

# Moolarben Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2021

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Moolarben Coal	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	March 2020 to March 2021
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Graham Chase</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

The Moolarben Coal Mine is an open cut and underground coal mine located about 40 kilometres northeast of Mudgee in the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area.

The site comprises of four approved open cut mining areas, three approved underground mining areas and other mining related infrastructure.

The mine commenced operations in 2008 and has received modified consents from that time. Currently, Modification 14 & Modification 3 have been referred to the Independent Planning Commission for consideration and determination.

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (January 2019). The committee was established following the mine's approval and the membership consists of:

- Four local community representatives
- One Mid Western Regional Council delegate
- One stakeholder group (Mudgee Business Chamber)
- One local aboriginal land council delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The meetings are held quarterly March, June, September & November and attendees receive a comprehensive presentation from the proponent. Topics of discussion during the report period included:

- COVID-19 pandemic management on site and impacts on operations
- Environmental monitoring
- Biodiversity offset works
- Employment and recruitment
- Updates on progress of Modifications
- Management Plan reviews
- Surface and groundwater monitoring
- Community Support Program
- Annual Review presentation
- Updates on water and air quality, noise monitoring, and rehabilitation
- Drilling and exploration
- Water yield declines and impacts from the drought
- Approvals update
- Current mining status
- Proposed EL6288 exploration

- Employment/Traineeship & Apprenticeship opportunities
- Pest Management and baiting; and
- Community complaints

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in March 2020, June 2020 and September 2020 (via video-conference due to COVID-19 restrictions), with November 2020 held at MCCO.
- A site inspection was undertaken in November 2020 prior to the CCC and included the new Water Treatment Facility.
- Updates regarding the proponent's response and operational changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to competing commitments.
- As well as the reporting period presentations, briefings were provided on the Annual Review, Open Cut Optimisation Modification, blast incident prosecution, the Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS) being undertaken by the University of Queensland – Sustainable Minerals Institute (UQ),
- There were no joint CCC's held.

## 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
<b>Water data and monitoring information</b>	Community representative requesting water data	Requests made and information provided to CCC.
<b>Decline in RFS membership due to people moving out of the area due to mining activities</b>	Moolarben Coal staff encouraged and supported to be members of the RFS	Staff are provided leave to assist with firefighting activities.
<b>Open Cut Optimisation Modification</b>	Briefings are provided on the Open Cut Optimisation Modification	Ongoing.
<b>UG4 modification</b>	CCC members provided with updates and progress of the UG4 Ancillary Works Modification.	Ongoing.
<b>The Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS), being undertaken by the University of Queensland –</b>	Information to be provided to CCC when available.	Ongoing.

<b>Sustainable Minerals Institute (UQ)</b>		
<b>Drip Deed</b>	Certificates of Title issued - awaiting registration with Land Registry Services.	Keep CCC members informed of progress.
<b>Bobadeen Biodiversity Offset Area</b>	Bobadeen Creek Conservation Works - will be progressively planted out including the riparian zones.	Planting in the Bobadeen offset area continues with approximately 2000 trees planted to date.
<b>Protection of Koala Habitats</b>	Queries on surveys carried out of koalas and whether there has been any reported in the Moolarben and Ulan area.	CCC advised that numerous surveys have occurred on site and trees are planted in rehabilitation areas and offset areas to include feed trees for koalas.
<b>Lue Silver Mine Project</b>	Queries on whether there have been discussions between MCCO & Bowdens regarding the supply of water.	Confirmed that MCO has had discussions with Bowdens and that no agreement is in place.

#### 4 Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

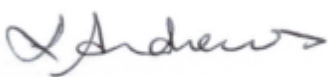
- A site inspection.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Continued requests for water data and monitoring information.
- Continued updates on the progress of Open Cut Optimisation Modification.
- Continued updates on the UG4 modification.
- Information on the Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS), being undertaken by the University of Queensland to be provided to the CCC when available.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

With the ever changing department and agencies titles (state and federal), associated contact details and variant roles - it is very difficult for the lay-person (and chair) to remain up to date and informed in relation to regulatory compliance, licencing, legislative requirements etc. It would be helpful if DPIE could assist chairs by providing a list of agencies/departments, contact information (email) and a brief summary of which specialities are administered/reviewed/audited by each group - especially in relation to the review of Annual Reports, Water (ground, surface, bores, etc) Management Plans, Site Audits, Regulatory Compliance, etc.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	22 April 2021