



Wilpinjong Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee



Q1 Meeting Minutes

1. PRESENT

Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Date & Time:	5 March 2025
Venue:	Wollar General Store	Minute Taker:	Sally Mayberry (SMb)
Committee Members:	Bev Smiles (BS), Kieren Bennetts (KB), Clark Potter (CP), Rod Pryor (RP), Councillor Des Kennedy (DK), Mark Eaglesham (ME)		
Invited Guests/Observers:			

2. APOLOGIES/ABSENT

Apologies:	Lisa Menke, Maata Te Kira, Kim Peach (KP), Councillor Katie Dicker, Brian McDermott (BM), Tian Oosthuizen (TO)
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3. WELCOME

Lisa Andrews – opens meeting at 1:07pm

Acknowledgement of Country

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lisa Andrews – Independent Chair approved by Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI), engaged by Peabody Wilpinjong

Clark Potter – Senior Environmental Officer, Wilpinjong Coal

Kieren Bennetts – Manager Environment & Community, Wilpinjong Coal

Bev Smiles – Community Member (Resident)

Katie Dicker – MWRC Councillor (alternate for Des Kennedy)

Brian McDermott – Community Member (Lessee of Peabody pastoral land and former resident)

Kim Peach – Community Member

Grant Purcell – NP&WS delegate (alternate)

Mark Eaglesham – General Manager, Wilpinjong Coal

Rod Pryor – Community Member (Wollar Progress Association/Resident/Councillor with Mid-Western Regional Council)

Des Kennedy – Mid Western Regional Council delegate

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes from December 2024 CCC were finalised and sent to members via email on 6 January 2025

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE FINALISED MINUTES

Review of action items from last meeting:

1.	Modification 4 – has a variation on the EPBC conditions occurred? –3 (BS requests clarification on Mod 4's EPBC offsets and whether they will be updated to reflect the changes of ownership)	Complete	CP shares the outcome and members discuss
2.	Update previous minutes to reflect BS dB(C) discussion	Complete	10/12/24
3.	Attended noise monitoring (machinery in operation) presentation - investigate if specific locations in Pit 8 (North vs South) can be presented	Complete	KB states that WCPL should be able to support this request
4.	Share 2024 dust depositional data with members (per graphical representation shared for 2023) if available at time of March meeting	Ongoing	Reports not finalised yet; to be completed for next CCC
5.	WCPL to determine how compliant depositional dust might be visualised and shared with members	Carried over	Incorporated into WCPL's presentation
6.	Invite EnergyCo to the March CCC meeting	Ongoing	Invitations have been extended but no response

7. CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence in/out:

- 12/12/24 – Email to members with copy of complaint from MTK and providing details of MWRC's Community Strategic Plan consultation.
- 19/12/24- Email to members with the draft minutes from the meeting for review. As well as the presentations.
- 6/1/25 – Email to members with finalised minutes.
- 21/2/25 - Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for the meeting.
- 3/3/25- Email to members with reminder for this meeting.

8. REPORT BY KEIREN BENNETTS

Mine Map

- A map of the operational pits is shown and talked to

Attended Noise Monitoring

- 9 – 10 December 2024 with two audible locations during the monitoring period
- 21 – 22 January 2025 with five audible locations during the monitoring period
- Noise monitoring compliant with conditions

Question: Regarding the discussion at the December meeting, there should be more information incorporated into these presentations about the noise monitoring and that there was an agreement that the dBc levels would be reported. There does not seem to be dBc levels reported in this presentation

Answer: It should be included in the reports; if it isn't included then it can be rectified by WCPL

Blasting

- November x8, December x7, 2024, and January x10, 2025, blasts were compliant with maximum vibration limits
- Blast overpressure monitoring was compliant for each month

Air Quality

- Depositional dust was compliant for the monitoring period
- Depositional Dust Gauge example is shown and talked to, to provide context about how they work relevant to the CCC

Question: Is this type of dust gauge standard across the industry?

Answer: Yes, they are used frequently throughout the industry

- HVAS (High Volume Air Sampler) location map shown
- HVAS results are compliant for the monitoring period

Water Discharge

- Water discharge and quality were compliant during the monitoring period
- Bank of four evaporators in Pit 3 approx. 150L/second throughput (12.9ML/d) with a current estimate on evaporation at 40% or ~5ML/d.

Question: Are these evaporators in place because the water can't be treated through the RO Plant?

Answer: The evaporators are being used in Pit 3 to improve operation and allow mining in Pit 3 sooner. There is no issue with the quality of the water.

Question: Do these evaporators reduce the need for an additional RO plant?

Answer: WCPL are still looking at engaging a temporary RO plant in the future.

