research which produced a new theory about how much water may be released from an enclosed aquifer. This 2018 published research may apply to the coal seam water on the lease but does not apply to the Breeza Plains aquifer that is used by farmers and graziers. The coal water is of poor quality and could only have a use on site for watering roads etc. In time the theory may prove to be accurate or need adjustment but it does not impact on the external water impacts of the mine. The mine's opponents have taken an opportunity of the research to question the mine which is legitimate from their point of view and we have clarified in response. The Chair noted that the Plans are always adaptive to changes that occur during the life of the mine and people will always try to bring these issues to light.
- The Chair noted an article from the newspaper which stated that contact details of CCC members are to be listed on the Company's website. He stated that approval needs to be sought from the members before they can be uploaded to the website.
 - The Chair – approved name, mobile phone and email
 - Cr Andrew Hope - approved name and mobile phone
 - Ron Fuller - approved name and home phone
 - Mark Kesby – approved name and mobile phone
 - Greg Griffiths – approved name and mobile

Approval from Patricia Duddy, Malcolm Heath and Cr Murray O'Keefe needs to be sought.

- Cr Hope asked if he could have clarification on the rumour about the 2020 deadline for commencing the mine. J Trotter advised that the Development Consent was issued in January 2015 and is valid for 5 yrs. The Consent lapses if the Development Consent is not 'triggered' before the five year anniversary of Development Consent grant (ie January 2020). The commencement of Development could include commencing the detailed topographical survey or geotechnical drilling before that date.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 14 August 2019 at 10.00am.

Meeting Closed:

Action Items

Item	Action	By Whom	Responsible Officer	Status
1	That the new CCC Guidelines be forwarded to Watermark CCC members.	Chairperson	Chairperson	Completed
2	The Buritja Traditional Custodians Aboriginal Corporation Breeza letter	Chairperson	Chairperson	Completed



	received by the Chair to be forwarded to Watermark CCC members for information.			
3	The response from Shenhua to the Buritja Traditional Custodians Aboriginal Corporation Breeza letter to be forwarded to Watermark CCC members for information.	Committee	Chairperson	Completed
4	Further information to be obtained regarding the changes to planning zone legislation.	Cr A Hope	Chairperson	Completed
5	The Company to make a decision on the CCC viewing draft Plans that are linked to the RMP.	Committee	J Trotter	
6	The Chair to contact the Department regarding the role of the CCC in the current environment and the viewing of Plans that are linked to the RMP.	Chairperson	Chairperson	
7	Need to gain permission from Patricia Duddy, Murray O'Keefe and Malcolm Heath for contact details to be added to the Company website.	D Watson	D Watson	