



**Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting
6 November 2009**

Attending Guests: Bev Smiles (BS), John Webb (JW), Linda Shreeve (LS), Scott Lillis (SL), Esme Martens (EM), Julia Imrie (JI), Geoff Mitchell (GM)

UCML Attendees: Phil English (PE), Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Holden (CH), Pam Mills
Apologies:

Chair: Esme Martens

Meeting Opened: 1.15pm **Meeting Closed:** 4.20pm

JL Geoff Mitchell was introduced to the CCC as a new member. Geoff owns land adjacent to UCML in the North West corner of UCML's operations (the property is within the Ulan West mining footprint) and has been in the area for 30 years. Geoff is a registered surveyor and has dealt with the mine over a significant period of time. His interest in the mine has increased due to the Ulan Coal Continued Operations project

EM Welcomed Linda Shreeve to the CCC. Linda is a Town Planner with MWRC and has been nominated to attend as a replacement to Gary Bruce who recently resigned from MWRC.

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES

JW Moved that the previous minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the CCC meeting.

BS Seconded that the previous minutes be accepted

1.1. ISSUES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

BS Asked whether comments or issues raised from previous meetings were included in the Environmental Assessment

JL All issues and concerns raised by CCC or general community were incorporated or addressed in the EA where appropriate.

2 ULAN OPERATIONAL UPDATE

JL The current underground operation has experienced delays due to the presence of a sill and the occurrence of a roof fall in LW25.

General discussion occurred about the roof fall regarding operational impact and safety issues. It was noted by UCML that the rock fall was the result of a sag in the roof rather than a defined fall.

- PE Provided an overview of the recovery process and presented an overview of the mining process. Longwall currently located 69m from the takeoff point.
- JL Questioned the installation designs of the proposed LW26 dewatering facility and future dewatering infrastructure.
- JL Outlined that the dewatering facilities are located to the eastern side of the eastern panels for Ulan No.3 Underground due to the dip of the seam. However Ulan West will require dewatering facilities at strategic locations on some panels and these locations are also determined by the dip in the coal seam.

General discussion occurred regarding the groundwater environment at Ulan with information provided explaining that the ground water aquifer is a number of discrete levels within the strata. JL indicated that further detailed information is contained within the Continued Operations Environmental Assessment groundwater section.

- JL Provided details on the variation of EPL394 which was undertaken to facilitate the installation of the No. 3 Ventilation facilities.
- PE Provided an overview of the EPL variation and the reasons supporting the change. Variation also included removal of Dust Deposition Gauge 3 from Moolarben's mining lease.
- PE Provided an overview of offsite discharge and performance update of the Reverse Osmosis plant. It was explained that the RO membranes had been replaced approximately a month ago which has facilitated an increase in discharges from the site.

UCML have also made amendments to the Water Management Facility at Bobadeen that provides the flexibility to discharge and irrigate in parallel – ultimately increasing site water management disposal for the operation in accordance with EPL limits.

- JL Questioned whether discharge of water would be able to replicate the natural river flow regime as the current trickle release has encouraged algae growth.

General discussion occurred outlining that the site is currently limited to one discharge point and in order to meet various stakeholder requirements, including regulators, discharge requirements need to be taken into consideration.

- JL Indicated that the water strategy contained within the Ulan Coal Continued Operations project allowed for a flexible discharge system, however any release pattern would always be determined by operational and infrastructure constraints.
- JL Questioned the predicted impact on the base-flows to the Goulburn and Talbragar Rivers, and how these were assessed within the EA - noting that mining interference to groundwater aquifers impacted only eastern flowing water.

General discussion occurred regarding hard rock base flows and cumulative impact. It was indicated that these base flows are only part of the larger base flow contributions and that they are very difficult to quantify.

Jl & SL suggested the use of Managed Aquifer Recharge as a method of managing the excess water make while assisting aquifer recovery, which according to the groundwater report is predicted to be in excess of 200 years

General discussion occurred regarding aquifer re injection and the implications on recirculation of water. Jl indicated that the Curra Creek fault provides potential opportunity and would be worthy of investigation.

JL Outline given of the proposed Talbragar Discharge

Jl Questioned the relevance of the Elong Elong gauging station to the proposed discharge.

JL Indicated that UCML will continued monitoring water quality at the Talbragar Discharge point and will be seeking a Licence that is conducive to water quality ranges at the site and consistent with the ANZECC water quality guidelines.

Jl Enquired to the accuracy and operational status of the downstream gauging station on the Goulburn River at the bridge.

