



Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee

Annual Report 2021

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	January to December 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Michael Muston	Proponent Contact:	qem@1earth.net

1. Executive Summary

Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee (TCCCC) Meetings throughout 2021 were again impacted by the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. All of the scheduled meetings for 2021 proceeded, noting the March meeting was held using an online meeting platform only. The June, September and December meetings were held in part at the Tahmoor Coal office but with the option to join remotely online. While this placed greater difficulty on both the community members and the mine staff, the meetings have generally been productive and informative and otherwise not adversely impacted by the necessary Covid safe restrictions.

TCCCC key issue for 2021 was the proposed Tahmoor South mine expansion

- On 17 December 2020, the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) recommended the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approve the Tahmoor South Project.
- The IPC held a site visit on 9 February 2021 which included a tour of the pit top, Tahmoor North mining area (including Thirlmere Lakes, Redbank and Myrtle Creeks) and Tahmoor South proposed mining area (including the Australian Wildlife Sanctuary, Dog Trap Creek and the REA). This included community representation (Julie Sheppard, NPA).
- An applicant meeting was held on 10 February 2021 with the IPC Commissioners.
- The Public Hearing occurred over a period of 3 days from 15 - 17 February 2021.
- On 23 April 2021, the IPC granted development consent for Tahmoor South, subject to 168 conditions.
- Developing 13 Environmental Management Plans required as conditions of consent.
- Community update letter and new Resident Information Pack were distributed to 620 landowners located in the 20mm predicted subsidence zone.
- 11 business/commercial properties have been identified in the A series longwalls requiring an individual Property Subsidence Management Plan (PSMP). Consultation meetings have commenced with business owners.

- A key change has been made to the longwall sequencing. Tahmoor Coal is now planning to mine the A series first followed by the B series.

Remediation of Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek where cracking has occurred.

Myrtle Creek

- Schedule for 7 pools and associated rockbars approved by Resources Regulator.
- Remediation Pool 23 is completed and remaining of remediation works started in April 2021. Works to be completed by mid-2022 as per schedule.
- Characterisation drilling and fracture mapping of pools 20, 18, 14, 12a, 11 and 10 completed.
- Lab trials using sand and colloidal silica composite grout aiming at replacing PUR were undertaken. The Materials testing, flow properties and injection modelling were completed however the trial was unsuccessful.
- Tender was awarded in April 2021 for the remaining of the remediation work.
- Creek Pool 20 Remediation strategy includes a 50m curtain wall to a depth of 15m below creek level using PUR with a four-stage process including shallow curtain wall to 2m and deeper curtain in 5m increment.
- The shallow curtain wall was completed (drill and grout) in September 2021.

Redbank Creek

- A schedule for 15 pools and 6 rockbars was approved by Resources Regulator and remediation of 8 pools and 1 rockbar at weir were completed by March 2021.
- Rock bar 19, Pool 18 and Pool 20 remediation works were undertaken during 2021.
- Planning and mapping for next section of creek to remediate with scheduled completion by December 2022.
- Rockbar RB6 Remediation strategy including a 50m curtain wall to a depth of 18m and a shallow curtain wall to 2m and deeper curtain in 6m increments is expected to be completed by the end of December 2021.
- Ongoing surface and groundwater water monitoring was undertaken for both creeks to assess effectiveness of the remediation. The spring Aquatic Survey was undertaken with the report still to be completed. Ongoing surface and groundwater water monitoring was also undertaken to assess effectiveness of the remediation.

TCCCC monitored plans for the treatment of heavy metals (Ni, As, Zn, Cu, N, Al and EC) from discharge water from the mine site. The previous wastewater treatment plant has not been successful to date and has required considerable investigation and modification. A proposed Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant to replace it was put out for tender and tender period ended in mid-April 2020.

- The RO Plant contract was awarded to IXOM. A pilot plant was installed September 2021 with a special condition in the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for the pilot plant installation by October 2021 and main plant prior to Tahmoor South secondary extraction (estimated September 2022). The RO Plant is designed to meet ANZECC Guidelines as per EPL conditions for the following analytes: (EC, Ba, Ni, As, Zn, Cu, N, Al, pH, CaCO₃).
- New EPL conditions include:
 - Toxicity monitoring

- Aquatic health monitoring program
- Investigation into sediment in Tea Tree Hollow Creek.
- The pilot plant began quality trials on 18 October 2021 and trials are due for completion on 10 December 2021. The pilot plant is performing well and permeate largely meeting ANZECC guidelines apart from Nitrogen levels. The plant is undergoing some fine tuning and Nitrogen levels are reducing steadily. Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) upgrades will further reduce Nitrogen levels.

TCCCC monitored the mining in the Western Domain

Longwall West 2 mining was completed in June 2021. Longwall West 3 commenced on 14 September 2021. The start was delayed by finalisation of Management Plans and Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) for monitoring of Stonequarry Creek Rockbar. Since commencement of Longwall West 3 excellent performance has been made including daily and weekly production records.

The TCCCC monitored the environmental and subsidence impacts of Western Domain including minor fracturing at the Stonequarry Creek Rockbar, and cracking on a culvert on the Picton-Mittagong Loop Line (heritage rail).

