

MACH Energy Australia – Mount Pleasant Operation

Annual Report [2019]

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation	Reporting Period:	Jan – Dec 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM	Proponent Contact:	Mr Richard Bailey

1. Executive Summary

The Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee was established as part of the condition of consent by the NSW Minister for Planning's 1999 approval of the Mount Pleasant Operation (Development Application 92/97).

The Mount Pleasant Operation is an open cut coal mining project that is situated west of Muswellbrook, in the Muswellbrook Local Government Area. The project produces high quality thermal coal that is approved to be exported via the Port of Newcastle, and used for the local energy market.

The Committee includes a group of five residents who have an interest in the operations at Mount Pleasant and meet regularly with Mt Pleasant operations and a Muswellbrook Council member to discuss the project's current and future operations. The Committee follows the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Meetings are held quarterly between the members of the Committee, including:

- Five local community representatives;
- One member from Muswellbrook Shire Council;
- Members from the MACH Energy Australia and representatives from the mine operator, Thiess, depending upon the agenda and issues to be discussed; and
- One independent Chairperson.

Discussions held in the Committee meetings where on numerous topics related to the project, including:

- Future plans for the mine, including updates on Modification 3, Modification 4 and the State Significant Development (SSD) application (Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project);
- Mining operations transitioned to full night shift;
- Updates on the visual bund and rehabilitation;
- Construction activities onsite including the rail and road systems;
- Updates on the Coal Handling Preparation Plant (CHPP), Train Load Out (TLO) and Run of Mine (ROM) piles;
- Updates on production of coal and the initial train movements;
- Contractors that are working on site;
- Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project briefing.
- Noise, dust, blasting, biodiversity monitoring and management;

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- Water management – tailing dams, mine water dam, fines emplacement dams;
- Environmental incidents and compliance;
- Land and property updates, including historic sites and offset management;
- Community complaints, community sponsorship, , Aboriginal Community Development Fund programs, stakeholder engagement and involvement with Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue;
- Mitigation/ acquisitions granted to properties.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Four CCC meetings were held in 2019. March, June, October, December;
- Strong regular attendance from all members with various representation from Muswellbrook Council;
- Site visits were conducted for two of the CCC meetings throughout 2019 including coal handling and processing plant, train load out and new rail construction area. Meeting held at Merriwa including visiting offset properties and the Llangollen shearing shed restoration project;
- There were no joint CCC meetings held throughout 2019;

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Dust research and control	Engagement with the University of Newcastle and specifically the Newcastle Institute of Energy Resources (NIER)	Assess dust controls used across the industry and assess which is most appropriate for the site. Applying best practice dust control methods.
Traffic/driving behaviour on Wybong Road	Upgraded signage, addition of new signage and relocation of current signage.	Encourage reporting of dangerous or inappropriate driving to MACH Energy. Continued monitoring and reevaluation of signage options and location.
Construction progress/people movement	First washed coal trial held in September. Full production (washed coal) commenced in early November. Site tours, 1:1 visits, regular updates. Replacement Rail Project planning and MOD 4 roadworks.	Regular updates to CCC and open communication between community & MACH Energy.

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<p>Applications & Approvals</p>	<p>MOD 3 approved August 2018.</p> <p>MOD 4 approved November 2018. This is a major achievement for MACH Energy.</p> <p>Social Impact Assessment to be conducted from November 2019 and continue into 2020.</p> <p>Request for SEARs, lodge Scoping Report in late 2019.</p>	<p>Focus now shifting to SSD work and will include a new EIS. SSD will be known as the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project.</p> <p>MOD 4 thanks to the CCC and wider community for their ongoing support.</p>
<p>Communication from site</p>	<p>SMS notification of blasting, dust delay shutdowns and any changes to day-to-day operation.</p>	<p>Ongoing notification system, ongoing open communication between CCC and MACH Energy.</p> <p>Extensive consultation with the community and local business, building relationships.</p> <p>Initial consultation of relevant stakeholders for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Scoping Report.</p> <p>Early consultation with agency stakeholders including Councils.</p>

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Site tours to be conducted of the coal handling and processing plant, rail construction and future mine developments.
- Tours of offset properties and farm restoration projects.
- Continued updates on operational status of Mount Pleasant.
- Implementation of Modifications 3 and 4 that are now approved.
- Focus on the State Significant Development application and new EIS (Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project) to replace the current development consent.
- Lodge the EIS addressing SEARs.
- Involvement of CCC in SIA.
- Replacement rail project planning.
- Native seed harvesting.

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Community Consultation Committee Meeting minutes are available on the Mount Pleasant website.

Signature of Chair:	W.E.J. Paradise
Date:	28/4/2024