

MACH Energy Australia – Mount Pleasant Operation

Annual Report [2023]

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation	Reporting Period:	Jan – Dec 2023
Independent Chairperson:	Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM	Proponent Contact:	Mr Richard Bailey to April 2023 Mr Mick Redman

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. Thiess is the major mining contractor/operator on site.

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 were on numerous topics related to the project. While Covid 19 was still present in the community, government policies became more relaxed. The committee continues to operate and covered both new and ongoing topics including:

- Future plans for the mine, including updates the State Significant Development (SSD) application (Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project);
- MOD 6 consultation. Approved November 2023.
- Ongoing landform reshaping, Geofluid development and rehabilitation;
- Progress with the Fine's Emplacement Facility lift;
- Update on the salinity discharge pipeline;
- Mining continues to the west with CHPP Incremental Expansion in planning stage;
- Weed management and restoration projects on offset properties;
- Update on revised CCC guidelines;

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- \$1M milestone achieved for community sponsorships from 2018-2013, excluding ACDF funding.
- Engagement with Muswellbrook & District Historical Society and arranged a visit to Broomfield Station for members and interested local community.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Four CCC meetings were held in 2023. March, June, September, December. Some members participated online when convenient.
- Strong regular attendance from all members;
- Site visits were conducted for three of the CCC meetings throughout 2023. One meeting was held offsite at the University of Newcastle Muswellbrook Campus.
- There were no joint CCC meetings held throughout 2023;
- Presentation by Dr Dusan Iliac on the dust Lidar project with the University of Newcastle;
- Review of weed and pest control on offset properties;
- Development and adoption of the CCC Terms of Reference and signing of code of conduct forms by committee members;
- Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project continues to be challenged in the courts with an appeal lodged against the outcomes of a judicial review which confirmed the Federal Minister’s decision to approve the project;
- Modification 7 is being prepared to extend the life of the mine until the end of 2032 as an alternative to the Optimisation Project; MOD 7 Social Impact Assessment interviews were conducted;
- Cate Sims provided an overview of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) The UHMD is seeking EOI from interested community members.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Site development progress/operations	Site tours, regular updates by management.	Quarterly updates to CCC.
Applications and approvals	Quarterly update on progress; while NSW IPC granted development consent in September 2022 however Federal Government approval is also required. Decisions are currently being challenged in the courts. MOD 6 Transmission Tower. MACH Energy has taken on the liability of the tower into old	Future updates; Wait for response from the legal appeal.

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	<p>consent with a modification. Approved November 2023.</p> <p>Extensive consultation was held throughout 2023 in relation to MOD 6.</p> <p>MOD 7 to extend mine life by six years until 2032. Increase ROM coal under DA 92/97 to 12Mtpa from 2025.</p> <p>Social Impact Assessment (SIA) meetings held in relation to MOD 7.</p> <p>To be submitted in April 2024.</p> <p>Refined alignment of approved Northern Link Road prior to closure of Castlerock Road.</p> <p>Significant consultation with neighbours in relation to the proposed Northern Link Road.</p>	
Land Management	Quarterly updates by the Land Management team; site inspections when required.	Updates provided
Environment	Quarterly updates by the Environment team; site tours.	Updates provided.
External Relations	Quarterly updates by External Relations.	<p>Updates provided on stakeholder engagement including communications, sponsorship, and recording and responding to complaints.</p> <p>MOD 7 Social Impact Assessment interviews held.</p> <p>Attended community events and various school presentations.</p> <p>The second Mount Pleasant Family Day was held in March.</p>

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2024 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

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- Site tours to be conducted prior to meetings when all committee members are able to attend on site;
- Updates on the Fines Emplacement Facility lift;
- Continued updates on operational status of Mount Pleasant;
- Progress on applications and approvals for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project;
- Land management on site and on offset properties;
- Lodge MOD 7 in April 2024.

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

Signature of Chair:	W.E.J. Paradise
Date:	28/04/2024