



ANGLO COAL (DRAYTON MANAGEMENT) PTY LIMITED  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
5:00- 7:00 pm  
Drayton Mine - Boardroom

**Type of meeting:** Quarterly Forum

**Minutes:** Brooke Lavis

**Attendants:**

Peter Horder (PH)	Jennifer Lecky (JL)	Brooke Lavis (BL)
Pam Simpson (PS)	Gerrit de Boer (GDB)	Craig Flemming (CF)
Craig Bates (CB)	Louise Roach (LR)	Peter Forbes (PF)
Daniel Sullivan (DS)	Matthew Frodshom (MF)	Clarence Robertson (CR)
Jason Fittler (JF)	Julia Pope (JP)	

**Apologies:** Ray Butchard, Ruth Horder

**1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES**

The chairperson welcomed attendees. Apologies were received and accepted. Meeting opened 5:05 pm.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None were declared.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – LAST MEETING (FEBRUARY 2010)**

Last meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Moved JL, seconded by LR. Accepted and carried.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

PS stated that the issue of dust at the Horder residence, arising from the last meeting is to be followed up with a CHP stockpile spray audit.

**5. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS PROPOSED TO BE RAISED**

No new issues for general business were added to the agenda.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## 7. REPORTS

A presentation was given by PS regarding Drayton environmental performance in the period since the last CCC meeting (Feb-Apr).

13 enquiries were received during the period. Of these, seven were recorded as complaints. The complaints received were related to blasting, dust and communication (DoP). One was not related to Drayton activities. Five were related to regional odour. The five odour complaints were received through the DECCW/OEH (Office of Environment and Heritage) environmental hotline. These complaints have been discussed with OEH and are believed to be coming from a single complainant located approximately 50km to the west of Drayton. They have therefore been recorded as regional issues and no further action has been required by OEH.

No blast exceedances have been recorded during the period however one exceedance occurred after the end of the period and will be discussed later in the meeting. Blasting results for the past 3 months were viewed.

The PM10 dust results from the TEOM (continuous monitor) were briefly discussed. No analysis against rainfall data has been made but low PM10 levels may correspond to periods of wet weather. JL asked where the TEOM is located and PS indicated on the map. The OEH Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network was also mentioned. There are 14 monitors to be brought online across the Hunter to operate 24/7. The data will be made available on a website for public information.

Barnowl (real time noise) monitoring data was viewed graphically for the past 12 month period.

Drayton dam levels in comparison with levels last month were viewed and discussed. Monitoring data of the groundwater (piezometer) level at Antiene was viewed and the waste recycling and disposal figures for the past 3 months were discussed briefly.

The increasing regulatory focus on mining and the implications for Drayton were discussed. PS spoke about the independent inspections by Department of Planning (DoP) and quarterly meetings with DoP being hosted by Drayton targeting specific issues including dust, spontaneous combustion and fume. JP mentioned that DoP are developing a fume protocol to be integrated into blast management plans which is to include the rating of fume on a scale similar to the Orica rating system. DoP are to meet with Orica and Dyno to discuss fume issues and management options.

PS told the meeting that the DoP independent assessment relating to complaints received from GDB will commence next week. A preliminary meeting with the consultant undertaking the work (SLR) occurred on Monday (16/5) and Drayton monitoring data requested by SLR for their investigation will be provided as soon as possible. Noise loggers will be installed for a period of time commencing Tuesday (24/5) next week. JP was invited to comment and declined. GDP was invited to comment and told the meeting that the independent assessment is a "joke" because Drayton knows when the assessment is being undertaken. PS stated that Drayton knows when the assessment will take place because we are required to provide information for the assessment. PS noted that the noise loggers are to be installed for a period of time which may amount to weeks and that this is expected to negate any possible bias of the data. CF asked GDB if he was concerned that the mine will change its management practices for the duration of the assessment and he replied in the affirmative. CF said that he thought it was unlikely that the mine has full control over noise emissions as GDB is implying. CF stated that there is only an impact when GDB is home and the mine is unaware of GDB's movements. CF also stated that GDB will know if the noise emissions

change and will be able to provide this information to the investigation team. PF stated that the mine will not be changing its practices. It will be “business as usual” and Drayton is not intending to “stack the results” but GDB is entitled to his opinion.

PS continued the environmental presentation.

