



**Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting
30 November 2010**

Attending Guests: Scott Lillis (SL), Esme Martens (EM), Julia Imrie (JI), Geoff Mitchell (GM), John Webb (JW), Bev Smiles (BS), Linda Shreeve (LS) – left 4.40pm

UCML Attendees: Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Henriques (CH), Ian Flood (IF)
Apologies:

Chair: Esme Martens

Meeting Opened: 3.00pm **Meeting Closed:** 6.20pm

JL Advised members that this is the last meeting for this CCC – a new CCC needs to be established and appointed under the new Part 3A approval (will discuss later in meeting).

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

JW Seconded that the previous minutes be accepted

1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Action Status Table (from previous minutes)

ACTION	STATUS
Add Geoff Mitchell and Heimo Petzl's bores to next year's private bore survey	Bores have been added to the list for next year's survey – UCML will collect bore construction information prior to or during next year's survey event
Check results from upstream gauging station for 12 July onwards	UCML have reviewed the data for both gauging stations and have identified a few anomalies that need further clarification from UCML hydrometric contractor. UCML are working with the hydrometric contractor to finalise the data so it can be included in the 2009-2010 AEMR.
Check results for PZ14 in March 2010 report with Coffey's	Coffey's tested bore in September 2010 – results indicate casing/grout has failed in PZ14A and bore can no longer be used to monitor Permian zone. This bore has now been removed from the monitoring network.
Follow up with GSSE on climate change and land rehab risks (not ranked in risk register)	BBRA risk register has now been updated.
Send out A3 size BBRA risk register & summary section of BBRA report for	Hard copies of both the risk register and summary report provided to members in this meeting

review	
Provide A3 size laminated maps for each member for future meetings	A3 size maps from EA (Appendix 2 and 3) provided to members in this meeting. Appendix 3 map requires update to land ownership of "Cavandah Flats" – now UCML owned. Maps will be updated, reprinted and laminated once change has been made.
Provide indication of acidity of tailings in South 5	Testing undertaken in 2008 on South 5 tailings dam – both coarse rejects and tailings had a pH of 5 (circulated test results in this meeting)

- GM Asked if McMaster's bore was tested as part of 2010 private bore survey
- JL No - UCML contacted Nigel McGrath to arrange inspection/survey of this bore. Nigel said he was too busy at the time but would contact UCML at a later date to organise an inspection of the bore.
- JL Asked if UCML undertake a full characterisation of new private bores to establish baseline conditions. This is important to determine possible future contamination of different aquifers due to mining impacts
- JL No – UCML sample bores for pH and EC and gather as much information as possible on the bore in the initial survey i.e. construction details. UCML will consider full characterisation in future.

2 ULAN OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- JL Provided an update on the current mining schedule
- Mining completed in LWW2 – currently moving longwall to LW26
 - Production YTD is 4.85M tonnes v budget of 7.1M tonnes – constraints include significant strata issues and water management issues
- JL Explained that UCML are experiencing significant stress zones underground, particularly in the main gate road of LWW3. These stresses are causing problems with the roof and ribs resulting in significant delays in development. UCML have been exploring a range of options and technologies to address the problems however have been forced to look at alternate mine plans to keep the mine operating. This includes the development of new LW panels on the west side of the North 1 mains (N1 panels).
- JL Explained the process for gaining approval to mine the N1 panels. The Part 3A approval allows for first workings only in the N1 panels – a 75W modification is currently being prepared to allow secondary extraction to be undertaken in these panels. The modification will be submitted to DoP in Jan 2011.

