

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Maules Creek	Reporting Period:	2019 (calendar year)
Independent Chairperson:	David Ross	Proponent Contact:	Darren Swain

1. Executive Summary

It was an active year for the CCC with four standard CCC meetings taking place as well as two joint CCCs (as part of the Boggabri-Tarrawonga-Maules Creek complex of coal mines) requiring the attention of committee members.

There are some issues, which has been the focus of the CCC over the past few years. Due to the drought, the issue of water management has gained great prominence throughout the year, resulting in Whitehaven organising for an expert to present on groundwater. These include biodiversity, noise, dust and air quality as well as ensuring the minutes meet diverse needs, to name a few.

These issues provided for much discussion and numerous actions and responses.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

There were four CCC meetings held during the year with the majority of members attending each meeting. Where members could not attend, alternates attended.

Due to the coal mine being located within the Boggabri-Tarrawonga-Maules Creek complex of coal mines, two joint CCCs were also held (in May and late October). These meetings had presentations from the EPA on issues such as regional air quality and its monitoring as well as the ARTC, discussing noise from trains throughout the area.

Unfortunately, the surrounding area continued to suffer from drought. This, in some ways, directed the nature of the conversations, which were often focused on water management and, to a lesser extent, air quality issues associated with dust.

3. Key issues

As part of the review into the key issues discussed throughout 2019, feedback was also sought from CCC members at our October 2019 meeting. These are:

- Biodiversity offsets reporting
- Water and its management
- Feral animals and fire management
- Dust and air quality
- Noise and sound power levels


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Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Biodiversity	Updates have been given on the biodiversity offsets and how they are being managed during the drought	Consideration will be given this year to having a tour of the offsets as well as a presentation from an appropriate WHC expert
Water	Water monitoring data are presented at each CCC meeting, allowing for discussion. Discussions were also held with Maules Creek mine staff with respect to how long water would be available during the drought and what was being done to prolong its availability	With the drought remaining a significant concern for the Boggabri-Maules Creek communities, water remains a key issue with CCC members interested in how much water remains
Feral animals and fire management	Information presented at CCCs and Joint CCCs on how this is being managed.	Updates on these matters will continue into 2020.
Dust and air quality	Air quality data are presented at each CCC meeting, facilitating much discussion. However, due to the drought continuing to be a significant concern for the community, staff from the EPA have presented at Joint CCC meetings regarding regional air quality, including dust levels.	It is anticipated that this will continue to remain a key issue.
Noise and sound power levels	Noise data are presented at each CCC meeting, facilitating much discussion.	Discussions on these matters will continue into 2020.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Planned Activities that have been discussed include site visits (completed in February 2020)
- Other issues that are to be explored through 2020 include water management, community health management, biodiversity, air quality and noise

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Signature of Chair:	
Date:	24 th June, 2020