

## MINUTES OF THE DURALIE COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 7 February 2013

### Attendees:

CCC Chair: Margaret MacDonald-Hill

Great Lakes Council: Lisa Schiff & Cr Karen Hutchinson

Community Representatives: Donald Carroll, Brian Eastoe, Rod Williams, Alan Fisher-Webster, Tony Tersteeg

Duralie Coal Pty Ltd (DCPL): Doug Gordon, Tony Dwyer, Rachael Windrum, Michael Plain, Corrina Merrick (Minute Taker)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.07pm.

Advised minutes are being taped.

Apologies: Ms Lisa Schiff, Cr Karen Hutchinson - will be late. Mr Doug Gordon – will be late. Apologies - Mr David Kitto (NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure).

### 2. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair approved by the Director-General of Planning & Infrastructure, a member of the Mine Subsidence Board, a member of the Minister's Arbitration Panel, and Chair of the Ministerial Committee of AGL (Hunter CCC) and Chair of AGL's Camden Gas Project CCC.

Mr Rod Williams declared that his son is doing work placement with Leighton's.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were confirmed. Moved: Mr Rod Williams. Seconded: Mr Tony Tersteeg.

### 4. Business arising from Previous Meeting

- Discussion on the Karuah River Catchment Report. The Report Card by Great Lakes Council was a general report card and not a specific Karuah River Catchment Report. Mr Brian Eastoe advised that a more comprehensive report was still to be carried out and made available. The general report was 6 pages and on page 3 at the bottom it says the Karuah is under stress. Discussion continued in regard to the \$120,000 provided each year to Great Lakes Council via the Duralie Extension Project Approval for the Karuah Catchment Management Program
- Mr Tony Tersteeg requested feedback on Action Item 3 from last minutes being the note on the Dust Deposition Monitoring Result. DCPL advised (in relation to the copper sludge) that advice was received from the laboratory that the solution used to wash the dust deposition bottles contained an algacide (a copper sulphate solution) which can result in the formation of a copper sludge.
- Mr Brian Eastoe had requested, in correspondence to the Chair, that the site tour include an inspection of the irrigation areas. DCPL view was that the benefit to the members of such a tour would be greatest if undertaken when irrigation was operational. Mr Brian Eastoe indicated that he believed it would also be of interest to the CCC to see the irrigation areas, both when irrigation operating and not operating, as he was very interested in the surface water management plan, issues, water logging and how the system works. Discussed site visit to Coal Loader organised for today. Mr

Brian Eastoe advised the areas of dams and irrigation he would like to look at. Discussed accessibility to various areas and the request was accommodated during the site tour.

- Mr Tony Tersteeg noted that there has been some discussion in the community since a complaint was made to the EPA in relation to No Name Creek which crosses Durallie Road. Had a blackish scum on the surface and asked if DCPL had made an assessment of that. DCPL advised that concerns were raised by a member of the community to both the EPA and Great Lakes Council. EPA sent an officer to site to investigate. DCPL are still awaiting formal advice from the EPA following its inspection.

(Ms Schiff and Ms Hutchinson entered meeting)

DCPL further advised that the issue relates to a dark colouration of the water which is a natural occurrence that has been noted previously in DCPL monitoring. Mr Brian Eastoe requested that the EPA test results be made available to the CCC. Ms Lisa Schiff advised that she had a concern that the complaint was not made via the Community Complaints Line. It was discussed that some members of the community will do things differently than others.

- Mr Brian Eastoe asked Ms Lisa Schiff the status in relation to the Great Lakes Council Karuah Catchment Report. Mr Brian Eastoe expressed his concern that it had been indicated that a report would be forthcoming. He advised that previous indications were that a report would be available in January. Ms Lisa Schiff advised she had received advice from Mr Gerard Tuckerman and the draft report had been received from the consultants and that there was a necessity for further amendment before the report was accepted as the final version. This report should be on the Council website approximately 2 to 3 weeks.
- Mr Rod Williams expressed his concerns that there were only 6 lines in the general Report Card. Ms Lisa Schiff acknowledged that the CCC would like better information on where sampling is carried out and to be informed of the test results in the report cards, This information would be provided in the supporting report that will be available on Councils website.
- Mr Rod Williams asked where the funding was (\$120,000) which had been provided to Council by DCPL. Ms Lisa Schiff advised that the funding will be applied to preparation of the Karuah Catchment Plan. This Catchment Plan would outline possible actions that could be taken to improve the environmental quality of the Catchment. Ms Lisa Schiff will talk to Mr Gerard Tuckerman (Manager of Natural Systems for Great Lakes Council) on the progress of this Plan and will report to the Chair thereafter.

