

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 13 February 2014**

**Attendees:**

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	Doug Gordon	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Cr Karen Hutchinson	Great Lakes Council	Tony Dwyer	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Ms Lisa Schiff	Great Lakes Council	Michael Plain	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Alan Fisher-Webster	CCC Member	Alan Andrews	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Brian Eastoe	CCC Member	Corrina Merrick	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Donald Carroll	CCC Member		
Rod Williams	CCC Member		
Ms Deb Delaney	Great Lakes Council		

**1. Site Tour**

No site tour undertaken.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 1pm.

The Chair welcomed Alan Andrews from Stratford/Duralie Coal (Community and Property Specialist).

Mr Andrews introduced himself:

- Background is Stock & Station Agency.
- Prior to that Management roles in Sydney.
- Undertaking same role that Rachael had carried out.

The Chair commented on behalf of the Committee Members of the excellent and professional job that Rachael had undertaken. Mr Brian Eastoe also commented on the good work Rachael carried out.

Apologies: Tony Tersteeg

**3. 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 AGL's Camden Gas Project CCC.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013 were confirmed.

Ms Lisa Schiff advised that she had read the Minutes and wanted to comment that Mr Harrison had a meeting with the full Council.

Moved: Rod Williams; Seconded: Donald Carroll.

## **5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

### 1. Duralie Visual Screen update:

Ms Lisa Schiff commented from a Council point of view why they wrote such a strong letter to the Department about what happened with the screen. Ms Schiff further commented on the couple of days of the Council's Senior Ecologist's time in recommending landscape species, plantings, etc. Council resources are scarce and from their point of view it was a wasteful exercise. They fully recognise that comments on applications that are assessed by a third party are not necessarily accepted and they are not necessarily translated into conditions of consent even if they are accepted. Discussions continued on tree species and biodiversity.

### 2. Action Items:

- a. **Action Item 1:** *That DCPL is to consider advising the Committee of any significant incident and report the outcome to the Committee in accordance with the DP&I Committee Guidelines.*

DCPL advised:

- 18 October a blast went over 120 decibels, reported immediately to relevant authorities and subsequent report on details submitted. Warning notice received from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure and awaiting response from the EPA. Agreement has been reached with a property owner to relocate a monitor. Waiting on EPL variation to be approved.
- 18 November potential breach of irrigation criteria, reported to Authorities. Awaiting response from Department of Planning and Infrastructure and EPA.
- Notice from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure for not lodging Conservation Bond in accordance with Approval. Now lodged and finalised.

Mr Brian Eastoe requested a copy of the report in relation to the incident 18 November (Irrigation criteria).

Mr Rod Williams requested that when there is a discrepancy that the CCC is notified as it happens rather than waiting until the next CCC meeting. Discussion was held on due processes with notifying and reporting to various regulators and departments. DCPL advised a notification could be provided although no details would be available at the time. Further advice can be provided following any outcomes from the regulators.

**Action Item 1:** *DCPL to provide the CCC with notification on any significant incidents as soon as practicable following the incident.*

Mr Brian Eastoe asked whether the system was automated to shut off if an EC goes over the limit or is it a manual system? Mr Plain advised the first flush valves are automated

so when a flow is received it is directed to either the main water dam or to the Mammy Johnsons River depending on the electrical conductivity.

b. **Action Item 2:** DCPL to provide images of rehab undertaken at Donaldson Mine.

DCPL provided a presentation of the Donaldson Mine site rehabilitation work at various stages:

- years of growth;
- flora and fauna surveys;
- ongoing monitoring.

Mr Rod Williams asked whether Duralie would be rehabilitated back to grazing lands. DCPL advised Duralie will be returned to like for like – mix of grazing and native vegetation.

c. **Carried over Action Item:** Karuah River Catchment Management Plan

Chair advised Deb Delaney presentation was in response to carried over Action item from a previous meeting. Ms Deb Delaney from Great Lakes Council gave a presentation on the Karuah River Catchment Management Plan including:

- Catchment Management Plan for the Karuah Valley to be developed and formally adopted by Council late this year;
- Ecological health Assessment of the Karuah catchment was previously undertaken 2011/12 [Funded by Office of Environment & Heritage grant and some of the DCPL funding].

Mr Brian Eastoe commented happy for the funding to continue with the project Ms Deb Delaney is working on.

## **6. Correspondence**

Nil.

