

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BICKHAM COAL BULK SAMPLE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (BCCC)

WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE 2004 HELD ON-SITE AT BICKHAM COAL

FACILITIES AREA AT 10:30AM

PRESENT:	WARREN COOK	Chairperson
	NAT DOONAN	Community Representative
	LLOYD ROSSINGTON	Community Representative
	MICHAEL SATARA	Community Representative
	NEVILLE MOXON	Community Representative
	GREG SUMMERHAYES	Dept. Mineral Resources
	DARYL DUTTON	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	DAVID CASSON	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	JOHN RICHARDS	Bickham Coal Company
	JOHN HINDMARSH	Bickham Coal Company
	DAVID FOSTER	Bickham Coal Company

APOLOGIES: JOCELYN ROBERTS Community Representative

BUSINESS OF MEETING:

Warren Cook:

- Welcoming of committee by Warren Cook. Noted that to date committee has come under scrutiny due to local commentary. Therefore it is the task of the committee to fulfil the requirements as responsible members as set down by the Minister.
- It is required that the committee offers the community a good hearing and will act as a vehicle to voice concerns and enquiries of the broader community.
- Due to apologies by Jocelyn Roberts an on-site inspection will be made available to her at a later date.
- Noted by John Richards that representatives from DIPNR and DEC would not attend committee meetings unless it is deemed necessary by the agencies or the committee.
- Guidelines for committee to be followed closely – guideline document was agreed to be reasonable by all present.
- 2 further issues discussed:
 - Conflict of interest – none indicated
 - Reports, overviews and activities from Bickham Coal Company (BCC).

David Foster:

1. Noted that Bulk Sample has been approved by DMR based on BCC meeting 23 stringent Special Consent Conditions. BCC is compliant with these.
2. BCC has compiled documents and reports into a Mining Operation Plan (MOP), which was submitted to the DMR six weeks ago. The MOP contains the plans and procedures in place for the full Bulk Sample project.
3. All is now in place to proceed with drilling operations for the Bulk Sample. The first overburden shot is scheduled for 24th or 25th June 2004. Excavation to the first seam of coal will take several months – estimated that by late August or early September 2004 first load of coal will be extracted – BCC will then mine the coal at a rate of no more than 500 Tonnes per day.
4. Local labour with exception of the Project Manager has been recruited to carry out this project. BCC is pleased with the response to and quality of those employed. Training has been provided for employees and skills gained over the duration of Bulk Sample will be invaluable for future employment prospects in the mining industry.
5. The 25,000 Tonne Bulk Sample will be crushed on-site and transported by road to Rix's Creek where it will be loaded on trains for transport to Newcastle. A Development Consent Variation has been approved to allow this to occur.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS DISCUSSED:

Nat Doonan:

- Raised questions about the 23 Special Conditions that must be met by BCC.

John Hindmarsh: (BCC)

- Commented that a detailed framework was in place to track and monitor air quality, dust and noise levels, and water quality (ground and surface). Monitoring will take place both during and post Bulk Sampling.
- Results from monitoring are compiled into monthly reports by Ecowise and it was agreed that these would be presented to the committee.

David Foster: (BCC)

- Noted that de-watering is to commence via 2 water bores that have been constructed and calibrated. Borewater will be directed away from the Pages River to a storage dam near the coal stockpile pad where it will be used for Bulk Sample industrial purposes.

Nat Doonan:

- Requested a variation report be prepared and tabled from the Ecowise monthly reports. David Foster said that this matter would be looked at in next month's meeting.

Lloyd Rossington:

- Raised concern over risk to water quality – will \$50,000 security deposit paid by BCC cover disturbances caused by bulk sampling?

Greg Summerhayes (DMR):

- BCC have lodged a bond of \$100,000 that would enable the Minister to restore site disturbance – the area and nature of the sample, which is on a fairly small scale, has determined that this amount is quite ample for contingency purposes.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY MATTERS:

Nat Doonan:

- Raised issue of concern over the release of media and public statements.
- Move by Lloyd Rossington, seconded by Nat Doonan and declared carried – Warren Cook to represent committee member's views to the media.

Warren Cook:

- Stated that committee meetings would be open to the public but the public would not take a formal part in meeting proceedings unless written request is made to the Chairperson. Public attendees would be noted in meeting minutes as "observer's".

Nat Doonan:

- Proposed that time limit should be imposed when public representatives wished to comment.

Warren Cook:

- Proposal noted and granted – Chairperson would consider only one representative from the public would be allowed to speak at any one meeting within a 10-15 minute time allocation.

Nat Doonan:

- Raised question about the circulation of meeting minutes. Draft to be sent out to all committee members and the final copy to be sent to Chairperson.

Daryl Dutton:

- Suggested that minutes be made available to public on the Scone Shire Council website after they had been accepted at the following BCCC meeting.

David Foster:

- Agreed with this procedure.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION MATTERS:

Lloyd Rossington:

- Requested that copy of the Special Consent Conditions be distributed to Committee Members – David Foster to supply.

Neville Moxon:

- Requested contact details for committee members are supplied. Agreed to by Warren Cook. These will be attached to meeting minutes.

Warren Cook:

- Future meetings will be held at Bickham Homestead where suitable amenities are available.
- Next Meeting to be held (tentatively) Wednesday 28th July 2004.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:05 PM

SITE INSPECTION COMPLETED AT 1:50PM.