## 5. Correspondence

Correspondence in:

- Dated 9 November 2012 – Email response from DP&I re David Kitto's attendance.
- Dated 14 November 2012 - letter from Duralie Coal enclosing 2012 Annual Review.
- Dated 31 January 2013 - Email from Brian Eastoe re proposals.
- Dated 5 February 2013 - Email from Duralie Coal with information in response to Action Item from last meeting.

Correspondence out:

- Dated 1 November 2012 - Letter inviting David Kitto to attend future CCC meeting.
- Dated 1 February 2013 – Email to CCC members forwarding Brian Eastoe proposals.
- Dated 5 February 2013 - Email to CCC members providing information from Duralie Coal in response to Action Item from last meeting.

## 6. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

- DCPL presented a brief overview of the Duralie mining operations, including volume of materials moved and rehabilitation works undertaken. It was also noted that there was the period of shut down in December. Significant work carried out in the last quarter most of southern waste dump – top soiling, cover crop establishment.
- DCPL advised as part of the Offset Management Plans work has been carried out on biodiversity offset lands, including fencing off eastern portion of the offset, nest box installations, establishment of internal tracks and crossings to allow access for flora and fauna monitoring.
- DCPL advised that under the Heritage Management, a scarred tree previously identified within the foot print of the pit was relocated. In conjunction with the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, and is now on display at the Cultural Centre, Karuah. The Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council plans to install a shelter over the tree and erect Information boards on the tree and its history.
- DCPL advised a positive outcome in the January monitoring of the Giant Barred Frog monitoring program, which currently takes place from September to February each year. 500 individuals of the species were identified in the catchment Monitoring areas include the Mammy Johnson River and Crawford River catchment. DCPL advised that prior to the initial Duralie Extension Project baseline surveys undertaken by DCPL the Giant Barred Frog was not noted in the MJR catchment. The survey has been intensive. The frog is approximately 12.5cm when fully grown and more are being identified in this area. Mr Brian Eastoe asked whether other mines are as advance in the monitoring of the Giant Barred Frog. DCPL advised it is a fairly unique, high-level survey being carried out by DCPL. Mr Brian Eastoe asked to consider this survey as a potential project for the (NSW Minerals Council's) Mining Excellence Awards.
- DCPL advised re Air Quality Management there is a Pollution Reduction Program through the Environmental Protection Authority NSW where they have looked at main sources of air contaminants from mainly the mining industry. From the information gathered they are developing conditions to be placed on Environmental Protection Licences. Sources identified include haul truck dust lift, dust lift off from waste dump, disturbed areas of land. As a result DCPL have commenced seeding of active waste dumps including rock areas, areas which are accessible. With the recent rain the cover crop of millet has germinated. Mr Rod Williams asked if the dust, haul dust, was from the raw material. DCPL advised it is wheel generated dust, the contact of the tyres rather than the actual load.
- DCPL Environmental Monitoring Reports: In consideration of various reports and graphs presented, Mr Brian Eastoe enquired about the levels of the dams noted in the Water Balance Report, which DCPL advised were influenced by volumes of water irrigated, as well as rainfall, which did not result in much runoff during December. Mr Brian Eastoe then noted that the results of surface water monitoring sites GB1, SW2 and Site 11 were behaving in a similar pattern. Mr Brian Eastoe expressed concern with GB1 that there may have been a combination of ground and surface water from the mine ending up at GB1. A discussion of the water ways where they enter and join other water ways was held, and DCPL noted that the EC results at Site 11 (below mining activity) were not dissimilar to site GB1 above the mining activities. The water crosses coal members and as a result would run high in EC. Mr Brian Eastoe again expressed his concern on the GB1 results, and DCPL advised that it identified EC levels as previously described.

