

United Wambo Joint Venture Project Community Consultative Committee Annual Report - 2021

CCC / Project Name:	United Wambo Joint Venture Project	Reporting Period:	March 2020 to March 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Peter Jaegar/Aislinn Farnon

1. Executive Summary

The Wambo Coal Mine is located in the Hunter Valley about 15 kms west of Singleton, near the village of Warkworth. The mine is bounded by several coal mining operations to the north and east, agricultural activities associated with Wambo Creek and Wollombi Brook to the south and Wollemi National Park to the southwest.

The mine originally commenced operations in 1969 and its project operations involve the Wambo open cut, multi-seam longwall mining in the South Bates Underground Mine (Whybrow Seam) progressing to the Wambo Seam and South Wambo Underground Mine.

In 2016 Wambo Coal Mine together with United Colliery applied for a joint venture project. This project, which is located approximately 16kms west of Singleton, proposed to expand and integrate open cut mining operations at the existing Wambo Coal Mine and the United Colliery to allow for the extraction of an additional 150Mt. This application was approved by the Independent Planning Commission in August 2019. As a result of this, DPIE approved the combination of the Wambo Coal Mine and United Colliery's Community Consultative Committee's to create the United Wambo Joint Venture Project Community Consultative (CCC).

The joint venture arrangement proposed a new open cut coal mine to optimise future open cut coal mining operations across the two mining areas by maximising resource recovery and enabling extraction of an additional 150 million tonnes of coal over 23 years.

The United Wambo Joint Venture Project 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 combined membership now consists of:

- Five community representatives
- One Singleton Council delegate
- Three company representatives from each company (Peabody & Glencore); and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The inaugural meeting of the United Wambo Joint Venture Project CCC was held in August 2020, followed by December 2020 and February 2021. It is proposed to hold meetings on a quarterly basis moving forward.

At the August 2020 meeting and following the proponent's Social Impact Assessment process during the engagement process for the joint venture, it was decided to recruit for additional membership on the CCC. Following a successful campaign, three stakeholder groups and two community representative nominations were received, which were more applications than positions available.

Following consideration, DPIE approved one community representative and two stakeholder groups to join the existing combined CCC.

The CCC received two separate presentations at the meeting. One on the existing Wambo Coal project (Peabody) and the other being the United Wambo Joint Venture Project (Glencore & Peabody)

Topics of discussion for the Wambo project include:

- Current operations and long wall plans
- Rehabilitation areas
- Compliance & performance criteria summaries
- Environmental Monitoring Results
- Reports and Management Plans
- 2020 Annual Review
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- South Bates Underground including the South Bates Extension UG Shaft failure
- North Wambo Creek Diversion Rehabilitation
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy
- Long Wall Operations
- Management Plans reviews and updates
- Construction of infrastructure (buildings, etc) on site
- Complaints received and handling procedure
- Community support and sponsorship program

The CCC met the United Wambo JV Senior Project Team at the August 2020 meeting and received a comprehensive presentation on activities to be undertaken as part of the new mine, including:

- Mining Operation Plan
- Mine Infrastructure Area
- High Voltage relocation
- Pit activities
- Infrastructure & machinery
- Management Plans
- Water management system
- Blasting procedures

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

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The previous Wambo CCC met in April 2020 (remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions) and the combined CCC met in August 2020, December 2020 and February 2021.
- Additional presentations have been received by the CCC, regarding the Joint Venture Project:
- Management Plan reviews and approvals.
- Exploration Activities.
- Wambo Singleton Hall of Fame nominees and recipients.
- Presentation on Blasting Procedures, including footage by expert.

- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to other commitments.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Noise	The company operates in accordance with its approved Noise Management Plan. All noise complaints are recorded and staff take appropriate action at the time they are reported.	Noise complaints and investigations are presented at each CCC.
Dust	The company operates in accordance with its approved Air Quality Management Plan. With the expansion of the project's mining activities, into new areas, additional dust impacts are being experienced.	Dust monitoring results are presented at each CCC.
Water	Ground water modelling and monitoring of aquifers are being reviewed and reported to CCC.	Regular presentations are provided.
Viewing of the train loadout area	Either in person or via drone footage.	Inspection planned for April 2021.
Possible trespassing of vehicles on neighbouring private property	Concerns raised with regarding unidentified vehicles accessing private property.	An audit/investigation of vehicles was undertaken and trigger cameras installed to monitor situation.

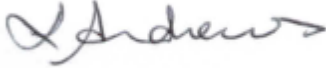
4. Focus for next 12 months

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

- Meet on a quarterly basis (February, April, August and December 2021).
- Hold at least one CCC at the Wambo mine with the remaining being at the United site.
- A site inspection is proposed to view the train loadout facility & Creek Diversion project in April 2021.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Keep CCC abreast with groundwater monitoring.

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:	23 April 2021