

RIXS CREEK NORTH & RIXS CREEK SOUTH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 08/05/2018

PRESENT: Independent Chairperson Lisa Andrews (LA)
 Community Representatives Reg Eveleigh (RE), Michelle Higgins (MH), Patricia Bestic (PB)
 Singleton Council delegate Cr Sarah Lukeman (SL)
 Company Representatives Geoff Moore (GM), Brendon Clements (BC) Chris Knight (CK), Chris Quinn (CQ) & Damien Butler (DB)

APOLOGIES: Deidre Olofsson (DO)

The meeting was formerly opened at 9:03am at Rixs Creek South Training Room.

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- LA opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked attendees for attending the first meeting of 2019.
- The Chair reminded all attendees to sign the meeting attendance sheet.

- **Apologies**

- The Chair confirmed Deidre Olofson had advised that she was an apology for the meeting.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

- LA declared that she is an approved Independent Chairperson with the Department of Planning & Environment, appointed by the Director, Resource Assessment as nominee for the Secretary and engaged by Bloomfield to chair the meeting. No changes to members' previous declarations.

- **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	List of Acronyms to be provided (complete – emailed with finalised minutes on 8/11/18)	LA/CK
2	Question on Notice to UHMD – PM10 levels (email received from the Policy Manager – Craig Milton 6/5/19 - see response*)	JB
3	Post CCC information to RE (complete posted 24/4/19)	LA
4	Site Inspection (this meeting)	CK
5	Information to DO regarding Integra previous mining. (Rix's Creek North Mod 8.) (This PowerPoint presentation was emailed on 26/2/19)	CK

**“The Dialogue did not state that PM10 levels were safe, however a poorly-worded sentence in one of the Dialogue's Air Quality fact sheets on particulate matter initially stated that PM10 particles are not as significant a health impact as PM2.5. The Dialogue recognises that PM10 emissions are of course a serious matter that require industry's continued focus and this*

particular sentence has since been revised to be more of a general statement (see revised passage on right column of page 2 of the fact sheet linked below).

*'While PM10 particles **generally** do not have as significant a health impact as PM2.5 particles, the mining industry recognises that this is a priority area that needs to be focused on.'*

http://www.nswmining.com.au/getattachment/Dialogue/Latest-Projects/Emissions-and-Health/Air-Quality-Resources/Upper-Hunter-Mining-Dialogue_Fact-Sheet_Air-Quality_Particulate-Matter.pdf

Links to advice on the OEH monitoring network site have also been included in the fact sheet to enable stakeholders to view this info directly."

- **Correspondence (as per sent with the Meeting Notice on 24/4/19 with one additional item)**
 - 31/10/18 - Email to members with the draft minutes from 17/10/18 for review
 - 8/11/18 - Email to members with the finalised minutes, UHMD presentation & Acronyms sheet.
 - 20/12/18 - Email from Chris Knight advising of the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project – Response to IPC Recommendations. This information was forwarded on to members for their information.
 - 25/2/19 – Email from Geoff Moore with advice regarding temporary continuation of mining whilst awaiting approval of the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project application.
 - 26/2/19 – This information forwarded on to CCC members.
 - 26/2/19 – Email to CCC members with a copy of the May 2018 power point presentation regarding mining outside the approved area of RCN.
 - 24/4/19 – Email to CCC members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting.
 - 24/4/19 – Same information posted to Reg Eveleigh.
 - [6/5/19 – Email to CCC members with a reminder for this meeting, as well as a copy of the 2018 Annual Review for Rixs Creek operations.](#)

- **Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities**

Progress of the Project.