(Mr Gordon entered the meeting at 2pm)

- Mr Rod Williams asked if the continuous air quality samples (high volume) were run during the mine shut down period. DCPL advised that it is a requirement that they continue to run for 24 hours on a 6 day cycle. Mr Rod Williams asked if that data would be available for that 3 week shut down period. He indicated it would give a base line and it would be interesting to see the elevation either side of that period. DCPL advised the results will show in the next report.

- Mr Rod Williams enquired about the dam water levels (AD2 & MWD) and why there was an increase in one dam. DCPL advised that there was a transfer of water. Also the drop off was due to irrigation. Dewatered AD1 to MWD then irrigated from MWD.
- Mr Rod Williams discussed the wind rose results. He asked if there was any logic in having more dust sampling stations situated to the south to pick up if there is an issue or not. DCPL discussed that the wind dominated toward the north/north west during that reporting period. Also advised there is a high voltage unit situated at Highnoon (to the south). Mr Rod Williams suggested that Council may consider use of environmental funding to set up a separate site closer to Stroud Road. Discussion was held on the direction of the wind at different times of the year and swirling of the wind due to the valley situation.
- DCPL provided an updated summary of community complaints. It was noted that the complaint to the Great Lakes Council and EPA is not noted as it was not made to Duralie's Complaints Hotline.
- DCPL provided an update on the Community Support Program. Allocations twice a year – September and March. A presentation was held in Gloucester where 18 community groups received funding in the September 2012 round. Received applications from a wide range of groups for various projects. DCPL very proud to be able to support a wide range community groups. Mr Brian Eastoe commented that it seemed orientated to non-capital which is a strength for the community.
- Mr Brian Eastoe made suggestions for an increased level of interaction between DCPL/CCC & the community, with potential for reducing the number of CCC meetings per year from 4 to 3. Ms Lisa Schiff advised that her preference is for 4 meetings a year, with the work of involving the community to be in addition to the CCC meetings. Mr Tony Tersteeg advised that an open day was held when Duralie first opened, maybe hold something similar. Mr Brian Eastoe advised need to be part of the community. Ms Lisa Schiff suggested that something was needed in relation to sharing information with the community in relation to what was happening at DCPL, example the 500 Giant Barred frogs recorded in January. Mr Brian Eastoe discussed gauging different levels of success of site open days, bbq, and also suggested doing an advertisement every 3 months in the local paper.
- With potential costs of additional community engagement being considered, Ms Lisa Schiff asked about available budget for this activity and referenced previous meetings where a CCC member who had previously attended a NSW Minerals Council conference requested a similar attendance in 2012 Conference and this request was refused because of lack of budget allocation. . Mr Brian Eastoe advised that as part of the original consent, DCPL contributed to the CCC, which then paid for CCC member to attend the conference. Mr Brian Eastoe requested DCPL work out a budget to cover such costs as he believes it is more important to consider what will be achieved by attending the conference rather than cost of the conference. Mr Brian Eastoe advised here to integrate the mine with the community and the community with the mine.
- Mr Rod Williams advised he doesn't believe that DCPL does PR very well. He expressed the opinion that AGL are an open book whilst Yancoals approach is insular. He believed that some people do not know the process of lodging a complaint and that DCPL should be more approachable, as well as getting "on the front foot" to advise the community of interesting items such as the Giant Barred Frog program, Pollution Reduction works such as seeding of active overburden areas and the visual screen to be erected on (the company's) Wards River Station (property). Ms Lisa Schiff commented that building relationships builds trust. Mr Tony Tersteeg commented that AGL work with the community a lot more and that DCPL may have become complacent, or developed a wall between DCPL and the community. Mr Rod Williams suggested that if DCPL felt that there was inadequate time available to engage with the community, it engage a PR company to work with the committee, community and DCPL. Mr Brian Eastoe advised need to look at doing things differently. Ms Lisa Schiff commented that people are starting to have significant concerns about the cumulative impact of various mining operations and suggested a lot can be learnt from the Upper Hunter experience . Mr Brian Eastoe

believes that the Biodiversity Offset program is a good program and should be reported to the community.

