

Bloomfield Colliery Community Consultative Committee

Location: Bloomfield Colliery

Time: 10.03 am

Date: 24 March 2026

ATTENDEES	
Name	Organisation
Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Janet Murray (JM)	Community
Dennis Thurlow (DT)	Community Representative
Bailey Dark (BD)	Cessnock Council
Brad Donoghoe (BD)	Bloomfield Colliery
Chris Knight (CK)	Bloomfield Colliery
Thomas Holz (TH)	Bloomfield Colliery
Greg Lamb (GL)	Bloomfield Colliery
Melissa Sowter(MS)	Bloomfield Colliery (minute taker)

Apologies	
Chris Dwyer (CD)	Cessnock Council
Jack Dwyer(JD)	Community Representative
Shane Burton (SB)	Community Representative

Item	Issue	Action
1	Welcome & Introductions	
	The Chair opened the CCC meeting at 10:03AM and provided an Acknowledgment of Country. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Bailey Dark (BD) from Cessnock City Council as its alternate delegate.	Members were invited to introduce themselves and state their position on the CCC.
2	Apologies –CD, JD & SB	
3	Declarations	
	There were no changes to the members’ previously recorded declarations.	

4	Business Arising										
	<p>The previous CCC was held on 13 October 2025 with the minutes finalised on 7 November 2025. There were 2 action items from that meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="276 388 1161 535"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>RESPONSIBILITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Organise a time for JM to go through the Yancoal / Bloomfield land acquisition.</td> <td>JM/CK/GL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Send nomination form to interested party</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA advised that whilst no response has been received from the interested party; there was another nomination from a resident at Thornton who was interested in being a community representative. Following an assessment of the application in accordance with the selection criteria contained in the CCC Guidelines and a report to the Department of Planning, LA confirmed that Shane Burton has been formally appointed. Regretfully he was unable to attend today due to work commitments, however, is looking forward to attending the next meeting and keen to be involved. • TH asked whether SB has been appointed as a replacement following MJ's recent resignation. LA confirmed technically yes and noted that there is still vacancy on the CCC for community or stakeholder representatives. LA also thanked CK for promoting the vacancies through the Bloomfield Community newsletters. 	ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	1	Organise a time for JM to go through the Yancoal / Bloomfield land acquisition.	JM/CK/GL	2	Send nomination form to interested party	LA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JM noted she did not follow up with Bloomfield since the last meeting. CK advised that information will be provided in today's presentation. 2. Completed.
ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY									
1	Organise a time for JM to go through the Yancoal / Bloomfield land acquisition.	JM/CK/GL									
2	Send nomination form to interested party	LA									
5	Correspondence										
	<p>As sent out with meeting notice on 16/03/26.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21/10/25 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 7/11/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. • 21/11/25 – Email from resident interested in nominating for the CCC. • 1/12/25 – Email to JC with nomination form for CCC. • 1/12/25 – Email to interested resident with nomination form. • 2/12/25 – Email from resident with completed nomination form. Acknowledged. • 23/12/25 – Email to members advising of Acquisition: Former Yancoal Mining Assets (Rix's Creek) • 27/2/26 – Email to members advising of change of date for March CCC. • 5/3/26 – Email with letter and assessment report to DPI for consideration of new community representative. • 16/3/26 – Email to members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. 										
6	Proponent update										
	<p>GL provided a general update, which covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No community complaints received since last meeting. • 2024-2025 NGERS (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report) submitted. • Two dust monitoring results in January and February 2026 exceeded limits due to local bushfires. • 9 Ha of rehabilitation in progress in S Cut. 										

