



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT LIDDELL COAL
PREPARATION PLANT 11 April 2008**



PRESENT: John Douglas (Muswellbrook Shire Council - Chairperson)
Bill Langdon (Singleton Shire Council)
Sarah Roberts (Singleton Shire Council)
Julie Clydesdale (Community Representative)
Tony Galvin (Liddell Coal Operations)
Wade Covey (Liddell Coal Operations)
Mark Howes (Carbon Based Environmental)

Mine Inspection: There was a tour of the mine site from 9:00am until 10:20am.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting opened at 10.30 am

1.2 APOLOGIES: Brian Thomas (Singleton Shire Council), Chris Gidney (Muswellbrook Shire Council).

Moved by Bill Langdon, seconded by Julie Clydsdale.

2 PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARATION

2.1 Nil

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

Action Items from Previous Minutes

4.1 Liddell Coal Update newsletter was sent out to the local community, CCC members and employees in December, 2007.

4.2 An advertisement seeking additional community membership of the CCC was included in the Liddell Coal Update, and John Douglas indicated that Muswellbrook Shire Council had advertised for community members but had not had any responses to date. Wade Covey stated that he intends to contact nearby residents personally to determine if they are interested in joining the Liddell Coal CCC.

- 4.3 A section was included in the Liddell Coal Update newsletter regarding spontaneous combustion and steam generation from the handling of hot material from its operations.
- 4.4 Liddell Coal has contacted other Xstrata site representatives (Ravensworth/Cumnock) regarding weed management, and is co-ordinating activities between nearby mine sites. Julie Clydsdale indicated that Hillcrest is overrun with Wild Olive and it should be controlled (refer to Action Item).
- 4.5 Liddell Coal has engaged a contractor to control the wild dog populations around the site. Liddell Coal is also liaising with the Rural Lands Protection Authority on investigating an aerial baiting program with other adjacent landholders.
- 4.6 There are 2 blocks of land for sale near the Davis property, approximately 100 acres in size. Wade Covey has passed this information through to Xstrata Coal's property department for assessment. Based on the property location, the blocks are too distant from Liddell Coal Operations to be purchased as part of a mine impact buffer area.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

6 COMPANY REPORTS

- 6.1 A review of Liddell Coal's Operations was presented by Wade Covey. The following items were discussed:
- Safety Performance;
 - Production Performance;
 - Environmental Performance, including;
 - Air quality
 - Environmental Incidents;
 - Blasting;
 - Noise;
 - Water;
 - Weed Management;
 - Rehabilitation.
 - Community Involvement.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 John Douglas made the comment that there are "old retired miners" who very much appreciate reading mine newsletters when they arrive at Muswellbrook Shire library and that Liddell Coal should continue to provide a copy of the newsletters to the both the Singleton and Muswellbrook Libraries.
- 7.2 There is a cluster of Pampas Grass near Mountain Block that needs to be eradicated (refer to Action Item). Wade Covey requested that CCC members advise him if they note any other weed occurrences around the site so targeted weed spraying can be undertaken.
- 7.3 Bill Langdon enquired about the firewood that Liddell Coal donated to the Lake Liddell Recreation Park prior to Easter holidays. Wade Covey stated that the firewood was

donated to the Recreation Park so that campers could use it free of charge as part of their camping fees. The donation ensured that campers would have sufficient firewood supplies to last them through the Easter holiday period.

- 7.4 Wade Covey requested CCC members to advise if there were any worthy donation recipients/organisations that they were aware of. Julie Clydsdale suggested that the Local Rural Fire Brigade shed on the Upper Hebden Road would benefit from having power installed at the site and the cost of this could be donated by Liddell Coal. Wade Covey will ring Julie Clydsdale to discuss further (refer to Action Item). Tony Galvin suggested that the Local Rural Fire Brigade send a request in writing to Liddell Coal if they are seeking a donation to cover the cost of installing power to the Fire Shed.
- 7.5 Bill Langdon enquired whether Liddell Coal would be monitoring PM_{2.5} dust in the future, as this is detrimental to lung health. Wade Covey stated that it is not intended to install a PM_{2.5} monitor because approval would have to be obtained from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, however Liddell Coal are planning to install an additional PM₁₀ monitor to the NW of the operation to assess possible future mining impacts. Bill Langdon stated that the mining industry should take the initiative and do its own PM_{2.5} monitoring even though it is not required under existing consent conditions. Sarah Roberts stated that there is a perception in the community that dust is a concern. Wade Covey said that he would refer the request for PM_{2.5} dust monitoring to Xstrata Corporate (refer to Action Item). Wade Covey stated the site's current monitoring network has been developed to comply with the requirements of the Liddell Coal development consent.
- 7.6 Bill Langdon requested that a copy of the Final Void Management Plan (FVMP) be made available to CCC members when it is completed. Wade Covey stated the FVMP is incorporated into the Landscape Management Plan under the new consent and this Plan is still waiting for approval from the Department of Planning. Once approval is granted, all of the management plans will be uploaded onto the Liddell Coal website, and copies of the Landscape Management Plan (including the FVMP) will be tabled at the next CCC meeting (refer to the Action Item). There was some discussion about possible uses of the final void, including fly-ash disposal.
- 7.7 Sarah Roberts suggested that it would be good to have overburden dumps shaped and rehabilitated to replicate the natural topography rather than looking like man made structures. Wade Covey agreed that natural topography is the desired result but explained that a number of other variables also play a part e.g. ensuring a stable landform with adequate drainage. Members agreed this is desirable. Wade Covey indicated that the Department of Primary Industries recommend that tree corridors be established on rehabilitated mine sites, and that Liddell Coal intend to join the established clumps of tree plots into tree corridors by planting/direct tree seeding between them to coincide with the regional synoptic plan. Sarah Roberts informed the CCC of the "Alps to Atherton" project which recently held a workshop regarding a proposal to link vegetation along eastern Australia.

8 BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Actions to be addressed before the next meeting:

- 8.1 Liddell Coal will investigate the Wild Olive weed problem and control measures on the Hillcrest Property.

- 8.2 Liddell Coal will ensure a focus is placed on controlling the Pampas Grass around the site (especially Mountain Block) during future weed spraying activities.
- 8.3 Wade Covey will liaise with Julie Clydesdale to find out more information about the suggestion that Liddell Coal assist by installing power to the local Rural Fire Brigade shed on the Upper Hebden Road. The Local Rural Fire Brigade need to send a request in writing to Liddell Coal if they are seeking a donation to cover the cost of installing power.
- 8.4 Wade Covey will refer the request for PM_{2.5} dust monitoring to Xstrata Corporate.
- 8.5 Copies of the Landscape Management Plan (which includes the Final Void Management Plan) will be tabled at the next CCC meeting if it is approved by the Department of Planning.

9 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is set down for a Friday morning in October, 2008. Notification of the proposed date will be provided to CCC members in September 2008.

The next meeting will include a tour of the mine site.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.