CH Indicated that the data from the downstream site has stabilised and reliable data has been collected; however there is an ongoing program to look at the relocation of the site. This project has been slowed down due to the need to obtain relevant government approvals.

BS Questioned the water sharing agreement with Moolarben

PE Outlined details of the Water Sharing Agreement

CORRESPONDANCE

Correspondence In – Letter from Margaret McDonald Hill (Wilpinjong CCC Independent Chair) seeking support from UCML for a joint CCC meeting

Correspondence Out – UCML responded to Margaret McDonald Hill letter indicating support for the initiative however seeking details on scope and defined agenda

Joint CCC meeting discussed

CCC Members indicated a frustration as to the inaction on this subject and had been advised at Moolarben and Wilpinjong CCC meetings that UCML were stalling the process.

PE outlined that this is not the case as a response has been formally submitted to MMH.

CCC agreed that MMH would be appropriate chair for this proposed meeting and general consensus was that a defined scope and agenda needs to be established to ensure the effectiveness of the meeting.

CCC members advised that they would like cumulative typical impacts discussed at meeting such as detailed below:

- Bushfire management
- Cumulative Groundwater impacts
- Cumulative Dust

- Cumulative Noise
- Traffic and road conditions
- Joint environmental monitoring network
- Housing availability / constraints

3 ULAN CONTINUED OPERATIONS EA UPDATE

- JL Overview of the Environmental Assessment provided with exhibition period at 6 weeks rather than 4 weeks.
- JL UCML is holding another Community Information Day at Ulan Village Community House on the 12th November 2009 to allow interested people to discuss the project on a one on one basis with the project team.
- GM Asked whether this day was out of sync considering the exhibition timeframes. JL indicated that the initial Day was held on 27th July 2009, however as a result of AustralianPost not delivering the invitations nobody except people who received invites directly in the mail were informed about the day.
- LS Outlined the locations of the Public Exhibition venues at Mudgee and Gulgong

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

- JL UCML provided an overview of the Bushfire Management Plan review that is currently being undertaken by UCML.
This process includes consultation with relevant stakeholders and will give consideration to the Ulan Coal Continued Operations project.

General understanding that the UCML fire plan would be incorporated into the regional fire plan.

- JL Advised that she attempted to contact UCML by phone concerning the fire at The Drip picnic area on the 23 Oct 2009 but could not contact any personnel
- JL Indicated that UCML's 24hr number is (02) 63725300 and that this would be the appropriate contact number for UCML's site.
- JL Provided overview to the proposed Community Broad Brushed Risk Assessment proposed for February – March 2010.
- BS Questioned if this would relate to the Ulan Complex
- JL Yes
- JL Advised that Xstrata Coal NSW will be undertaking a Community Survey of the area and it was likely that CCC members will be called through this process.
- JL Questioned the baseline information used by MER (Col Mackie) in the EA. The MER report concluded that there has been no 'observed' impacts on the Drip, however she had observed a decline in the dripping water.

- JL Advised that MER based this assessment on the basis that the Drip is feed by localised ground water system, recharged from localised rainfall occurrences.
- BS Advised that the Central West Community Conservation Area Committee (CWCCC) was proposing to undertake a review of UCML's operations.
- PE Overview of UCML's 2009 rehabilitation program given. Unfortunately with rainfall an inspection of the area could not be undertaken.
- CH Provided an overview to the Old Underground Demolition program currently being undertaken by UCML.
- PE Advised that the program has progressed in accordance with UCML's Progressive Rehabilitation Program which is prioritised through UCML's planning.
- JI Questioned the proposed timetable regarding rehabilitation of the Goulburn River Diversion.
- JL Advised that rehabilitation of the diversion is included in EA and will occur in accordance with program subject to climatic and rehabilitation success constraints.
- GH Questioned the corporate direction of UCML rehabilitation program.
- PE Outlined that Xstrata's corporate direction from Peter Freyberg is for further rehabilitation and that rehabilitation is to be well planned to ensure appropriate rehabilitation is undertaken.
- JL Advised the CCC that Phil English had tendered his resignation from UCML and will finish during December 2009.
- PE Thanked the CCC members for their contributions over the last 4 years
- BS Bev Smiles email address – bevsmiles@bigpond.com

Meeting Closed: 4:30 pm

Action Status Table

ITEM	RAISED BY	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	JL	Tentative dates to be distributed for December 2010 CCC meeting.	JL	Current
2	JL	Brainstorm proposed Agenda for three way mine / CCC meeting	EM, BS, JW, JI	Pending