TCCCC monitored the ongoing research into Thirlmere Lakes by Wollondilly Shire Council, Water NSW and universities. At a Thirlmere Lakes Research Program meeting, organised by Wollondilly Shire Council, which SIMEC Mining representatives attended, researchers advised that, subject to availability of funding, they would like to continue monitoring the hydrology of the lakes. A Synthesis Report on the Research Program is due to be released in December or January from the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) Science Division - now known as the Department of Planning and Environment.

Financial issues with the parent company owning Tahmoor Coal

The TCCCC monitored the progress of financial issues affecting GFC which is the parent company for Tahmoor Coal. The collapse early in 2021 of Greensill, which was a major funder for GFG meant that GFG needed to search for alternate funding. A Credit Suisse application for “wind-up” in NSW Federal Court – initial hearing 6 May 2021, resulted in a mutual extension of time. Later in the year funding for the Australian operation was secured through Credit Suisse and the wind up application was withdrawn thus securing the ongoing operation of Tahmoor Coal.

Changes to the TCCCC membership occurring during the year:

- The Tahmoor South consent conditions A25 and A26 for the Community Consultative Committee requirements state that Tahmoor Coal can write to DPIE and seek approval to combine the existing CCC with the Tahmoor South CCC and request to appoint the existing Independent Chair to the combined CCC. The committee discussed this proposal and agreed to support this option. This was subsequently approved by the DPIE.
- There were no additions or resignations during 2021. The Chair raised the potential of filling the vacant position on the committee following the resignation in December 2020 of Virginia Fairley and possibly extending an invite to the local indigenous community. This proposal will be considered at the March 2022 meeting.

2. TCCCC activities over last 12 months

The TCCCC met on four occasions in 2021. Membership of the committee is:

- Michael Muston - Independent Chairperson
- David Auchterlonie - Community Representative
- Col Mitchell - Community Representative
- Robert Khan - Wollondilly Shire Council Representative
- David Henry - Wollondilly Shire Council Representative
- Ana Gracanin - Community Representative
- Robert Clayton - Community Representative
- James Johnson - Community Representative
- Peter Vale - Tahmoor Coal Representative
- Zina Ainsworth - Tahmoor Coal Representative
- Amanda Francis/Bateman - Tahmoor Coal Representative

A summary of the meeting dates and attendance is in the following table.

Attendance	4 March 2021	3 June 2021	2 September 2021	2 December 2021
Michael Muston	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
David Auchterlonie	Attended	Apology	Attended	Attended
Col Mitchell	Attended	Attended	Apology	Attended
Robert Khan	Apology	Apology	Apology	Apology
David Henry	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Ana Gracanin	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
Robert Clayton	Attended	Apology	Attended	Attended
James Johnson	Apology	Attended	Attended	Attended
Peter Vale	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Zina Ainsworth	Apology	Attended	Attended	Attended
Amanda Francis/Bateman	Apology	Attended	Attended	Attended

Meeting minutes for 2021 are attached in Appendix A of this report.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions site visits in 2021 were limited but in April, some TCCCC members, along with Councillors and senior staff from Wollondilly Shire Council visited the remediation work in Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek. Those unable to attend were shown a video of the work to rehabilitate the impacts of subsidence fracturing.

3. Key issues

The following is a summary of the key issues raised by the TCCCC throughout the year and any actions taken to respond to these.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Tahmoor South Approval Process	Monitoring of approval process for Tahmoor South project	TCCCC was updated on the approval process. The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) granted development consent for Tahmoor South on 23 April 2021. Early workings have commenced in preparation for approval of mine plans and longwall commencement. The TCCCC continues to monitor any community concerns and the development of management plans required as part of the approval process.
Western Domain mining	TCCCC monitored progress of the approved longwalls which commenced in late 2019 and mine plans for the remaining longwalls in the Western Domain as well as any environmental or subsidence issues that arise.	LW W2 mining complete June 2021. LW W3 commenced September 2021. TCCCC was updated at each meeting on the progress and results of ongoing monitoring of creeks, rail infrastructure and heritage items.
Influences on the levels of Thirlmere Lakes Low Water Levels	Monitor research being undertaken on the Thirlmere Lakes hydrogeology and reasons for the current extended period of low water levels	Continue to review the results of current research projects including report from the Department of Planning and Environment due for release early in 2022.
Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek subsidence cracking	Monitoring of remediation work in Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek and of the monitoring results subsequent to the rehabilitation of some pools.	TCCCC given feedback on trials and progress on longer term rehabilitation of both creeks as well as monitoring results.
Progress on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant	Monitoring of the proposed Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant.	Review the results of the pilot plant trials and subsequent installation later in 2022 of the Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Monitor progress of the commencement plans and required management plans from the approval for Tahmoor South extension.
- Continue monitoring of the remediation of Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek
- Continue to monitor the completion of the Western Domain mining operations.
- Continue to monitor progress of the Reverse Osmosis Wastewater Treatment Plant for the treatment of heavy metals.
- Continue to monitor community concerns

Signature of Chair:	M H Muston
Date:	15/3/2022

Appendix A - 2021 Meeting Minutes

[Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee website](#)