- CQ provided an overview of the management roles.
- CQ went through the presentation and provided an overview of progress. He noted the MOD10, which was to be discussed later in the meeting.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance

- CQ began this section of the presentation referencing the Mine Tours Program. LA asked about the response to the program. CQ advised of the very positive response.
- Operational noise was discussed, including monthly independent monitoring. CQ gave an overview of the noise exceedance caution that had been received. PB queried what time of the day the breach occurred. CQ advised it was 10:30pm at night. PB asked about the location of the monitoring that picked up the breach. CK discussed move of a noise monitoring location following resident feedback.
- CQ covered the total noise complaints that had been received. PB asked what the number of complainants were versus complaints. PB was interested whether these were the same people or 13 individuals. The LA noted it would be beneficial to receive a breakdown, provided the individuals cannot be identified. SL reminded the group that when this was raised in previous meeting, DO voiced concern that the

people could be identified. CQ noted it was not possible to identify an individual. SL stated that it would be supported as long as it is unidentifiable. It was agreed this would be adjusted for future presentations. MH noted knowing the data might be helpful. SL reflected on the higher number of complaints from the previous year in which there was one or two people making most of the complaints. CQ noted the improved management of noise and improved communication with neighbours undertaken. CQ noted visits to neighbours had shown that noise levels were compliant. SL noted the improvements and the efforts to minimise impacts. CK noted the predictive noise monitoring that is used.

- CQ gave an overview of blasting figures. He confirmed that blasting complaints had been received in 2018. CQ noted the inclusion of the Civic monitor in the blasting plan as a compliance monitor. MH requested explanation of fume rating in relation to the table presented (Columns A B and C). CK gave an overview of what A,B & C meant. CK confirmed it would be included in future presentations.
- SL asked about the blast on 12 June and if it was related to complaints. CK confirmed there were no complaints in relation to overpressure from the blast, however one complaint was received in regard to odour. CK discussed the 12 June blast in more detail, including the background to the placement of the Civic monitor. He noted the meteorological monitoring and predictions at the time had identified an inversion and that because of this the blast was delayed. He noted the challenge with real-time meteorological data but that this was being addressed.
- LA enquired whether contractors carried out the blasting. BC confirmed that it was undertaken in house and the person that manages this is very experienced. The enhancement or “banding” shown in the meteorological forecast was discussed. CK advised that data at the time showed that the band had moved, however it was later learnt that the enhancement was due to the inversion not completely lifting.
- CQ discussed air quality. CQ spoke about the calibration inspection, the device malfunction and the previous vandalism to the device. He noted the engagement of an independent consultant to repair the machine and complete the calibration.
- CQ spoke about biodiversity offset monitoring. He discussed weed management and the reduction of weeds that has occurred. In discussing fauna monitoring CQ noted the influx of native birds that is being observed.
- In discussing pest management, PB asked about the number of kangaroo tags. CK confirmed 200 tags.
- PB asked who was doing loose jaw baiting. CK advised that it was done by a contractor last year, however were not doing that this type of control this year. CK noted that the 1080 baits were having a better uptake.
- RE asked about goats and pigs. CQ reported that the registered shooter saw feral goats at the last Kangaroo cull. CQ noted reports of pigs but no shootings. CK spoke about the Kangaroo processing area. He noted the presence of wild dogs in that area and the baiting that will now occur. PB commented that this was positive action. MH asked if the 1080 baits kill feral cats. CQ confirmed the baits work on feral cats. MH noted this was encouraging. RE noted he had killed 90 feral cats and one fox during the last year.
- PB asked about the dogs and what they look like. CQ noted most appear dingo in nature.
- MH talked about domestic dogs attacking livestock. Deer were discussed. CK advised of reports of deer but no shootings. RE noted trouble with wild dogs interacting with his dogs.

