

**METROPOLITAN COAL  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Tuesday 18 March 2025

**Time:** Commenced 15:05

**Location:** Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh

**Attendees:**

- Michael Ulph (MU) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Nicolas Tucker (NT) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Keith Hawkins (KH) - CCC Member
- Vicki Christie (VC) – CCC Member
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member
- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal

**Apologies:**

- Robert Scullion (RS) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)

**Welcome and introductions:**

- MU welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked members for attending.

**Declarations of interest:**

- MU declared his position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Director General of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and engaged by Peabody.
- MU reinforced the need for CCC members to disclose conflicts of interest such as owning shares in Peabody or family members employed by Peabody. Conflict of interest disclosure forms will be updated yearly as part of the CCC Terms of Reference.
- Updated CCC Code of Conduct documents signed by CCC members.

**Action items from previous meeting:**

- MU declared CCC meeting minutes 26 November 2024 were finalised and sent to members.
- SL confirmed with KB that there were no further issues with road noise on the entrance road from traffic turning from top office.

**Correspondence:**

- MU informed CCC members of administration updates.

**Metropolitan Coal operations update – Stephen Love, Environment & Community Superintendent**

A presentation was provided to the CCC regarding:

- Mining Update
- Future State Significant Development
- Longwall Modification 317-318
- 2024 Air Quality
- WTP Upgrade Results
- Dam Sediment Management

**Questions/Comments/Feedback from CCC members in relation to the Presentation:**

- MU enquired about proposed Ventilation Shaft 4 area of disturbance. SL explained that like all works in the Woronora Special area, footprint will be designed to minimise disturbance, with a large proportion of the site able to be rehabilitated once construction has been completed.
- MU asked about the desilting process in Turkey's Nest Dam. SL outlined TN desilting procedures and highlighted increased efficiencies in removing material from TN and Sediment Ponds onsite and reprocessing through the Coal Handling & Preparation Plant (CHPP).
- AH asked where the current coal price stands. JH stated that coal price has fallen somewhat and is now around \$180/tonne. MU enquired if there are any coal supply issues due to cyclone Alfred in QLD. JH stated no real supply disruptions and indicated that coal price is influenced by current global politics.
- MU asked if steel tariffs from the US will impact Metropolitan. JH suggested that companies like Bluescope who operate in the US will benefit but tariffs may indirectly influence coal price. SL added that China had recently announced measure to stimulate the domestic economy, which may also have implications for steel production and demand and therefore coal prices.
- MU reiterated the need to review the Terms of Reference for CCC members. Mandatory yearly updates required by DPHI were discussed with CCC members referring to the purpose of the agreement.

**General business:**

- AH enquired on macroinvertebrate data from Camp Creek at Metropolitan since historical measurements dating back to 1997. SL confirmed that some recent macroinvertebrate data has been collected which continues to demonstrate that Camp Creek is a degraded stream throughout its course regardless of Metropolitan's input due to significant pollutant loads from urban runoff and erosion in the upstream watercourse, as well as fertilisers, sewage and heavy metals which are a common form of pollution in urban streams. SL explained to members that the larval form of many macroinvertebrate species such as mayflies, dragonflies and midges can be used to assess the quality of water in a stream due to their differing sensitivities to pollutant levels.
- VC asked where the community can field questions to Metropolitan. SL outlined Metropolitan's varying efforts over the years to provide a conduit to the community such as

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newsletters, a community centre on Walker Street and the efforts of CCC members.

Metropolitan also has a community hotline for any questions or complaints. KH highlighted that SL would be presenting to the Helensburgh Probus Club again in April where many questions are asked and answered. SL reiterated that he is generally happy to present to any community group in the area which might be interested in Metropolitan's operations.

- AH suggested that Wollongong City Council could organize a 'state of the nation' meeting where all community groups can discuss and collaborate community issues in Helensburgh and surrounds, but past meetings have only been lightly attended.
- KB asked about an alarm/siren sound from the mine occurring in the early hours of the morning. SL confirmed this would be investigated, with JH adding most likely a train crossing alarm or conveyor alarm in the CHPP.
- KB noted that the EV Peabody Bus was offsite. SL stated that the bus had been transported to the supplier for repairs and will be returned once completed.

**Meeting closed: 15:00**

**Proposed next meetings: 15 July 2025**