



Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee

Annual Report 2023

CCC / Project Name:	Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	January to December 2023
Independent Chairperson:	Michael Muston	Proponent Contact:	qem@1earth.net

1. Executive Summary

The scheduled Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee (TCCCC) Meetings throughout 2023 proceeded as face to face meetings but some committee members and Tahmoor Coal staff attended the meetings online via Microsoft Teams.

The key initiatives monitored by the committee in 2023 included:

- sealing of the Western Domain following completion of mining in this area in late 2022
- continuation of mining in the Tahmoor South Domain mine expansion area
- continuation of monitoring and remediation works in Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek
- installation of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment plant to reduce heavy metal discharges from the mine site
- implementation of noise reduction works at the mine site; and
- upgrade of the gas drainage plant.

2. Western Domain

- Recovery of mining equipment from Tahmoor North was completed in mid-2023. Following completion, the Tahmoor North workings were sealed late in 2023.
- Environmental monitoring currently in post-mining stage. No observed adverse subsidence-related impacts to dams, cliffs, steep slopes, agricultural land, surface water quality, groundwater level and quality, aquatic or terrestrial ecology, or Aboriginal heritage were recorded.
- Surface Water Level – Level 3 Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) was activated for an atypical decline in water level at a monitoring site in April 2023. Further investigation and data analysis were conducted.

- Tahmoor Coal completed rehabilitation of subsidence impacted historical heritage rail culverts in June in accordance with Transport for NSW (Heritage) standards.

3. Tahmoor South Domain

- Longwall South 1A (S1A) commenced extraction on 18 October 2022. In January 2023, production was the best result in the history of the mine, with over 350kt produced, including weekly tonnes record of 104,374.
- Longwall South 2A (LW S2A) commenced extraction on 2 August 2023.
- Roadways and other first workings are progressing for future South A longwalls.

Several major projects required as condition of consent for Tahmoor South continued to completion during the year:

Waste Water Treatment Plant

- External civil works and major equipment installation (Ion Exchange and RO skids) were completed in December 2023 when commissioning of the plant commenced.
- A modification for brine disposal at Tahmoor Coal (underground discharge) and storage of mine water underground was submitted to the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) in early 2023. DPE approval was received on 23 June 2023. Tahmoor Coal ceased pursuing brine disposal (ocean discharge) at Port Kembla Coal Terminal.
- Tahmoor Coal are continuing to review other possible options as a backup to the underground primary disposal plan.

Noise mitigation:

- The design and installation of required noise reduction works was substantially completed by September 2023 including:
 - Installation of acoustic cladding
 - Installation of acoustic roller doors
 - Fitting of noise reduction material to windows
 - Dozer sound suppression kits (installed in June 2023) - 4dBA reduction achieved
 - Increased dozer operation on the Eastern side of stockpiles - 6 dBA reduction achieved
 - Reject Haul Truck being fitted with new automatic transmission motor and upgraded sound kit in September 2023.

Gas drainage plant upgrade:

- This will optimise gas capture, reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, and provide an opportunity for Tahmoor Coal to reduce or eliminate the use of electricity from the grid through expansion of the gas-powered electricity generation plant. Tahmoor Coal commenced capital works to increase the capacity of the Gas Drainage Plant to maximise gas extraction from the underground workings and plant capacity to 6,000L/s (3,000L/s currently) to enable increased electricity generation capacity. A contract was awarded to CS Gas and work has commenced.

Proposed Modification to mine plan

- Tahmoor Coal have proposed an additional longwall panel South 7A (LW S7A) for extraction in 2027 following completion of the A series longwalls S1A to S6A. A modification proposal will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), formerly known as Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), by early 2024 which will seek:
 - Extraction of an additional longwall in the 'A series' (Longwall S7A).
 - Administrative amendment to mining timeframes.
- Stakeholder and community consultation is underway with:
 - Government agencies
 - Registered Aboriginal Parties
 - Landholders of impacted land above and adjacent to the proposed longwall.

4. Remediation of Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek

Myrtle Creek:

- Schedule for 7 pools and associated rock bars were approved by the NSW Resources Regulator with work on the 7 pools completed. Further monitoring has resulted in the need for additional work on 2 of these pools during 2023 and this work is due for completion in January 2024.
- The remediation strategy for each pool involved a wide curtain wall to a depth and width determined from geotechnical investigations. Generally, there is a four-stage process including shallow curtain wall to approximately 2m and deeper curtain wall in 6m increments (depending on conditions at each site) with each site planned based on investigative drilling.
- Ongoing surface and groundwater monitoring continue to assess effectiveness of remediation works.

Redbank Creek:

- A schedule for 15 pools and 6 rock bars was approved by the NSW Resources Regulator and remediation of 14 pools and 5 rock bars were completed by December 2023.
- The remaining pool has commenced and will be completed in January 2024 and the final rock bar is planned to commence in early 2024 with completion expected around mid-2024.
- Ongoing surface and groundwater water monitoring was undertaken for both creeks to assess the effectiveness of the remediation.
- Bi-annual monitoring using Standard River Assessment System (AUSRIVAS) was carried out. Results show a slight decrease in aquatic health for most sites including reference sites, likely due to climatic conditions and stream characteristics (bedrock dominated pools not supporting diverse habitats).

5. Other issues

- The TCCCC received a briefing on the management of greenhouse gasses in the mining operations of Tahmoor Coal.
- Tahmoor Coal advised the TCCCC that it has agreed to an 'Enforceable Undertaking', i.e. pay a fine in lieu of water access licences, and undertake a community project 'Bushcare Restoration in Stonequarry Creek'. The Enforceable Undertaking was due to subsidence impacts on the creeks from Tahmoor North mining which resulted in water redirection to the sub-surface and then reappeared downstream. Tahmoor Coal is committed to the rehabilitation of these creeks and significant rehabilitation works is continuing to restore pool water levels.

