

BLOOMFIELD COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2018

Bloomfield Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Bloomfield Colliery	Reporting Period:	January - December 2018
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, 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.

The Committee has had diminishing numbers for a number of years but still 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.

Whilst the majority of the mining lease is in the Cessnock Local Government Area, in December 2016 and following a review of its external committees, Cessnock Council decided that its representation on the committee was no longer required. However, the committee now includes a Maitland Council representative and an additional community representative following a recruitment drive in late 2018.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been on the progress of the Modification 4 approved in August 2018, which extends operations until December 2030, the long term plans for the mine site and surrounding areas once mining is complete, illegal tree felling and dumping of rubbish on Bloomfield managed land and the historical significance of the Buttai Reservoir. The committee also has a broader interest in the effects of climate change, renewable energy as an alternative to future coal mining and

the various statutory reporting requirements such as the National Greenhouse Energy Reporting Scheme and the National Pollutant Inventory.

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
- member recruitment
- reforms to the Mine Subsidence Compensation system
- Triennial Independent Environmental Audit

Albeit a small committee, each member is interested in Bloomfield operations, active in their respective communities and disseminating information through their individual networks to the broader community. As such, the committee 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 conducted as part of 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.	In progress.
Illegal tree felling and dumping of rubbish	Discussions with OEH and Police. Additional bunding and placement of deterrent material, increased patrol of the area by Bloomfield .	Ongoing.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2019 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. A site inspection is planned for the June meeting to familiarise new members and update previous members with progress of operations.

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:	March 28 2019