

BLOOMFIELD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2019

Bloomfield Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Bloomfield Colliery	Reporting Period:	January - December 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Greg Lamb

1. Executive Summary

The Bloomfield Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established as a Consent Condition of Approval granted by the Minister for Planning in September 2009, to allow for the completion of open cut mining operations and rehabilitation. The committee held its inaugural meeting in May 2010.

The Bloomfield Mine is an open cut operation at Ashtonfield, producing 0.6 million tonnes of product coal, mainly for the Asian Market through the Port of Newcastle. The mine is located, west of the M1 Motorway and bounded generally by the New England Highway and John Renshaw Drive. The mining of coal has taken place at this location for over one hundred years by both underground and open cut operations.

The Abel Underground Mine is in close proximity to Bloomfield operations and although the Abel mine is currently on care and maintenance, the Abel consent allows for the utilisation of the Bloomfield coal handling and preparation plant, the rail loading facility and other related infrastructure for the processing of coal.

Committee membership remains small but attentive. The CCC operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

The committee is currently comprised of:

- three local community representatives and one designated alternate;
- one Maitland City Council representative;
- two Bloomfield Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

Meetings are held three times per year, generally with one annual site inspection. As stated in previous reporting, the majority of the mining lease is in the Cessnock Local Government Area, however Cessnock Council has stood by its 2016 decision not to have representation on the committee, although it does receive copies of meeting minutes. Maitland Council does send a representative to meetings when staff resources permit.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been on the Colliery's attempts to stop the illegal tree felling and dumping of rubbish on Bloomfield managed land, the progress of the Heritage Conservation Management Plans for the Buttai Cemetery and the Buttai Reservoir, the delay in hazard reduction activities by the RFS and potential impacts on surrounding residential areas, noise mitigation for the coal handling preparation plant and actions identified in the Independent Environmental Audit.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental monitoring
- noise and odour management
- land management; rehabilitation, spontaneous combustion, feral animal and bushfire control
- approvals update
- current mining status
- community complaints
- biodiversity offset
- Triennial Independent Environmental Audit

Members are active in their respective communities, raise matters on behalf of those communities, in addition to disseminating information through their individual networks to the broader community. The number of community complaints is small and are mainly noise orientated.

A survey of committee members' views on the efficacy of the committee revealed that the meetings are a good forum for discussion of matters of interest. Personal contact is always preferred and the CCC is considered a meaningful form of engagement and fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in March, June and October during the reporting period.
- A site visit of the operations was planned for the June meeting but was postponed because of weather conditions. It was conducted prior to the October meeting.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

3. Key issues

The impetus of the committee is on the future of the area once mining is completed and the management of the environment in the interim.


Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Elimination of odour - John Renshaw Drive	Source of odour identified and plan to extend pipeline and divert away from area.	Complete.
Illegal tree felling and dumping of rubbish	Additional earth bunding and placement of deterrent material, increased patrol of the area by Bloomfield .	Ongoing.
Noise from Coal handling Preparation	Rescheduling of operation times where possible.	Ongoing

Plan		
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4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	April 15 2020