

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Maules Creek	Reporting Period:	2018 (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 some other regional meetings requiring the attention of committee members.

There are some issues, which has been the focus of the CCC over the past few years. These include biodiversity, noise, dust and air quality as well as ensuring the minutes meet diverse needs, to name a few. 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 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 (and at times, observers) 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 November). These meetings both had presentations from the EPA on issues such as regional air quality and its monitoring.

Finally, the CCC members were also consulted on:

- the mine's independent biodiversity audit;
- the mine's independent environmental audit;
- the draft social impact management plan for the mine;
- the draft biodiversity management plan for the mine; and
- the draft BTM water strategy.

3. Key issues

As part of the review into the key issues discussed throughout 2018, feedback was also sought from CCC members at our November 2018 meeting. These are:

- Biodiversity
- Water and its management
- Feral animals and fire management
- Dust and air quality
- Noise and sound power levels
- Local employment
- Recording of minutes

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Biodiversity	Updates have been given by WHC staff on biodiversity and CCC members have been invited to provide feedback on the Biodiversity Management Plan	Consideration will be given this year to having a tour of the offsets
Water	Water monitoring data are presented at each CCC meeting, allowing for discussion. A presentation was also given by external experts on groundwater and the mine's impact on groundwater (August).	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 (and how additional sources of water may be accessed)
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 2019.
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, the mine updated the CCC on its efforts to manage dust whilst minimising water usage.	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. Furthermore, EPA presented to the CCC during the	Discussions on these matters will continue into 2019.

	year on noise monitoring and modelling.	
Local employment	Information is presented at each CCC on employment and WHC have responded by breaking their statistics down further in order for the CCC to understand where staff live, or how many staff have been employed in the last quarter (including numbers of indigenous people)	It is anticipated that Whitehaven will continue to provide this information on a quarterly basis.
Minutes for the meetings	Due to differences within the CCC on what the minutes should entail, discussions have been held with members and feedback sought on a way forward	Continue to seek feedback from members on minutes

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Planned Activities that have been discussed include site visits (including visits of the offsets)
- Other issues that are to be explored through 2019 include water management (with the persistence of the drought being a catalyst), how to continue to be as effective a committee as possible.
- Emerging issues that need to further discussed may include committee development (ie further understanding of the approvals and compliance process)

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	27 th May, 2019