

# Bloomfield Colliery Community Consultative Committee

Location: Bloomfield Colliery

Time: 10.00 am

Date: 8 July 2024

ATTENDEES	
Name	Organisation
Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Janet Murray (JM) <i>[online]</i>	Community Representative
Michael Jacobs (MJ)	Community Representative
Marc Hope (MH)	Cessnock City Council
Brad Donoghoe (BD)	Bloomfield Colliery
Chris Knight (CK)	Bloomfield Colliery
Damien Butler (DB)	Bloomfield Colliery (minutes)
Geoff Moore (GM)	Bloomfield Colliery
Lauren Harding <i>[online from 11.22am]</i>	GHD
Greg Lamb (GL) <i>[online]</i>	Bloomfield Colliery
Sue Page (SP)	Cessnock City Council

Apologies	
Jack Dwyer (JD)	Community Representative
Dennis Thurlow (DT)	Community Representative
Gary Hamer (GH)	Maitland City Council

Item	Issue	Action
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	
	The Chair opened the CCC meeting at 10:00AM and provided an Acknowledgment of Country. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, which will include discussions on the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project. Zoom facilities were made available for the meeting and GL, JM and LH joined via Zoom.	
2	<b>Apologies – JD, GH, DT.</b>	
3	<b>Declarations</b>	
	There were no changes to the Chair's declarations. The Chair noted the changes to the CCC guidelines and advised that MJ needed to complete these.	

4	<b>Business Arising</b>																
	<p>The previous CCC was held on 18 March with the minutes finalised on 28 March. There were 2 action items from that meeting and one carry over item from the previous extraordinary meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="267 415 898 684"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th><th>ISSUE</th><th>RESPONSI-BILITY</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Send draft Terms of Reference to CCC members with minutes for their input.</td><td>LA</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Send Presentation to members</td><td>GL/LA</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="267 718 898 852"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th><th>ACTION – from December 2023 meeting:</th><th>RESPONSI-BILITY</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Provide GHD’s Social Impact Assessment scope</td><td>CK</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>JM raised the revised CCC guidelines briefing and subsequent requirements, noting that she hadn’t seen those and the minutes weren’t clear. The Chair advised that the Draft Terms of Reference were sent with the minutes in February and that the Chair will resend these. LA stated that a Briefing Sheet on the changes could be included to assist.</p> <p>JM said DT asked if he could get a copy of the survey and that wasn’t provided. JM raised questions on the survey and queried the positive responses received regarding health, air quality etc. It was agreed to take this question on notice and to discuss that question with GHD. CK indicated that he will check with GHD but should be no issue with providing a copy of the questions.</p> <p>JM also remarked that the survey included lines for open input and it appeared that no negative comments were received. JM noted that she had put the link to the survey on the Black Hill Community Page (Facebook) but received adverse responses on social media questioning the science of climate change. JM said that she was not happy with the comments, considering it was a closed group; stating that she had provided the information in good faith as part of her role as a community member on this CCC. LA responded that it was a decision of JM whether to place this information on social media</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSI-BILITY	1	Send draft Terms of Reference to CCC members with minutes for their input.	LA	2	Send Presentation to members	GL/LA	ITEM	ACTION – from December 2023 meeting:	RESPONSI-BILITY	3	Provide GHD’s Social Impact Assessment scope	CK	<p>1. ToR sent with minutes 20/2/24, however, the ratification of the document at this CCC was held over to enable JM to review.</p> <p>2. Complete sent 20/2/24.</p> <p>3. Complete – sent 20/2/24</p> <p>1 Action: LA to resend Terms of Reference</p> <p>2 Action: Briefing sheet on changes to be included with previous minutes.</p> <p>3 Action: Provide copy of Social Impact Assessment Survey to members</p>
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	and understood that this can create undesirable reactions to the public.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	Correspondence included with the meeting notice sent on 3 June 2024 and reminder sent out Friday 5 June 2024.	
<b>6</b>	<b>General update</b>	
	<p>GL provided a general update on operations. GL advised that one complaint had been received regarding lighting from Ashtonfield and GL gave an overview. MJ said that he did mention in the December 2023 meeting that the lights were bright. GL indicated that changes to the direction of the lights had been made.</p> <p>MJ said he is familiar with the lighting issue would go up and check the lighting in the next week and give feedback.</p> <p>GL advised that the Annual Review had been submitted to DPHI. JM requested that a presentation, by exception, be provided to the CCC. LA said she would place on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>GL noted the rehabilitation reporting had been completed. GL advised 4 Ha of rehabilitation on the tailings dam was in progress but had been impacted by the wet weather. GL noted dog baiting was to be conducted and that the Kurri Kurri pipeline was still in progress.</p> <p>JM asked about rehabilitation monitoring and asked Bloomfield to report anything of exception or provide a summary for the CCC and this was agreed as an action.</p> <p>JM asked about the dog baiting program. JM said she has only ever seen one wild dog. JM asked if the program was killing wild dogs or pets/native animals. GL noted one wild dog had been found. GL noted that Local Land Services were supportive of the baiting. The Chair asked about foxes and GL said they target them as well. BD noted the many dog prints he had seen.</p> <p>The Kurri Kurri pipeline was discussed and CK showed slide of the pipeline. MJ raised the point about the change in the pipeline route that took out a section of forest which he indicated Bloomfield had</p>	<p>4 Action: GL to provide summary of the Annual Review to the CCC.</p>