## **7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. Progress at the mine – operational issues:
  - a. Mr Dwyer advised of a low wall failure in the Clareval Pit and the steps taken to address the failure.
  - b. Mr Dwyer advised the current hours of operation are 6 days 24 hour operation. Monday to Saturday with maintenance Sunday.
2. Department of Planning Compliance Audit:

Mr Brian Eastoe had requested a copy of the audit. The Chair advised there is a process involved as it belongs to the Department.

Mr Plain advised the Department provide DCPL with a report on their findings and then DCPL is to submit a response to any recommendations within 6 weeks. This has been completed and DCPL awaiting feedback. The audit report and DCPL's response to report is on the DCPL website.

3. Rail Audit:

Mr Plain advised the Rail Audit was a condition of the project approval modification. This component will in future be included in the independent environmental audits which are undertaken every 3 years; however it was carried out separately last year. The Audit report was completed by DP&I approved experts who carried out the audit; DCPL submitted a response to the Department of Planning which has been accepted by the Department. The audit report and DCPL's response to the report is on the DCPL website.

4. Review of Environmental Management Plans:

Mr Plain advised that a review of Environmental Management Plans will be undertaken annually or after an audit to incorporate recommendations that have come from the audit. Reviewed Management Plans are provided to the Department of Planning, and following approval a copy is uploaded to the DCPL website.

5. Mr Rod Williams asked about the sprays. Mr Dwyer advised that 2 additional attenuated sprays have been installed and also changed the design of the bunding around the sprays. Both measures have been effective. DCPL did carry out tracking of weather conditions to see if there was a correlation to Mr Rod Williams' complaints about noise from the sprays however there does not appear to be any correlation. Mr Rod Williams asked how long the new sprays had been installed, DCPL advised December. Mr Rod Williams advised he could not put a pattern on it. One night a southerly breeze and could hear them plain as day – how does that work? Hearing them over cicadas, it comes and goes not constant. Didn't realise there were 2 extra.

Mr Brian Eastoe advised the concept of evaporative treatment of water is one where DCPL have thought outside the square, an excellent concept.

6. EPL variation to relocate blast monitor (EPA):

DCPL advised awaiting EPA approval to enable the blast monitor to be relocated.

## **8. General Business**

1. Ms Lisa Schiff at the next meeting would like to look at offset area traffic management issues. Discussed that Great Lakes Council and DCPL should discuss this outside the CCC and then report back to the CCC.

**Action Item 2:** *Great Lakes Council and DCPL to discuss offset area traffic management issues and report back to the CCC.*

2. Ms Lisa Schiff advised she had a copy of the book that details Council expenditure from 2008. The book is available for access at the Stroud office.

Mr Don Carroll advised the DCPL contributions to Council as at June 2013 Council had \$650,000 plus there will be an additional \$312,000, getting up near \$1million, there appears to be no forward plans for the money. Money for roads, facilities, environmental, bridges and the figures as at June 2013 reflect that \$650,000 was unspent. Ms Lisa Schiff advised the road funding would be allocated as part of Council's ongoing works programs. Mr Brian Eastoe requested that Council presents a report on how we interpret Councils reporting of the money. Ms Lisa Schiff advised the money does not include the s94 contribution.

**Action Item 3:** *Great Lakes Council to present a report to the CCC on councils reporting, expenditure, allocation and forward plans for DCPL contributions.*

3. Mr Brian Eastoe provided a written request to DCPL in relation to:
  - a. Annual Review 2013 – regarding isolated instances of acid formation;
  - b. Annual Review 2013 – regarding South Drain EC data and first flush system;
  - c. Annual Review 2013 – regarding reported increase in soil salinity in irrigation area relative to reference;
  - d. The Department of Planning identifying some lands under the Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Lands. It appears on the map that the DCPL rehabilitation area has been classified as Biophysical Strategic Agricultural lands.

**Action Item 4:** *DCPL to provide a response to Brian Eastoe requests.*

No further business

Next Meeting date: 8 May 2014

The Meeting closed at 2.43pm.

#### **Summary of Action Items from this meeting**

1. **Action Item 1:** *DCPL to provide the CCC with notification on any significant incidents as soon as practicable following the incident.*
2. **Action Item 2:** *Great Lakes Council and DCPL to discuss offset area traffic management issues and report back to the CCC.*
3. **Action Item 3:** *Great Lakes Council to present a report to the CCC on council's reporting, expenditure, allocation and forward plans for DCPL contributions.*
4. **Action Items 4:** *DCPL to provide a response to Brian Eastoe requests.*