



**Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting
16 February 2010**

Attending Guests: Linda Shreeve (LS) Scott Lillis (SL), Esme Martens (EM), Julia Imrie (arrived 9.30) (JI), Geoff Mitchell (GM), John Webb (JW)

UCML Attendees: Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Holden (CH),
Apologies: Bev Smiles (BS)

Chair: Esme Martens

Meeting Opened: 8.30am **Meeting Closed:** 9.55am

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- LS Moved that the previous minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the CCC meeting.
- GM Seconded that the previous minutes be accepted

1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No outstanding actions – a copy of the EA was delivered to EM (left at MWRC reception) and GM.

- JL Asked if UCML pay for water extracted (per ML) – not clear in previous minutes.
- JL UCML pay for a groundwater licence and a ML charge rate as applied by NSW Office of Water.

2 ULAN OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- JL Provided an update on the current mining schedule
- Mining scheduled to commence in LWW2 on 17 Feb
 - UCML currently preparing to construct another dewatering facility at the eastern end of LW26 – Surface Mining Lease application has been submitted to Dept of Industry & Investment (approval pending).
 - Construction of the new vent fan progressing –variation to EPL sought for amending blasting conditions (approval pending).
- JL Explained that UCML are experiencing an increase in onsite water inventory due to recent rainfall, especially in the East Pit. Water sharing with Moolarben continues however their water requirements are affected by rainfall. Coal washing expected to start soon.

3 ULAN COAL CONTINUED OPERATIONS UPDATE

- JL 45 submissions received. UCML responses to submissions are based on common issues rather than responses to individual submissions i.e. groundwater, subsidence, noise etc. Responses sent to Dept of Planning in early Feb.
- LS Advised that MWRC have not received a copy.
- JL Advised that the response will not go on public exhibition until approved by DoP.
- JL Explained that the project has been deemed a “controlled action” under the EPBC Act. UCML need to provide clarification on a number of issues raised by Govt.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

- JL Explained that UCML have been invited (by DII) to explore 2 parcels of land on the western side of the current mining lease under a new exploration licence (No. 3783). Showed where EL areas are in relation to the current mining lease and mining operations. Explained process around granting of a new EL including clarification that the EL only allows UCML to explore, not undertake mining. A full EA is required prior to Project Approval being granted and mining occurring. Also explained that access agreements with affected landholders would need to be negotiated before UCML can access private land for exploration. Advertisement for new EL should go in the newspapers in the coming weeks. Consultation with affected landholders has occurred already.
- EM What if people object to the EL?
- JL None of the affected landholders have objected to the EL. UCML would seek access agreements with affected landholders through a negotiation process.
- GM Asked if the EL was for coal only.
- JL Yes
- JL Explained that UCML has engaged a specialist consultant to develop a new Bushfire Management Plan. A workshop was held last week with key stakeholders to review and discuss the plan. The plan is currently being finalised following input from site personnel, RFS, NPWS, Moolarben Coal, Dept of Lands and local bushfire brigades. A site inspection will be held in Oct to show local brigade captains around the site. This has now been incorporated into UCML’s annual stakeholder consultation program. Bushfire training will also be incorporated into UCML’s training program where appropriate
- JL Advised that UCML have purchased Cavandah Flats, in the North West corner of the mining lease area. The Vendor will lease the land off UCML for 6 months – the land will then be offered to Colinta for lease.
- JL Reminded CCC that the Joint CCC Meeting will be held on 31 March at the Stables Complex in Mudgee (4-6pm). Agenda includes cumulative impacts, land management, bushfire management and social impacts.
- JL Community Broad Brush Risk Assessment (BBRA) will be held today. Thanked CCC members for their commitment to participate in the BBRA.
- JL Advised that XCN are currently awaiting the final report from the 2009 Community Survey. Results will be communicated to CCC in upcoming meetings.
- JL Presented 2010 Rehabilitation Targets for UCML:

- 46 hectares of potential disturbance for Ulan West box cut late in the year (subject to development approval)
- 6 hectares of seeding around South Hill and 1 hectare around old underground area
- Capping of South 5 tailings Dam (3 metre thick cap) to meet minimum requirement by DII – additional rehab works will be undertaken in conjunction with Ulan West earthworks in 2011/2012
- Currently getting detailed designs done for West Pit drainage to allow for better drainage through the rehab and construction of a discharge point to Ulan Creek.

Jl Are UCML relying on the new Open Cut going ahead to provide enough void space for rejects from 2 underground mines?

JL No - current voids can adequately store rejects from 2 underground mines. Mining Waratah will result in increased reject make, however this has been considered within the UCML Life of Mine Reject Strategy as presented in the EA.

Jl What's happening with Goulburn River Diversion, what is the time frame for commencing rehabilitation?

JL No physical works at the moment. Diversion rehab has been included in UCML's rehab provisions. Scope to be developed this year for works - work will need mobile mining fleet which will be available when Ulan West construction starts (pending approval).

Jl Raised concerns over cumulative sediment load impacts on the Goulburn River due to Moolarben's current operations and continuing erosion along the diversion.

JL Acknowledged it has taken UCML a long time to get the ball rolling however it is a long term process to rehabilitate the diversion. UCML are committed to the project under the EA, however it needs to be done carefully to avoid further serious erosion and stability issues.

EM Asked if UCML were going to supply water to the Cobbora Mine (if it goes ahead). Expressed concern about the loss of water from the Hunter catchment if the water sharing goes ahead

JL No agreement in place - no water sharing discussions have been held with JL.

Jl Heard that a survey has been done for the pipeline

JL Yes – an Aboriginal survey is occurring.

LS Advised that there are a lot of rumours circulating regarding the Cobbora Mine.

JL Advised that any queries regarding the proposed mine should be directed at Cobbora not UCML.

General discussion on Cobbora Mine and coal trains on railway line through towns, including Mudgee.

LS Briefly explained the development application process for the new Cobbora Mine with respect to the railway line and the mine itself – 2 separate processes.

GM Queried whether UCML's proposed discharge into the Talbragar River will make it run again

JL No – although UCML is seeking a 15ML/day maximum discharge into the Talbragar, the actual discharge may only be around 6ML/day. This volume will not sustain river flows in the Talbragar. The higher discharge volume allows for a variable (pulse) regime to be investigated.

- Jl Has UCML investigated managed reinjection of groundwater into aquifers outside mine footprint (ie Managed Aquifer Recharge) as an alternative to surface discharge into the western catchment? This would assist recovery of depleted groundwater (UCML groundwater modelling suggest recovery would take in excess of 200 years) ?
- JL UCML has not undertaken any specific aquifer recharge studies however the company will continue to look at options to increase groundwater recovery rates based on specialist advice.
- JL Thanked the CCC for their time for today’s meeting and BBRA.

Meeting Closed: 9.55am

Action Status Table

ITEM	RAISED BY	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	JL	Provide results of XCN Community Survey at next CCC (if available)	JL	