<p>DT asked what type of rehab, GL advised that rehab would be pasture grass.</p> <p>JM asked if the rehab area was close to John Renshaw, GL advised yes it was.</p> <p>GL noted that dog baiting program undertaken in November 2025 in consultation with Local Land Services.</p> <p>DT raised concerns around dog baiting stating he had read that other animals such as owls are being poisoned from baiting by either eating the bait or eating the animal that had been baited. CK noted that 1080 dog baits are highly toxic in dogs and mammals only and do not affect birds, goannas or other native animals. CK also noted there are special ways to monitor the take of baits to determine what type of animal it was. JM raised concerns that native dingoes could get poisoned by these baits. CK noted yes but dingoes have not been known in this area. JM advised she has seen a dingo; or what she thought was a dingo last year on Bloomfield property near her home and has photos, which were later shared with the members (April & July 2025). CK advised that these would most likely not be pure breed dingoes and more likely a cross breed. DT noted the fox population was getting quite high. CK noted this is one good reason why Bloomfield do the baiting programs with Local Land Services as it also helps the neighboring farming properties and community in reducing impacts from wild dogs and foxes.</p> <p>GL noted that Biennial grazing monitoring commenced (seasonal fieldwork).</p> <p>GL noted that 2025 rehabilitation monitoring program has been completed and report issued.</p> <p>Key findings of the 2025 rehabilitation monitoring program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 rehabilitation monitoring program found that rehabilitated areas remain stable despite recent climatic variability. • Soil stability is strong, with natural seasonal variation in infiltration and nutrient cycling consistent with analogue sites. • Vegetation is well established, providing effective ground cover and erosion control. • Species diversity has stabilised or improved since 2023 and remains higher than during the 2019 drought. • While exotic species are still present, there is no evidence of overall decline in vegetation conditions. • Mid and upper story vegetation is generally healthy, with regeneration evident across most sites. Some dieback is attributed to natural plant life cycles and does not indicate rehabilitation failure. • Several sites now meet or exceed analogue forest benchmarks for structural development. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil condition is generally excellent, with good topsoil depth, low salinity, and improved stability. • Most areas are suitable for intended post-mining land use, consistent with analogue conditions. • Weed management remains ongoing but is manageable with targeted control. • Overall, rehabilitation is progressing well toward a stable, self-sustaining condition, with no major issues identified. <p>DT asked about the size of the cattle herd. GL advised there are approximately 70 head of cattle.</p> <p>DT asked about exotic species present. GL advised these include pasture species and exotic grasses, with invasive species such as lantana and whiskey grass. GL noted that significant time and budget are allocated to weed spraying, with additional resources committed for Abel Mine.</p> <p>JM asked whether weed spraying is undertaken outside the mine area. GL confirmed this, particularly along John Renshaw Drive, and advised that a buffer land budget supports these activities. JM noted high presence of lantana on the southern side of Buttai Road.</p> <p>DT asked about the current post-mining land use. GL advised it will be grazing.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project Modification 5</p>	
	<p>CK provided a presentation on the Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project Modification 5 progress since the last CCC meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Response to Submissions was submitted in September 2025. • An additional request for information was received from CPHR & Maitland Council in January 2026 regarding further information requirements on biodiversity. • Bloomfield responded to CPHR and Maitland Council in February. • No further information requests have been received to date and the modification is currently with Planning under assessment. <p>DT asked how long the modification application will take to be assessed by the Department of Planning, CK advised approximately one year but could be two – three years.</p> <p>DT asked what CPHR was, CK advised it was Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group.</p> <p>JM noted recent judicial challenges regarding local impacts on climate change and if this aspect had been addressed as part of MOD 5. CK noted that this has been addressed as part of MOD 5. JM noted position of NSW Net Zero commission that no additional coal mining should be approved. CK noted that the Net Zero commission is only advisory and the most recent NSW Government position which was released last week – NSW Coal Industry statement 2026-2050 notes that coal mining extensions would be supported, noting that there would be a requirement for emission abatement as part of any extension.</p>	

