

Wilpinjong Coal Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report 2021

CCC / Project Name:	Wilpinjong Coal	Reporting Period:	March 2020 to March 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Kieren Bennetts/Ian Flood

1. Executive Summary

The Wilpinjong Coal mine is located in the Mid Western Regional local government area, near the village of Wollar, approximately 40kms northwest of Mudgee.

The coal mine produces a high quality thermal coal for domestic and export markets. 70% of the coal mined from this project is transported by rail to the Hunter Valley and used for the generation of electricity at the Bayswater & Liddell Power Stations.

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:

- Five local community representatives (incorporating the Wollar Progress Association delegate)
- One Mid-Western Regional Council delegate
- One National Parks & Wildlife Service delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

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

- Environmental Monitoring Overview, including:
 - Attended Noise Monitoring
 - Real time Noise Monitoring locations
 - Blast Monitoring/Vibration Monitoring
 - Dust Monitoring
 - RO Discharge Data
- Operational Downtime statistics
- Exploration Program
- Rehabilitation Update
- Community complaints, community donations and consultation
- The Wilpinjong Extension Project
- The Ulan/Wollar Realignment
- 22/66kv transmission line realignment
- Property Management
- Dog & fox baiting program
- Access to properties acquired by Peabody (cemetery, park, etc)

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, September 2020, December 2020 and March 2021.
- A site inspection was undertaken in September 2020
- Feral animal control program.
- Detailed information about the Wilpinjong Extension Project, including water sharing, infrastructure, etc.
- 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 are presented at each CCC.
Dust	The company operates in accordance with its approved Air Quality Management Plan.	Dust monitoring results are presented at each CCC. With the drought conditions and regional storm events, dust continues to raise concern with the community.
Blast Vibration	Some residents continue to raise concern with blast vibration and plumes.	Wilpinjong Coal has an approved Blasting Management Plan and all blasts are carried out in accordance with this document. No non compliances have been recorded.
Wilpinjong Extension Project	Extensive briefings are provided at each CCC meeting.	Ongoing.
Social Impact Management Plan	Circulate when approved by DPIE.	When approved.

Closure of the Wollar General Store	The proponent has advised members at the February 2021 that the Wollar General Store will close in December 2021 due to declining business.	Ten months notice has been provided to the CCC (community).
Australia Post Services in Wollar	Concerns have been raised over the past two years about the future of postal services at Wollar should the store close.	Chair wrote to local MP raising concerns and suggesting options. Australia Post has responded confirming its commitment in providing a satisfactory service to residents.
Whether dismantled playground equipment from the Wollar village can be disposed of on site	Investigations to date indicate that it should be possible.	Update to be provided at future CCC.
Notification by ARTC of proposed rail works	The proponent forwards through any notifications to chair for distribution to members.	Chair has contacted ARTC and requested to be placed on notification email distribution list.
Attended Noise Monitoring	Request for hard copies to be provided.	Hard copies available and distributed at each CCC.

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:

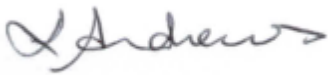
- A site inspection in September 2021.
- Presentations on the Wollar Resource Area (previously the Tralee EL)
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Communicate project modifications.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Continued updates on the Wilpinjong Extension Project.
- Updates on proposed exploration application on land adjacent to Wilpinjong mine.

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.

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.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	30 April 2021