- DCPL expressed concerns about open forum. Reference was made to an Open Day Site visit previously conducted, and it was noted that such an activity would need to be carefully considered. DCPL advised that it would further consider the points raised in relation to PR and would come back to the Committee at the next meeting.
- Ms MacDonald-Hill asked for suggestions on the Credit Union account and use of the money therein. The CCC agreed to hold money in the account in the interim.

Mr Alan Fisher-Webster referenced a blast for which he complained about in November, of which a similar occurrence was noted at his home yesterday, and he asked what DCPL was doing about those effects. DCPL advised that it had engaged an expert to provide advice on what improvements could be made in relation to blasting activity at both Stratford and Duralie. It noted that the blast results for the November blast were compliant with statutory levels for ground vibration and overpressure, and that, as with noise from the operation, the DCPL team was always considering what improvements could be made in consideration of the community. DCPL advised that, as each complaint is investigated, it would also investigate Mr Fisher-Webster's advice re yesterday's blast. Mr Rod Williams suggested that in this type of situation when there are genuine community concerns, DCPL holds an information session for the community with an independent expert attending, to show Yancoal is operating within statutory limits. Mr Brian Eastoe agreed with Mr Williams' previous recommendation that DCPL engage a PR Company for extra help if required. Ms Lisa Schiff commented that when she attended a PAC community meeting re Duralie Coal's (then proposed) extension to raiiling hours, the community appeared to lack a good understanding of what was happening.

2:51pm: Meeting adjourned for site tour.

**Site Tour:** Tour of the train loading facility in use, noting procedures for this action, and the twice-wetting of coal.

(Ms Schiff and Clr Hutchinson departed the meeting after inspection of the train loading facility to attend another meeting.)

Tour continued to one of the site's irrigation areas, to see the irrigators and receive advice of the operation of the automated irrigation system.

Meeting recommenced – 3.38pm.

- DCPL advised that no employees have become new members of the RFS since last CCC meeting. Suggestion put out at a meeting encouraging people (no flyer or poster) to join. Mr Brian Eastoe acknowledged that the 2 days basic fire course can discourage people however cannot attend a fire without this training. Mr Brian Eastoe suggested that some DCPL people are funded to do basic fire. Considering putting in an Application in the next round of funding. He believes that a barrier would be getting employees to give up time to train.

## 7. General Business

- Ms MacDonald-Hill suggested that the next meeting dates be: 2 May, 1 August, and 7 November. Mr Brian Eastoe moved that the dates be set. The other items like the bbq discuss at next meeting. Mr Don Carroll seconded.
- Mr Don Carroll advised he spoke to Ms Lisa Schiff as she offered to bring the CCC up to date on the Duralie Infrastructure Fund and the last figures were relevant to 2011, and she said she would do that. Mr Brain Eastoe advised that he believes that approximately \$30,000 left from 2011, \$100,000+ from 2012 is being held in a Council account, with this year's funding yet to be received.

- DCPL advised website changes ([www.duraliecoal.com.au](http://www.duraliecoal.com.au)), with CCC Agenda now being placed on website as well as CCC Minutes. Mr Brian Eastoe advised he will get the Stroud Community Website to contact DCPL to arrange a link to the DCPL website. More recently the other information that has gone up is the EPL data, locations, monitoring, etc.

Meeting closed 4.00pm.

---

### Action Item List

Item no.	Date	Action Item	By Whom	Due	Completed
1	07/02/2013	DCPL to provide copy of EPA test results to CCC	DCPL	02/05/2013	
2	07/02/2013	Great Lakes Council to have further information regarding the Karuah River Catchment report on its website by early March.	GLC	02/05/2013	
4	07/02/2013	DCPL to provide feedback to CCC on PR discussions	DCPL	02/05/2013	

---