- CK explained the soft jaw trapping occurring on agisting property managed by the group. He noted private residences are conducting their own baiting.
- CQ talked about the weed management. MH asked if spraying is the best way. CK said cutting and painting is sometimes effective, but spraying can be better for the seed bank. PB asked about Noble Lane and if it is in the operations area. CQ confirmed it sits within the Glencore area. PB noted the proliferation of cestrum and its impact.
- CK noted the campaign to target acacia saligna enacted due to a very large seed bank. More than fifty thousand dollars has been invested in this program. MH asked about the lifespan and CK advised that it was around eight years. RE asked about tiger pear. CQ advised that there is some on site. MH asked about an increase in khaki weed and onion weed. MH reported it has been bad where she is. MH advised of an increase in onion weed. PB noted it is transported into areas by tyres on vehicles. GM noted an increase due to the dry conditions. MH noted it does not kill sheep or cattle.
- On water management, CQ noted that the plan had been approved and that there were no incidents and no complaints. He gave an overview of surface monitoring locations. He spoke about ground water and bore monitoring; noting that pre-mining water levels have been maintained.
- CQ described the rehabilitation works and the good initial results. MH asked about success rates. CQ noted it was too early to determine, but that it was around 60% currently. He explained how many hectares of land had been rehabilitated. CQ showed an aerial photo of rehabilitated land and discussed the grazing that occurs on this land. CK noted this area is about 40 hectares of grazing land at Rix's South with area at Rix's North also being agisted by a local resident.

Community Complaints and the Response to such Complaints.

- Complaints were discussed. CQ advised that in total 25 complaints were received in 2018. He explained the action taken to address the complaints and how the findings of investigations are documented, studied and reviewed. SL queried the 10 enquiries received about the operations. CQ noted these were general in nature, asking questions about various aspects of the operations such as employment, apprenticeships and activities. CK noted occasions where callers ask whether a recent blast came from these operations. He noted these calls were not about Rix's Creek blasts specifically. SL asked what action is taken if the blast is not from Rix's Creek and it was referred to other mines. CK noted this does occur and he also explained the communication network between mines about blasting and operations. CK advised that they can let the community member know who it was thought to be and make a referral. CK described the requirements in the consent to work with other operations to minimise impacts on neighbours.

Information provided to the Community and any Feedback

- CQ covered information that had provided to the community and any feedback. This included information about noise monitoring and kangaroo control. He noted the signage on the monitoring vehicles.
- CQ noted that 2019 wild dog control notifications have been placed in the Singleton Argus. Detailed letterbox drops had also been completed. MH provided the Chair with a copy of the letter. LA asked how many letters were distributed. CQ confirmed there was 80 letters distributed. LA enquired if letters were delivered personally. CQ confirmed this was the approach taken.
- LA asked if there were any questions. There were no further questions. LA requested a copy of the presentation for inclusion with the minutes.

General Business

- GM talked about the planning process associated with the Rix's Creek Continuation Project. He noted the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) report and the response to the recommendations that were provided on 7 December 2018. He noted a further request for information that had been received and responded to.
- GM discussed the planning process and the company's decision to put in an application to extend its current consent by 9 months (MOD10). This was submitted on the 26th of February 2019. GM advised of the number of objections received and the resulting IPC meeting. PB asked if the objections were from local people. GM noted that some are local, but the majority are not in our local community.
- GM advised of the forthcoming public meeting. PB asked about timing and process.
- GM spoke about internal short-term contingency planning. CQ suggested that an extraordinary CCC meeting may be required if the contingency plan had to be enacted because of further delays. BC explained the potential impact to employees, their families and the community.
- SL asked about how the uncertainty and disruption is communicated to staff and their families. GM confirmed the regular communication occurring with staff about what is happening.
- GM noted the project began the assessment process in 2013.
- CK provided information regarding media reports, including in the Singleton Argus. LA suggested that a link be sent around to members. LA enquired whether information was available on the Bloomfield website, suggesting placing the media release should be uploaded.
- PB asked if there was any more vandalism. CQ confirmed no further vandalism had occurred however there had been some theft.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th October 2019. Noting that an extraordinary meeting may be held prior to this date. LA to keep members informed.

The meeting was declared closed at 10:29am.

Site inspection

- A site inspection was undertaken by CCC members, including rehabilitation areas.

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide complaints versus Complainants breakdown for future presentations.	CQ
2	Include explanatory notes on fume blasting ratings in future	CQ
3	Continuation information to be uploaded to Bloomfield website	DB
4	Link to Singleton Argus Article	CK
5	Liaise with CCC members regarding extraordinary meeting	LA