3 APPROVALS

- JL Provided update on major approvals:
- Part 3A project approval received from DoP on 15 Nov 2010.
 - Voluntary Planning Agreement has been negotiated with MWRC.
 - EPBC approval currently with the delegate (minister) for determination.
 - Integrated Mining Operations Plan for Ulan Complex approved by NSW Industry & Investment on 17 Nov 2010.
- JL Need to provide JW with a copy of the Part 3A approval - ACTION

- JW Noted that a meeting between the mines will be held this Friday – wanted to know why MWRC weren't invited.
- JL Meeting between mines is to discuss commercial arrangements over Ulan road upgrade. Once agreement has been reached, mines will approach MWRC for meeting.
- BS Can UCML start clearing works without EPBC approval?
- JL UCML can only start work within the existing Open Cut Disturbance areas but can't disturb EPBC controlled action areas until EPBC approval received and an Offset Management Plan has been approved.
- JL Provided an overview of the Bobadeen and Bobadeen East Biodiversity Offsets Areas (BOAs). UCML will implement supplementary activities to improve vegetation communities in BOAs. Bobadeen East BOA provides excellent connectivity with Curryall State Conservation Area to the north, and Goulburn River National Park to the south.
- Overall impact of project = 408ha, Overall offset area = 1223ha i.e 3:1 ratio
 - Impact on CEEC's = 69ha, CEEC Offset = 408ha i.e. 5.9:1 ratio
- JL Does Bobadeen East BOA preclude grazing activities? What about weed control?
- JL Further discussions are needed with the federal Govt – strategic grazing may be an option. UCML have spent over \$20,000 on weed control (St John's Wart) in the BOAs over the last month – weed control will continue to be a critical management activity in the BOAs.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- JL Provided general overview of what the new EMS will look like under the Part 3A approval. Advised MWRC representatives that the Part 3A approval requires UCML to consult with MWRC on the development of management plans – MWRC need to ensure they have the resources and expertise to review these management plans e.g. Heritage Management Plan, Biodiversity and Offset Management Plan etc. Most management plans are due for submission to DoP by the end of March 2011. UCML will continue to operate under current management plans until new plans are approved.

5 YEAR IN REVIEW

- JL Provided an update on the rehabilitation activities in 2010 & targets for 2011
- Completed 3m cap on South 5 tailings dam
 - Completed 6ha of rehab on South Hill – Grey Box communities seed mix applied to flatter areas, Ironbark communities seed mix applied on slopes. Seed mix also included native grasses for the first time.
 - Detailed design of drainage/final landform in West Pit have commenced
 - EOI process undertaken for reclamation/reuse of tailings in old Lagoons Tailings Dam
 - 2011 targets
 - 100ha to be disturbed, including boxcut and clean water catchment dams. Of this 100 ha only approx 50 ha is new disturbance, with the remaining 50 ha being previously rehabilitated land.
 - West Pit final landform and drainage works to be undertaken to enable discharge offsite once sediment has been dropped out
 - Completion of South 5 tailings dam rehab – to final landform
 - Commencement of Goulburn River Diversion Rehabilitation – currently having tender documents prepared for works

- JL Provided an update on key site projects
- No 3 Vent fan construction nearing completion – commissioning Jan 2011
 - MG26 dewatering station construction complete – commissioned Sept 2010
 - Rowan’s RO Plant site prep works underway – commissioning to commence Jan 2011
 - Downstream Gauging Station complete – commissioned Oct 2010
 - Private Bore Survey completed in July 2010
 - Ulan West Underground execution to commence Dec 2010
- JL Provided an update on subsidence in LWW2, based on inspections undertaken in July and Sept 2010. Actual subsidence as predicted in SMP
- JL Advised that UCML’s updated Bushfire Management Plan has been finalised and distributed. A site familiarisation tour was also held with the RFS and local brigades in Oct 2010, with feedback provided by RFS crews on potential improvements to site facilities for bushfire fighting.
- BS Asked what UCML are doing to address the loss of volunteer fire fighters in local brigades
- JL UCML are working with the RFS to ensure trained fire fighters are available to assist with fires onsite – UCML already has many trained fire fighters who serve in their local brigades. UCML are also looking at other ways to assist including building up a fleet of contractor earthmoving equipment and working with the other mines to provide fire fighting assistance.
- JL Provided environmental monitoring results
- Groundwater
 - Latest water balance showing increase in onsite water inventory since Dec 2009 – mainly due to increased rainfall
 - Current water make ~12.8ML/day
 - Recalibrated model showing peak water make in 2018 (~26ML/day)
 - Surface Water
 - Ulan Creek discharge and water quality graph shown – 2474ML discharge in 09-10 AEMR period, average 6-7ML/day
 - One EPL exceedence (15.7ML discharged in 24 hrs v limit of 15ML). Exceedence occurred as UCML unable to shut valve off in time. Automated valve has now been installed.
 - Noise – results from annual attended noise monitoring shown and discussed. One exceedence of night time noise goal recorded at Ulan Village (41dB v 40dB)
 - Meteorological – rainfall, temperature and wind speed/direction graphs shown
 - Dust – PM10, Dust Deposition and High Volume Air Sampler graphs shown & discussed
- JL Asked for copy of noise monitoring report
- CH Will email report to JL – ACTION
- GM Asked about the process for acquisition for people affected by noise
- JL Explained process for acquisition – under Part 3A approval a number of properties have been identified where the owner can request acquisition due to noise at any time during the project. The Part 3A approval documents the process for acquisition etc.
- JL Distributed 2009 XCN Community Survey Report to members.