	<p>provided approval to knock down. GM said that Bloomfield didn't approve this but MJ said the document online said that Bloomfield did approve it. MJ said he would have preferred the pipeline to go through the fields. CK noted that the project was a SSI and approval would have been by the DPHI.</p> <p>LA suggested that the wording should probably have been that Bloomfield did not object to the proposed change.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project</b>	
	<p>CK provided a presentation on the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project and thanked members for accommodating the time to present an update on the project. In providing a project overview CK noted the reduction in overall production. MJ noted that this on the planning portal.</p> <p>CK gave overview of the mining areas, advising that the mining areas will be largely protected by the natural topography to the west and north. JM acknowledged that the topography does help to protect the north and west but does not protect to the south. CK noted the comprehensive noise assessment that has occurred.</p> <p>CK advised of the improvements to the final landform including the void. JM asked about the smaller final void. JM said it would take 100 years to stabilise based on previous discussions about voids and asked about the timeframe it would take to stabilise. GM and CK noted that they believe it would still be that timeframe.</p> <p>CK noted the proposal had very limited impact on groundwater in the area and advised that Elwells Creek would be diverted and then re-established.</p> <p>CK gave overview of the production schedule.</p> <p>CK noted the various studies that had been conducted.</p> <p>CK showed a project map and noted the pink hatching area that is proposed to be included in the approval referred to as the 'Bloomfield Site' that will allow for operations in this area post 2030. GM noted the requirement to still cap all that area and rehabilitate it.</p>	