The water discharge event discussed at the previous meeting was again discussed. The discharge from the Access Road Dam was self reported to OEH (then DECCW) and no environmental damage was expected to have occurred due to the water quality being similar to general surface water quality in the area. Sprays which caused the unplanned discharge have not been operated since the incident and Drayton are not intending to use them again. The outcome of the event was a (\$1500) Pollution Infringement Notice (PIN) from OEH.

There was an exceedance of EPL overpressure limits on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The blast resulted in a recorded level of 122dBL at the de Boer monitor. The incident was self reported to OEH and DoP. Written reports have been provided to both authorities. DoP has responded with an action for Drayton to video all blasts. OEH is yet to respond. No complaints were received as a result of the blast. PH questioned this point noting that he had made a complaint about a blast last week leaving a message for PS. PS confirmed that she had received the message but that the complaint had been regarding a different blast.

PS passed the meeting over to JF to give a presentation on the Drayton South project.

## **8. SITE UPDATE**

JF and DS (Hansen Bailey) gave an overview of the progression of plans for the Drayton South project. The Drayton South Coal Project April 2011 newsletter was given to meeting attendees.

DS told the meeting that the preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) has been submitted for approval. The submission will be assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979* and is currently in the “consultation phase” where scoping of issues occurs.

The project involves the construction and operation of an open cut and highwall mine extracting up to 7 million tonnes per annum “run of mine” (ROM) coal over a 26 year period.

The project will make use of existing workforce, equipment and infrastructure including CHP and rail load-out facility. A new parking area, workshop and office will be constructed at the Drayton South site. The project will also utilise existing Drayton voids for storage of tailings, reject and water. This is expected to optimise final landform and reduce closure liability.

The construction of a coal transport corridor between Drayton South and the existing Drayton Mine will be necessary with two options currently under investigation:

- An internal haul road; and
- An overland conveyor.

PH asked whether both conveyor and haul road would be needed. JF explained that the haul road is the preferred option as access for service vehicles would be needed for the site but both options are being considered.

The project plans include a realignment of Edderton Road. CF initiated further discussion on the realignment plans by asking where the planned realignment is. CF and GDB were given maps showing the realignment plans. CF asked how the plans fit together with the Mt Arthur Coal (MAC) realignment plans for the road. DS said that the two realignments are not likely

to overlap with the MAC plans affecting the road further to the north. The realignment work will include a surface upgrade to “all weather” in the affected section and works will conform to relevant Australian Standards for a 100km/hr speed limit. The road is currently considered to be in a dangerous state and the realigned section is expected to have a significantly improved safety standard than the currently existing road.

The land needed for the Drayton South project is owned by Anglo American except for a small area which is currently owned by Mt Arthur Coal (Hunter Valley Energy Coal Pty Limited) needed for the realignment of Edderton Rd.

There will be a transition period where Drayton and Drayton South will operate concurrently but the project is designed as a continuation of the current mining operation.

(LR left the meeting at approx. 5:45pm)

DS continued the presentation with Environmental and Social considerations of the Drayton South project.

Drayton South is based on a co-existent mine plan. A joint working party has been set up in consultation with the neighbouring horse studs (Darley and Coolmore). CF asked for clarification of the location of Coolmore stud and the meeting was shown the location of both studs on the conceptual plan.

The co-existent mine plan includes a visual bund to maintain visual amenity for the horse studs. The plan involves the retention of a ridgeline to be mined using a highwall mining, zero subsidence technique which will ensure visual amenity is maintained for the Golden Hwy and the neighbouring studs but will only allow recovery of approximately 30% of the available coal resource under the ridgeline.

Ecological considerations include possible disturbance and appropriate offsets for the Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) Box Gum Woodland. The CEEC will require referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.

An assessment of impacts on any identified items of cultural heritage will be made. The traditional owner groups are currently investigating the site. European heritage considerations will also be made (e.g. Plashett Homestead).

Air quality investigation including potential impacts on horse health is to be considered.

Other environmental and social considerations for the project were discussed including:

- Acoustics – sound modelling, cumulative impacts;
- Greenhouse Gas – reduction of emissions;
- Traffic – assessment of potential impacts on Edderton Rd as well as Thomas Mitchell Drive as most traffic will access Drayton South through the existing Drayton mine entrance (traffic studies are underway);
- Groundwater – investigation of potential impacts (including cumulative);
- Surface water – assessment of existing water management systems and needs, investigation of potential impacts (including cumulative);
- Rehabilitation – Development of undulating landform with sustainable native rehabilitation compatible with surrounding landform;
- Social economic – Continuation of employment for Drayton workforce.

