

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Pine Dale Coal Mine – Yarraboldy Extension

**C/- Enhance Place Pty
Limited**

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Minutes of the Meeting of Members of the Pine Dale Coal Mine-Yarraboldy Extension & EL7621

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Held at the Black Gold Conference Centre,

121 Main Street, Wallerawang NSW 2845

On Thursday 30th June, 2016 at 2.00pm

Present:	Mr Howard Fisher	(Chairman)
	Ms Jessica Heath	(Lithgow City Council)
	Mr Graham Goodwin	(Company representative)
	Mr Peter Barnes	(Community representative)
	Mr Mark Frewin	(CCC Secretary – Company representative)
	Ms Sarah Neville	(Company representative)
Apologies:	Mrs Sharon Brown	(Community representative - Gundungurra Tribal Council)
	Mr Robert Taylor	(Community representative)
	Clr Colin Hunter	(Lithgow City Council)

1. Welcome and apologies

The apology of Mrs Sharon Brown, Mr Robert Taylor and Clr Colin Hunter was noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

A motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd of December 2015 was passed.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that no matters from the previous meeting required discussion.

4. Enhance Place (Pine Dale Mine) Yarraboldy Extension – Company report

Mr Frewin ran through a presentation on the progress with rehabilitation at the mine and environmental monitoring outcomes.

4.1 Report on progress of the mine

- The mine continued in Care and Maintenance with the key focus being on progressing rehabilitation in areas where mining is complete, environmental monitoring as required, and assessment of options for the next phase of mining.

4.2 Environmental monitoring

- Environmental monitoring outcomes didn't indicate any exceptional outcomes over the last 6 months. There was minimal discussion in this area.

4.3 Rehabilitation works

- Key areas of focus over the last period at Pinedale continued to be on:
 - Soil improvement treatment in areas A, B, C & 8
 - Weed management across the site.
 - Profiling and hydro-mulching to improve vegetation cover of the contour drains in Area C
- Rehabilitation maintenance was also carried out at the Enhance Place mine site, including:
 - Maintenance on steep slope rehabilitation areas including replacement of tube stock that had failed, and improving ground cover in some areas.
 - Stock management was noted a key issue for pasture development on this site.

4.4 Complaints discussion

- Only one complaint was recorded in the period. The complaint related to consultation around the renewal of exploration lease EL 7621 being inadequate.
- The Company had responded to this clarifying that:
 - Consultation had met departmental requirements in the renewal process
 - Current work is primarily of a desktop assessment nature and therefore unlikely to impact on residents during this phase
 - Mining would not be possible until a full planning approval had been obtained
 - Extensive community consultation would be required in any development process.
- The Committee considered this complaint and concluded that the response was appropriate given the stage of development for this EL.

4.5 Exploration lease – EL 7621

Following the renewal of this lease in mid 2015, the Company was conducting further assessment work on the potential for development of the lease.

Further desktop assessment was being worked through, as part of the assessment of future mining options for the Pinedale project.

It was noted that the lease was due to expire in October 2016, and that pending a positive outcome to the studies being undertaken, the Company was likely to seek a further extension to this lease.

A further update on this process would be supplied in future meetings. It was noted that prior to any more invasive site works, significant consultation would need to be undertaken.

4.6 Outlook for next phase of mine development

Mr Frewin reported on the status of the Stage 2 development.

Several options remain under assessment for the site. Once a decision has been taken on the optimum way forward, a full planning process would be needed to progress the project, including extensive consultation.

5. General Business

5.1 Correspondence

A notice was issued to residents informing them of the upcoming meeting.

5.2 Other business

5.2.1 EnergyAustralia community sponsorship approach

In response to a question on notice from Mr Barnes about the Companies approach to community sponsorship, Ms Neville attended the meeting to provide details of EnergyAustralia's approach to this issue for its assets in the Lithgow area.

Ms Neville presented a slide pack on this issue which is shown as attachment 1. Key points to note where:

- EnergyAustralia has developed a community grants program which looks to invest in initiatives that promote net community benefit
- Two rounds of grant funding are held each year and these are assessed against the grant criteria.