Operational Downtime

- 1047.4 hours from 29 November 2024 – 26 February 2025; majority time lost due to lightning, rain, fog, dust and noise in that order

Rehabilitation

- 86.1ha rehabilitation achieved in 2024
- Target for 2025 is 98ha
- Agricultural drone is due to arrive mid-March to support rehabilitation team function

Complaints

- 29 November 2024 – 3 March 2025 total complaints 19 from four complainants

Discussion regarding slide about an odour complaint that was independently invalidated by an Independent Attended Noise Monitoring person

Discussion regarding historic community odour complaints, context for the complaints and understanding the details of measuring, reporting and compliance with relevant odour conditions. Community observations that odour can move on air currents below prevailing wind direction.

Community Donations

- Six priority areas to support
- CCC members encouraged to share details of the sponsorship with the wider community, and to contact KB/CP directly or via standard channels to discuss potential sponsorship
- Mudgee Running Festival, Max Potential, Mudgee Veterans Golf Association, Cassilis Campdraft and Black Stump Rodeo (Coolah) have been supported thus far in 2025
- Doctors 4 Mudgee Region program is being supported as it gets up and running, with intent to participate in the program ongoing and provide monetary support

Wilpinjong Camp

- Approximately 60 workers being accommodated at the camp currently
- Operation commenced in January 2025
- Workers are varied – some are new starters that are transitioning to living in the Mudgee region. There are some contractors in hard-to-fill roles
- The camp supplements available accommodation; it is not intended to ever accommodate all workers

'HAVE A CHAT' 2025 Details

- 1st Thursday of every month between 1:30pm and 4:30pm at the Wollar Store
- Community Complaints Hotline 1300 606 625

WCPL website

- www.wilpinjongmine.com.au is a new website for WCPL – containing detail on future approvals.

9. REPORT BY CLARK POTTER

EL9399

Question: *In the EPBC referral maps, there's a little loop in the map that extends out on the other side of the railway line. There's no explanation about it*

Answer: *There is some road and power line realignment which may explain. WCPL to provide explanation as to why the map in the EPBC referral is different to the maps provided during the CCC*

- Overview of the pathway forward talked to regarding the Pit 8 Modification, Pits 9 and 10 SSD and the future opportunities
- Timeline introduced showing the key milestones for the Pit 8 Extension Modification
- A similar timeline will be shown in the next CCC for the SSD

Property Management

- 2024 demolition program of five houses in Wollar Village is complete
- Fuel tank at the former general store will be inspected by SLR in April 2025 which will determine next steps
- Mowing of village areas continues as usual
- Awaiting the waste contractor (bins) to remove remaining topsoil
- Weed and feral animal control – weed spraying complete for this season
- LLS starting a wild dog baiting program that WCPL is contributing to

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Question: *Community questions the hot houses at the old nursery that are falling apart; could they be purchased by community members?*

Answer: *The nursery/hot houses are being used by the Native Title group; they are receiving quotes for fixing the hot houses. Seedlings are being grown there currently, with an irrigation system installed*

Question: *What is the current status of the Groundwater Management Plan? The 2023 is not published on the website*

Answer: *The GMP is under review (parked as a draft), awaiting for Departmental approval*

Question: *When is the Annual Review expected?*

Answer: *Submission by 31 March 2025; once through consultation with the agencies, WCPL will receive the formal approval of the document and it will be uploaded to the Wilpinjong website*

Question: *Could WCPL please comment on the salinity and groundwater drawdown that was noted as above predicted in the 2023 Groundwater Review as part of the Annual Review.*

Answer: *Groundwater is reported on monthly. An overview of the network of groundwater monitoring bores is discussed (including age and original intent of the water bores, as well as the climatic fluctuations over time).*

Question: *With Modification 3, the application is for the ability to produce up to 16MTPA up to 2033? What are the current conditions of extraction rates prior to 2033?*

Answer: *It's unlikely that these annual amounts will be reached,. Current approval conditions allow for WCPL to extract up to the limit, annually.*

Question: *How much does operational downtime impact extraction rate?*

Answer: *Environmental conditions heavily impact on the total extraction rate; especially wet weather.*

11. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 4th June – 1pm on site at Wollar meeting room
- Wednesday 3rd September – 1pm on site at the mine with an inspection; and
- Wednesday 3rd December (time and venue to be confirmed)

Meeting Closed: 3:12pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 4 June 2025, 1pm at Wollar

ACTION LIST

Number	Action	Whom	By When
1.	WCPL to determine how compliant depositional dust might be visualised and shared with members	KB	Next meeting
2.	Condolences to be sent to Mandy Jackson (and family) wife of former WCPL General Manager on behalf of the CCC	LA	Next meeting
3.	Groundwater Management Plan – provide update	KB	Next meeting
4.	EPBC referral maps, provide information on difference between CCC and EPBC maps	CP	Prior to the next meeting
5.	WCPL to comment on surface and groundwater investigation trigger limit exceedances reported in the 2023 Annual Review.	CP	Next meeting
6.	Low frequency noise (dBc) information (as shown in the Dec 2024 CCC Meeting) to be included in the January and February 2025 Attended Noise Reports, circulated to BS and covered in future presentations.	CP	Prior to next meeting