	<p>CK also noted EPA’s recently released climate change requirements for coal mines noting the requirement for emissions abatement but noting that mandated biodiesel and electrification of equipment has been removed by EPA.</p> <p>CK discussed what energy and infrastructure would be required to charge electric trucks noting that there is not currently enough energy in the grid even for Rix’s Creek Mine alone to consider electrification of equipment at this time.</p> <p>CK shared information regarding the Rix’s North Solar Farm proposal.</p> <p>JM stated that mines should close in line with their current consents, staggering their closures between now and 2048 to minimise the impact on customers and employees. JM noted that with sufficient notice of a phase out of coal in Australia, alternative solutions could be developed. CK responded that mining would likely continue in other countries to supply a world need for coal, potentially using less environmentally responsible mining methods. CK acknowledged and appreciated the open discussion and the mutual respect of members’ opinions.</p> <p>CK advised that Bloomfield is currently awaiting feedback from DPHI regarding the modification and will update the CCC as further information becomes available.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Donaldson / Abel Colliery Update</p>	
	<p>CK provided a presentation on the Donaldson / Abel Colliery update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomfield and Yancoal completed the asset transaction in December 2025, which includes the Donaldson Open-Cut and Abel Underground areas adjacent to Bloomfield. • Bloomfield assumes rehabilitation responsibility for these areas. • The agreement also includes some land, dwellings and associated mining tenure around the Camberwell Village in Singleton (adjacent to Rix’s Creek Mine). • The transaction delivers stability to the existing operations, whilst providing business options and growth opportunities for the future. • Securing land at Camberwell provides flexibility to better plan for future infrastructure (e.g. New England Highway realignment) to support our Rix’s Creek North Continuation Project. • Bloomfield is working through updating Management Plans and ensuring compliance with the existing approvals and has commenced investigations into mine closure which may require a modification to allow final landform development. <p>JM asked whether Tasman was part of the Abel/Donaldson transaction. CK confirmed that it is not.</p> <p>JM asked about plans for the land on the opposite side of John Renshaw Drive. CK advised that there are currently no defined plans and that options are still being considered. CK noted that the focus is on</p>	

	<p>progressing toward mine closure, including rehabilitation responsibilities, and investigating closure pathways. CK stated that Bloomfield is committed to closure, however a planning modification may be required to facilitate this. Initial rehabilitation efforts will prioritise weed management.</p> <p>JM raised the untouched bushland area identified as part of the offset to 2036 within a biodiversity corridor, noting that local residents would like to see the natural forest preserved.</p> <p>BD confirmed that no works are planned within that area and commented that the rehabilitation undertaken by Yancoal to date has been of a high standard. JM agreed that the rehabilitation outcomes at Donaldson have been positive.</p> <p>DT asked about the final land use following rehabilitation. BD advised that the land is intended to return to native vegetation.</p> <p>BD further noted that buffer and offset land requirements may be considered in the future.</p> <p>TH agreed and reiterated that Bloomfield is committed to mine closure and is currently assessing the pathway to achieve this. TH advised that some activity will be required to reach closure, however, it is too early to define the specifics. A planning modification may also be required, and further information will be provided at the next CCC meeting.</p>	
9	General Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA noted that this was the first meeting of 2026. Accordingly, an opportune time to undertake a review of CCC's Terms of Reference. The current version will be circulated with the draft minutes for members to review and provide feedback. This will then be placed on the Q2 agenda for discussion/ratification. DT asked whether all members must agree to the revised terms. LA confirmed that committee agreement is required. LA advised that the Department of Planning has issued correspondence to CCC Chairs regarding concerns about how some meetings are being conducted. LA noted that none of her committees have been included and confirmed that this committee operates effectively. The Department wanted CCC members' reminded of their obligations under the Guidelines, Terms of Reference, Pecuniary Interest Declarations and Code of Conduct. 	<p>Action.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
10	Next Meeting	
	<p>The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, 16th June 2026 at 10 am. Next meeting to include site tour for those interested.</p>	
11	Meeting Close:	
	<p>The meeting closed at 10:51am, with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.</p>	

ACTION ITEM:

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Distribute current version of CCC Terms of Reference for members review. Place on Q2 Agenda for discussion/ratification.	LA

Acronyms referred to in minutes:

CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
DPHI	Dept of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
IEA	Independent Environmental Audit
DCCEEW	Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water