6. Changes to the TCCCC membership during the year

- David Auchterlonie informed the committee of his resignation. He has been the longest standing committee member, having first started on the committee as a Wollondilly Shire Council Representative approximately 28 years ago and was subsequently appointed as a Community Representative. The committee wished David all the very best and thanked him for this valued contribution and input.
- Expressions of Interest were called in late 2022 and Nicole Pearce was appointed as a Community Representative in March 2023.
- Further Expressions of Interest were sought in late 2023 for new members to join the TCCCC with advertisements placed in local newspapers and notice boards, with the appointment of two new members pending.

7. TCCCC activities over last 12 months

The TCCCC met on four occasions in 2023. Membership of the committee includes:

- Michael Muston - Independent Chairperson
- David Auchterlonie - Community Representative (to March 2023)
- Col Mitchell - Community Representative
- Robert Clayton - Community Representative
- James Johnson - Community Representative
- Nicole Pearce - Community Representative (from March 2023)
- Paul Rogers - Wollondilly Shire Council Representative
- Michael Banasik - alternative Wollondilly Shire Council Representative
- David Henry - Wollondilly Shire Council Representative
- Peter Vale - Tahmoor Coal Representative
- Zina Ainsworth - Tahmoor Coal Representative
- Amanda Bateman - Tahmoor Coal Representative

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

Attendance	2 March 2023	1 June 2023	7 September 2023	7 December 2023
Michael Muston	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
David Auchterlonie	Attended	N/A	N/A	Observer
Col Mitchell	Apology	Apology	Attended	Apology
Paul Rogers	Apology	Attended	Attended	Apology
Michael Banasik	Apology	Apology	Apology	Apology
David Henry	Attended	Attended	Attended	Apology
Nicole Pearce	Observer	Apology	Attended	Attended
Robert Clayton	Apology	Attended	Attended	Apology
James Johnson	Apology	Attended	Attended	Attended
Peter Vale	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Zina Ainsworth	Apology	Attended	Attended	Attended
Amanda Bateman	Attended	Attended	Attended	Attended
Karen Moss	N/A	N/A	N/A	Observer

Meeting minutes for 2023 are available on the [Tahmoor Coal website](#).

Review of effectiveness:

An annual committee review survey was distributed to all members to seek feedback and evaluate the committee's overall performance and effectiveness. An overview of the feedback is outlined below:

- All respondents found the 2023 committee meetings productive with open discussion encouraged.
- All respondents felt comfortable to share their opinions and ask questions.
- Committee members are reliant upon the information provided by Tahmoor Coal.
- A more dynamic approach and information about the future direction of the mine is of interest.
- All respondents found the chairperson to be well balanced and approachable.

8. Key issues

A summary of the key issues raised by the TCCCC throughout the year is outlined in the table below along with any actions taken to respond.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Tahmoor South Domain mining	Monitoring of progress on Tahmoor South Domain and any community concerns.	First workings commenced in mid-2022 and Longwall S1A commenced in October 2022. The TCCCC continues to monitor any community concerns raised and the implementation of management plans required as part of the approval process. The approval process for a proposed extension to the mine plan adding another longwall panel will be monitored during 2024.
Western Domain mining	TCCCC monitored completion and sealing of the Western Domain longwalls which commenced in late 2019 and were completed in September 2022 as well as any ongoing environmental or subsidence issues that arose.	Mining was completed September 2022 and subsequent recovery of mining equipment was completed during 2023 when this section of the mine was sealed. TCCCC was updated at each meeting on the progress and results of ongoing monitoring of creeks, rail infrastructure and heritage items including a number of sensitive indigenous sites.
Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek	Monitoring of remediation work in Redbank Creek and review of monitoring results	TCCCC was given regular feedback on the progress of rehabilitation in both creeks as well as monitoring

subsidence cracking	for Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek subsequent to the rehabilitation of some pools.	results which are now nearing completion with ongoing monitoring to be reviewed by TCCCC.
Progress on the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant	Monitoring of the proposed Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant.	Monitoring the progress of commissioning and ongoing operation of the of the Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant which has now been completed. The TCCCC will continue to review the performance of this plant and related environmental monitoring results.
Monitor the implementation of the Gas Drainage Plant	Monitoring installation and operation of the proposed Gas Drainage Plant required as a condition of approval for the Tahmoor South mine expansion	When completed the TCCCC can continue to monitor the performance of the gas drainage plant.
Monitor the implementation of noise reduction measures	Monitoring the impact of the noise reduction measures implemented in accordance with the conditions of approval for the Tahmoor South mine expansion	When completed the TCCCC can continue to monitor performance measures by monitoring noise complaints and compliance measurements.

9. Focus for next 12 months

- Continue to monitor progress of the Tahmoor South Domain A-Series longwall extraction and its assessment of associated impacts to the natural, cultural and built environment.
- Continue monitoring of the completion of remediation work on Myrtle Creek and Redbank Creek and the ongoing monitoring of the creeks.
- Continue to monitor any subsidence or other issues following the closure of the Western Domain mining operations and sealing of the Tahmoor North mine workings.
- Continue to monitor operation of the Reverse Osmosis Waste Water Treatment Plant for the treatment of heavy metals and disposal of generated brine.
- Monitor noise impacts following the installation of a number of measures aimed at noise reduction in compliance with the conditions of approval for Tahmoor South.
- Continue to monitor any community concerns and the impacts of mining on the community, (particularly in the Bargo area), as well as to watercourses.

Name of chairperson:	Michael Muston
Date:	20/3/2024