- JL Gave update on 2010 Community Support Program
- UCML have spent \$78,000 v budget of \$75,000, including:
 - \$19,000 for Local Schools Support Program
 - \$10,000 to Cudgegong Pathway Project
 - \$5,000 to Startline Cruisers (Mudgee Lions Club) for Youth Driver Training

General discussion on the 2010 CSP and opportunities for 2011 - JL indicated that he was happy to take feedback and suggestions from the CCC on worthy community causes.

- GM Asked if UCML support research projects i.e. for university students etc
- JL Outlined current research projects that UCML are supporting
- UNSW study on soil moisture in the Goulburn River Catchment
 - UNSW project on the use of satellite imagery to monitor mine rehabilitation success
 - Macquarie Uni PHD project on groundwater temperature using UCML's regional groundwater monitoring network (Cara Danis – Coffey Geotechnics)
 - Internal XCN research project on the use of Aerial Laser Scanning technology for monitoring subsidence and its possible impacts on native vegetation
- JL Asked if she could receive a copy of Cara's research paper on groundwater
- CH Will provide a copy to all CCC members - ACTION

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

- BS Asked what the process is for establishing a new CCC and the timeframe
- JL UCML will follow DoP Guidelines. Advertisement will go in local papers in Dec and Jan with the expectation that a new CCC would be appointed by DoP by early Feb. CCC to be consulted on new management plans – these plans need to be submitted to DoP by the end of March, therefore the first meeting would likely be held in Feb.
- JL Asked CCC if they had any ideas for new Chairperson
- General Discussion occurred about potential applicants.
- JL Asked for clarification on Part 3A approval conditions for offset of baseflows
- JL Reference to offsets under previous approvals is irrelevant for UCML
- JL Provided general discussion on how the impact on the Drip may be measured e.g installation of piezometers etc
- JL Aquifer characterisation required to determine source of flows – will require installation of piezometers. Need time to think about.
- BS Asked when UCML are going to start building up workforce and when traffic/social impacts will start
- JL Explained timeframe for ramp up – need to sign contracts with boxcut contractor & order equipment (expected late Dec 2010) & send letter to NSW I&I for nomination of operator (28 days notice required). Site preparation for surface infrastructure will commence in the meantime. No impact on traffic likely until late January to early February when contractors start
- GM Asked how this activity ties in with Ulan Rd upgrade timing
- JL Ulan Rd Strategy will not be required late 2011. Any upgrades during 2010 will be subject to MWRC works program.

Discussion on Ulan road condition and road safety program. JL expressed frustration over delays in getting approval from MWRC / RTA over variable road signs – UCML submitted letter 2 months ago, still waiting for MWRC/RTA response. JW to chase up with MWRC.

JL Thanked the CCC for their efforts and contributions and welcomed everyone to apply for a position on the new CCC when it is advertised.

Meeting Closed: 6.20pm

Action Status Table

ITEM	RAISED BY	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	JL	Provide gauging station results	CH	
2	JL	Provide JW with a copy of the Part 3A approval	JL	Complete Sent 09/12/10
3	JL	Provide noise monitoring report to JL	CH	
4	JL	Provide copy of groundwater research paper to CCC members	CH	
5	JL	Advertise for new CCC in Dec 2010 & Jan 2011	JL	