

Metropolitan Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2022

CCC / Project Name:	Metropolitan Coal	Reporting Period:	March 2021 to March 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Stephen Love

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.
- Consultation regarding the consideration and assessment of options for the heritage powerhouse.
- COVID-19 controls on site.
- 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 (January 2019). The committee membership consists of:

- Four local community representatives
- One stakeholder group representative (National Parks Association)
- One Wollongong City Council delegate
- One Wollondilly 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, August and December, with 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 May 2021, September 2021, November 2021 and March 2022. Some remotely, due to COVID restrictions.
- The CCC has been kept informed by the company of the Independent Expert Panel's investigation on the impact of mining activities in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas, with a particular focus on risks to the quantity of water in the Illawarra Catchment.
- The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the business of Metropolitan Mine, which required them to restructure to better meet current demands. Accordingly, Longwall production was initially decreased and two thirds of the workforce working reduced hours and days. Following this, Metropolitan further announced that the mine would be idled during January and February 2021, highlighting that all employees would have access to entitlements such as leave and that all statutory and compliance requirements would be maintained during this period.
- Metropolitan are undertaking a 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 are also consulting with Wollongong City Council regarding Helensburgh Landfill and the use of CWR as fill. Feasibility works are currently in progress.
- Metropolitan also propose to contribute funds towards Council's Helensburgh Streetscape Masterplan for town centre improvements, which will include roadworks.
- Metropolitan has lodged an Exploration Application ELA5918 to prospect for a viable resource that may extend the life of Metropolitan beyond 2032. If approved exploration activities are likely to occur in 2022 and if a viable resource can be defined an in depth and highly detailed State Significant Development process will commence
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to other competing priorities.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Long Wall Extraction Plans	Regular updates are provided on the existing and proposed long wall activities	Presented at each CCC.
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.
Eastern Tributary Update	Metropolitan continues to provide updates on the remediation of the Eastern Tributary.	Site inspection undertaken in December 2020. Ongoing updates provided at each CCC.
Historic Powerhouse	Metropolitan Coal commissioned an assessment of the structural integrity of the historic powerhouse building which concluded that it would be uneconomical to repair.	Wollongong City Council hold an opposing view and has refused demolition. Negotiations are ongoing as Metropolitan are very concerned with potential safety risks. CCC to be kept informed.
EL9364	Metropolitan developing REF to undertake exploration in EL9364 exploration area.	CCC to be kept informed.
Change in truck movements	Due to the closure of the Illawarra Rail Line after damage caused by heavy rains in late March/early April; Metropolitan received approval from DPE to undertake emergency trucking of its coal.	CCC kept informed.
EPA Investigation into water leaving the site	With the higher than average rain fall, especially in the first quarter of 2022, the management of storm water continues to be an issue for most mining sites. The EPA is currently investigating offsite water flows from Metropolitan that will probably result in regulatory action.	Peabody continues to cooperate with the EPA and is committed to undertaking any further remediation activities that may be required to improve environmental outcomes in local waterways, in addition to the program of works underway at site to

		improve storm water management. The CCC are being kept informed.
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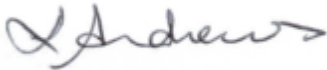
4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 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.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	31 March 2022