- Ultimately decisions are made by a Community Reference Group – which ensures that the community ultimately determines how available funds are applied.
- It was noted that a strict conflict of interest process is used to ensure appropriate funding allocations.
- An example of the first round of funding was outlined – in which solar power for the Lithgow Swimming Pool had been funded.

General discussion around this approach highlighted:

- Support for the overall approach, in particular the use of Community members as the decision makers.
- It was suggested that a facility for sponsorships be available between the 2 rounds of grant funding to enhance the scheme. Ms Neville indicated that this need had been identified and was being considered as an improvement to the process.
- It was also noted that to date the Mt Piper Community group had been the key decision maker on this process. It was flagged that EnergyAustralia was considering an approach to bring the Pinedale related projects into this framework (see 5.2.3 below).

5.2.2 Mt Piper / Springvale Water Treatment Project

Mr Barnes noted the recently released Preliminary Environmental Assessment in relation to the proposed Mt Piper / Springvale Water Treatment Project. In particular he relayed questions about:

- The risk of pipeline leakage in the transfer of water from Springvale Mine to Mt Piper in particular through the low lying valley between these two sites;
- Possible impact's on the Nubeck's creek on its path through the Pinedale mine to the extent water is released from the plant into the creek.

Mr Frewin provided an overview of the project, in particular:

- Under the 2015 Springvale mine approval, current releases into the Cox's river of mine water need to be treated to improve the water quality of any releases;
- After a review of options, it had been determined that the optimum approach to achieve this was to pipe the water to Mt Piper and treat it for beneficial use in the Power Station cooling system.
- Under certain situations, for example in power station unit outages, the station may not be able to take the full water volume. In these unusual events, some excess water (processed to meet approved water quality standards) would be released into Nubeck's creek (also known as Wangcol creek in some documents).
- The companies were in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the project for release and consultation over coming months. Community members would have ample opportunity to better understand the

project and highlight any areas of concern during the planning consultation process.

Discussion in relation to the concerns raised, and the project in general covered the following:

- It was noted that the pipeline would need to be engineered to meet strict safety obligations, as well as planning requirements. A key focus of planning would be to ensure that risks to the environment of any pipeline leaks would need to be tightly controlled.
- The planning process would consider impacts on Nubecks creek and other waterways from any processed water releases from the project to ensure environmental and safety issues are addressed.
- Overall the Committee welcomed the project as beneficial to the community in terms of potential local economic benefit during the construction phase (noting current tough economic conditions in the region), and environmental benefit to the local river system via improved water quality.

5.2.3 Review of CCC future format

Mr Frewin then outlined a proposal from EnergyAustralia to combine the Pinedale and Mt Piper Community Consultation groups into a combined regional consultation group covering all the local EnergyAustralia assets. As a first step to considering this proposal, EnergyAustralia was seeking feedback from the two existing groups to canvass views on this proposal. It was noted that Department of Planning approval would be required to allow such a development.

Discussion highlighted the following:

- It was noted this would provide the benefit of a broader group covering the range of projects including Mt Piper operations, Wallerawang decommissioning, Pinedale and Enhance Place mines, and the EL 7621 exploration lease.
- Any such group would need to comply with the Mining Industry Community Consultation Group guidelines – as per the current Pinedale CCC operations.
 - Community members emphasized this was important, as it would ensure that mine related issues would receive adequate focus amidst other power station matters.
- It was noted that it would likely require re-advertising for positions on the group.
- Such an arrangement would fit in well with the EnergyAustralia Community Sponsorship approach (outlined in 5.2.1 above), which is currently administered via the Power Station group.

It was determined that the Group was comfortable to support this approach provided the Mining Industry Guidelines were met for mine related matters. On this basis, it was agreed EnergyAustralia would approach the Department of Planning to seek their support for a combined approach.

The Secretary would keep the Committee advised of developments in this regard.

5.3 Next Meeting

Depending on outcomes of the review of CCC format, it was noted that this could be the last stand alone Pinedale meeting. In the event this was the case, Mr Frewin took the opportunity thank all the Community members, Council Representatives and the Chairman for their contributions to the group over its many years of operation.

In the event that the format does not change, the Secretary would identify a date in the November/December period for the next meeting.

Meeting closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Frewin', is written below the text 'Meeting closed.'.