<p>MJ asked if operations would progress past the workshop area to which CK advised no. GM noted that, irrespective of the Creek Cut area, Bloomfield would have been applying for a Modification for the workshop area as part of the closure process.</p> <p>CK provided an overview of the air quality assessment noting that 2032 was the highest production year and was used for the assessment. CK noted that Receptor H and M have highest predicted modelling result but are below the requirements.</p> <p>CK covered voluntary land acquisition noted there was no requirement for acquisition.</p> <p>CK advised that no receivers exceed 24hr or annual PM10 or PM 2.5 criteria, no receivers trigger acquisition or mitigation and that there was no increase in air quality impacts for the Modification.</p> <p>JM said that there was no safe limit for exposure to PM2.5. JM said even at those small levels it can still cause harm.</p> <p>CK provided an overview of the noise assessment. He noted sound power levels on our equipment was also assessed, in addition to the other noise mitigation and management measures deployed at site. He said numerous mine plans and iterations had been undertaken to minimise impacts in the assessment.</p> <p>CK gave overview of the noise controls and mitigation strategies. CK shared an overview of the noise results including the three receivers that are predicted to experience a marginal impact. JM asked which places are entitled to mitigation strategies and CK showed them on the map. JM asked if N2 is the dwelling on Jack Dwyers' property. GL said he thinks it is but that he doesn't believe it is occupied. JM said that she believes she is marker N6 and her neighbor is N5.</p> <p>JM pointed out that she does ring to complain and can usually describe the noise accurately. JM said there are certainly still occasions she can hear what's going and so do others in the area. JM said she believes there is deficiency in the modelling and she has to turn her TV up to hear it, which tells he there is still something wrong with the operation's modelling. CK noted this assessment is now likely</p>	<p>5 Action: CK to update presentation pack with any changes required to reflect the finalised noise assessment.</p>
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<p>more rigorous than what has been done in the past and there will be additional noise attenuation if the project is approved. JM said the modelling doesn't reflect her reality. The Chair asked if it was assessed to the worst case scenario and it was confirmed that it was. The Chair asked if it was still to be finalised and CK said it would be finalised this week. The Chair asked if the noise modelling changes, can updates be made to the slide pack and this was agreed as an action.</p> <p>JM asked about mining operations in the west moving to electric trucks. GM said the operation is not aware of any that would fit Bloomfield's operation and was not sure if they would reduce noise due to the fans required for cooling which could be loud.</p> <p>CK provided an overview of the surface water assessment and highlighted it was an impacted environment since mining began. CK noted the increased inspections and management during the temporary diversion of Elwells Creek.</p> <p>CK gave an overview of the groundwater assessment. CK noted that groundwater drawdown would be minimal because it has already been distributed by mining.</p> <p>CK covered the heritage assessment, noting there were no major changes since this matter was last presented. He advised that the Indigenous / Aboriginal heritage surveys did not identify anything new. CK also noted that the actual survey coverage was wider than the single lines presented on the plan.</p> <p>CK then covered biodiversity assessment. He noted the 'assumed' 51.81 ha of foraging and breeding habitat for the Squirrel Glider, Koala and Glossy-Black Cockatoo but that these species were not observed during the surveys.</p> <p>CK gave an overview of the flora and fauna assessments. GM pointed out the fauna assessments occurred over a period of 12 months.</p> <p>CK provided an overview of Biodiversity Offset Strategy including use of existing sites or other options. JM asked why the operations can't set aside parts of the existing site for biodiversity offsets. CK said that this is not being ruled out. GM spoke about</p>	<p>6 Action: CK to provide presentation on how Bloomfield manages biodiversity offsets.</p>
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	<p>the considerations including the area being big enough to become an offset. JM said she understands that Donaldson has an area in force until 2036 and that locals would like to see it stay in perpetuity. JM also said biodiversity offset markets have zero credibility because of people conserving things that were never going to be cut down.</p> <p>CK offered to share a presentation previously provided to the Rix's Creek Mine CCC on how Bloomfield manages biodiversity offsets and this was agreed as an action.</p> <p>LH from GHD joined the meeting at 11.22am to provide an update on the Social Impact Assessment. LH outlined the methodology, timings and consultation methods along with the issues and benefits raised and the recommendations from the assessment.</p> <p>JM said she found it odd that a survey can get positive results in health and other factors and wondered about the phrasing of the questions that gives positive results in that regard. LH indicated that the SIA has the results of the surveys and these may help with that question. CK noted that we had committed to providing questions to the CCC.</p> <p>CK outlined the next steps. It was agreed to share the EIS with the CCC once it was available for comment.</p> <p>JM noted the EIS would go on exhibition for 14 days and that is little time given the amount of content. LA indicated that if the assessing officer is advised of this that they may extend the time. Suggesting that JM make contact requesting an extension.</p> <p>JM commented that the presentation from CK was helpful.</p>	<p>7 Action: Share the link to the EIS with the CCC once it is available for comment.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>General Business</b>	
	There was no other general business.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
	The next meeting is planned for Monday 18 November at 10am, but there is an option for an extraordinary meeting when the EIS is on display.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Meeting Close:</b>	
	<i>The meeting closed at 11:41am.</i>	

**ACTION ITEMS:**

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	LA to resend Terms of Reference	LA
2	Briefing sheet on changes to be included with previous minutes.	
3	Provide copy of Social Impact Assessment Survey to members	CK
4	Provide summary of Annual Review to the CCC.	GL
5	Update presentation pack with finalised noise assessment.	CK
6	Provide presentation on how Bloomfield manages biodiversity offsets	CK
7	Share the link to the EIS with the CCC once it is available for comment	CK

Acronyms referred to in minutes:

CCC	Community Consultative Committee
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement