

# Metropolitan Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2023

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Metropolitan Coal	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	March 2022 to May 2024
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Stephen Love</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

Metropolitan Coal Mine is one of the oldest continually operating coal mines in Australia and has been part of the Helensburgh community for 129 years. With its location amongst residential areas and the national park in Helensburgh, Metropolitan continues to meet its environmental monitoring requirements and community expectations in a sensitive region.

The committee members continue to receive informative presentations from staff on the mine's operations and compliance with conditions of approval, including:

- Findings of the Independent Environmental Audit and Annual Review.
- Resource Regulator Audit
- Regular updates on the Independent Expert Panel on Mining in the Catchment and Metropolitan's contribution in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.
- Updates on Extraction Plan & Long Wall modifications.
- Noise monitoring and mitigation improvements, including the implementation of low-noise idlers.
- Air quality results.
- Groundwater monitoring results.
- Trucking of Coal Wash Rejects (CWR) and beneficial reuse options.
- Rail transport.
- Updates to the Water Management Plan (WMP), including the stream remediation plans for Eastern Tributary and Waratah Rivulet.
- Pillar Extraction areas.
- Complaints register; and
- Its community investment program in the region.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (June 2023). The committee membership consists of:

- Five local community representatives
- Two stakeholder group representatives (National Parks Association & one person representing Helensburgh Lions Club and Helensburgh Probus Club )
- One Wollongong City Council delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

I am pleased to report that Peabody Energy continue to consult with the community at a high level with three meetings held over each calendar year, being April, July and November with reasonably good attendance by members.

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

- There were meetings held in March 2022, July 2022, November 2022 and May 2023 on site.
- Members received comprehensive presentations on:
  - The mine's environmental monitoring activities
  - Company and Mine Update
  - Project Modifications
  - Exploration Leases
  - EPA investigations
  - Landslip Update
  - IEAPM Recommendations – Upland Swamp Monitoring
  - Clean up of Camp Creek
  - Surface & Groundwater
  - Water treatment plant
  - Turkeys Nest Upgrade Works
  - LW Extraction Plan and Project Modifications
- The CCC also receives a summary of the project's Annual Review results.
- The CCC continues to be kept informed by the company of the Independent Expert Panel's reporting on the impact of mining activities in the catchment and Woronora Reservoir Strategy.
- There has been little progress on the chailings trial, where a biochar-like product is created from the left over material to generate a material to be used to improve soil nutrient and moisture holding capacity. Part of this trial will involve approval by the EPA.
- Metropolitan's consultation with Wollongong City Council regarding use of its CWR as fill at the Helensburgh Landfill is still under investigation.
- The CCC received a presentation by the Independent Chairperson on the Department of Planning's revised guidelines for SSD CCCs; outlining the changes and providing an opportunity to reinforce the objectives of the CCC and role of members. The members of the CCC have developed a specific Terms of Reference for this committee as well as completed the necessary governance forms (Pecuniary Interest Declarations and Code of Conduct), which will be reviewed annually.

- Attendance at the meetings is varied, due to other competing priorities associated with volunteer members.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

### 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Long Wall Extraction Plans</b>	Regular updates are provided on the existing and proposed long wall activities	Presented at each CCC.
<b>Noise</b>	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.
<b>Dust</b>	The company operates in accordance with its approved Air Quality Management Plan.	Dust monitoring results are presented at each CCC.
<b>Introduction of Platypus</b>	Metropolitan are continuing to assist UNSW with the introduction of Platypus in the lower reaches of the Hacking River catchment, which was delayed due to heavy rainfall.	Ongoing.
<b>Eastern Tributary Update</b>	Metropolitan continues to provide updates on the remediation of the Eastern Tributary.	Ongoing
<b>Coal Sales</b>	Following assertions in the community about coal from the mine was being sold/exported; Peabody confirmed that 50% of its annual product was supplied to BlueScope for steelmaking.	No further action.
<b>Exploration Leases</b>	Peabody will continue to provide updates to the CCC on proposed exploration plans.	Ongoing

#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

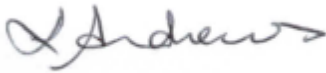
- A site inspection.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on the remediation of the Eastern Tributary.
- Continued updates on the status of operations at the mine.
- Continued updates on the chailings trial.
- Continued updates on regulatory compliance
- Continued updates on Long Wall Extraction Plans
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.

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.

#### Review of Effectiveness of the CCC

In accordance with the revised CCC guidelines, it is deemed that the CCC operates effectively. The proponent provides comprehensive presentations, ongoing notifications, timely responses to requests and completion of action items. There have been no concerns raised by CCC members.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	31 May 2024