Rehabilitation plans were further discussed with JL questioning the use of existing Drayton voids and the plans for new voids. DS and JF explained that the new voids will be backfilled

with the optimisation of spoil placement designed into the conceptual plan. Some voids will be completely filled and the final void will be shaped back into the landscape to maximise functionality for future land uses and visual amenity. CF questioned the plans for backfilling asking whether dumps will be variable heights without straight lines. JF answered that the dumps are designed to blend into the landscape as much as possible and a lot of work has been done on visual amenity in the conceptual plan. CF questioned whether this would affect progressive rehabilitation of dumps and JF replied that progressive rehabilitation is part of the plan and minimisation of dust from exposed areas will be a positive result of this. Of the existing and planned voids, three will be retained for rejects, tailings and water and the rest are to be progressively rehabilitated. JL commented that it is “wonderful” that the dumps are to be blended into the landscape rather than adding to the horizon of high level, straight line dumps of other mines in the area.

CF questioned the submission status for clarification of tonnage, mine life and the assessment of the project under the repealed Part 3A of the EP&A Act. It was noted that the tonnage of Drayton South would be 7Mtpa ROM coal which is less than the current Drayton approved tonnage of 8Mtpa. Operations at Drayton South are expected to increase as Drayton operations decrease due to necessary use of the same workforce, equipment and infrastructure. The approval is being sought for the entire 26 year mine life though it is noted that approvals are usually granted for approximately 21 years. There are no new projects under being accepted for assessment under Part 3A but the Drayton submission was made prior to the change in legislation and a project number has been issued. Therefore the submission will continue through the Part 3A process.

Drayton will be hosting a planning focus meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June to discuss the Director General’s requirements for Drayton South project with regulatory stakeholders.

If the project is to be approved, that approval is not expected prior to late 2012.

CF asked when the realignment of the road is expected to take place. DS replied that the realignment is expected to be in place prior to the commencement of mining at Drayton South.

GDB asked about the likelihood of blasting road closures affecting the Edderton Road realignment and the Golden Highway. DS stated that it is possible that the roads may be affected during blasting but that the Golden Highway is at such a distance that it is unlikely to be affected. GDB stated that the community is against road closures because they are disruptive and have the potential to make people late for appointments. PH stated that notifications are made prior to road closures. PS stated that only necessary road closures are conducted when blasting is within 500 metres of a public road and that under normal circumstances, Drayton would close the road for approximately 5 minutes at a time to allow blasting. Closure times are kept to a minimum and relevant notifications are made to neighbours prior to road closures occurring. This practice will continue for all road closures.

CF asked whether the EA process will identify and mitigate risk of closure on the Golden Hwy. PH asked whether mining in the vicinity of the Golden Hwy will be underground. DS stated that mining planned for areas close to the Golden Hwy will be highwall mining which involves continuous mining similar to underground mining techniques and that the plan includes backfilling to prevent subsidence. Aesthetics are an important part of the plan in this area and blasting is not expected to affect the Golden Hwy at this stage. All potential impacts on traffic movements are to be assessed.

CF asked whether consideration of a whole road realignment of Edderton Road in conjunction with MAC has been made. DS stated that the area is constrained by “hilly” topography and

whole road realignment may be uneconomical. No discussion with MAC on the issue has been made. Potential changes in travel time and cumulative impacts with regard to the MAC realignment will be assessed.

GDB asked if the impact on rail traffic will also be assessed. DS stated that cumulative impacts with MAC are to be assessed.

DS stated that his contact details are provided on the newsletter handed out at the beginning of the presentation if anyone has any further questions after the meeting. Follow-up face to face meetings are available for anyone wishing to further discuss the issues and presentation to future CCC meetings will be available at the request of the committee.

## **9. SUBMISSIONS**

Nil

## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

No new items of general business were discussed.

## **11. DEBRIEF THIS MEETING**

JL asked if there were any more questions from the attendees and the next meeting date was briefly discussed. Meeting dates for the year are discussed at the previous meeting and provided in advance to the CCC members in the form of meeting minutes.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011

The meeting closed at 6:15 pm.

### ***Meeting Dates***

*The following dates are proposed for 2011*

***18<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 (Joint CCC to be held at Drayton)***

*17<sup>th</sup> of November 2011*