



**Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting
1st June 2009**

Attending Guests: Bev Smiles (BS), John Webb (JW), Michelle Kirkman – Umwelt (MK)
Gary Bruce (GB)

UCML Attendees: Phil English (PE), Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Holden (CH), Brian Pease (BP), Diana Barnes (DB),

Apologies: Scott Lillis, Esme Martens, Julia Imrie

Chair: John Webb

Meeting Opened: 12.10pm Meeting Closed: 2.40pm

1 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minute Review was deferred to the next meeting – All agreed

2 ULAN COAL - CONTINUED OPERATIONS

JL Provided an update on the project with respect to where specialist studies were up to and expected timing on the lodgement of the project. JL also apologised that the Groundwater study was unable to be presented as Col Mackie was currently overseas.

Traffic Assessment

MK Provided an overview of the road network around the project boundary and then a detailed description of the current traffic conditions and project traffic movements based on the cumulative impact of the Continued Operations project and Moolarben stage 1 & 2.

BS Identified that there will be an increase in vehicle movements per day (approximately double) due to all the new and expanding coal mines.

JW Sought clarification on the traffic counter readings i.e. whether it is one way or two way figures.

JL Clarified that they were two way counts.

BS Raised concerns about the road criteria used in the assessment based on the current condition/capacity of the Ulan Road.

MK The assessment found that, due to the cumulative impact of all the new traffic, the Ulan Road and Cope Road T intersection would need to be upgraded.

JW Agreed that the Cope Road Intersection needs to be upgraded but also raised concerns about other intersections along Ulan Road such as the Wollar Road (closer to Mudgee) and Mud Hut Creek Road intersections. JW stated that these intersections had caused serious Motor Vehicle accidents in the past.

M K Outlined current and proposed mitigation measures as a result of the findings from the traffic assessment but also stated that the traffic assessment was undertaken as a worst case scenario with both Ulan Underground operations having identical shifts and therefore starting and finishing at the same time.

BS Need to understand what shift changes impact the school bus when considering the roster.

General discussion occurred on car pooling opportunities and a bus service.

PE UCML employees already car pool with other employees where possible.

JL A Bus service may be considered during the construction phase for contract workforce however, there are a lot of difficulties in coordinating a routine bus service based on employees working overtime etc.

GB Identified that MWRC is the manager of the Ulan Road and that UCML needs to consult with Council regarding any upgrade requirements.

JL UCML has already organised meetings with MWRC to discuss the project and future obligations.

European & Natural Heritage Assessment

MK Provided an overview of European and Natural heritage issues within the Continued Operations project area.

GB Asked if any sites were listed on the National Heritage Register

JL Clarified that no sites were on the heritage register except the Talbragar Fish Fossil Reserve which was listed on the National Register as well as being identified in MWRC LEP. This site however is extremely disturbed due to a University fossicking program 4 – 5 years ago. Details of this program are recorded in the Gulgong Museum.

MK Outlined current and proposed mitigation measures as a result of the European and Natural Heritage Assessment.

PE Outlined that UCML's current management plans detail the company's statutory obligations which include routine environmental inspections of these sites.

Visual Assessment

MK Provided an overview of the parameters considered in the visual assessment. The assessment identified that, generally, UCML will remain unchanged due to the project as the major activities will be associated with an underground mine and an open cut extension which is not visible from Ulan Road. The current infrastructure areas will see an increased intensity with new conveyors and surge bins but the character of the area will not be changed.

- BS Questioned whether there will be any impact from lighting on the Wonga Roo Rd residents to the West.
- JL Said that the only infrastructure that will involve lighting in that direction will be ventilation and service hole facilities. These, by their very nature, are not light intensive and therefore it is unlikely any impact would occur.
- MK Outlined current and proposed mitigation measures as a result of the Visual Assessment including rehabilitation works that would occur on the Goulburn River Diversion.

Social Impact Assessment

- MK Provided an overview of the Social Impact Assessment, acknowledging additional consultation will be undertaken up until lodgement of the project. This means the SIA will be one of the last EA studies to be completed to allow the Social Strategies to be refined and included in the final document.
- BS Raised concerns about the cumulative impact on accommodation in the area with Moolarben and Ulan in construction phase at the same time.
- JL Moolarben is in construction phase now which will last for approximately another 18 months. It is anticipated that Moolarben will be commencing operational phase just as UCML is commencing construction phase. The SIA has taken these phases into consideration.

General discussion was held regarding the SIA. Some issues discussed were impact on real estate price and availability, affordable housing and impact on services. It was also raised that with an increasing population there is always an increase in offensive behaviour and additional strain on medical and mental health services.

3 GENERAL BUSINESS

New Ventilation Fan project

- JL Provided a quick presentation on the new upcast ventilation shaft project which will commence in the next few weeks. The new ventilation shaft allows for the advancement of Ulan No.3 to the north and replaces the existing ventilation fan. UCML currently maintains approval for the construction of this new facility but has had to amend its EPL to allow for the blasting that is required to construct the ventilation shaft.
- BS Asked what happens to the old fan facility.
- JL The fan equipment is reused where possible, however the whole site is decommissioned and rehabilitated in accordance with the UCML mine closure plan.
- BS Is there any noise issue associated with the new fan?
- JL The design of the new fan has given consideration to noise criteria imposed on the project as UCML has previously been informed by Wonga Roo Rd residents that they can hear the fan during certain climatic conditions.

BS What Noise Criteria will be used?

JL The criteria used will be consistent with the Industrial Noise Policy and its current development consent.

Bushfire Management Committee

JW Provided an update of the BFMC and stated that there is a committee position available for a representative from the mining industry. He acknowledges this may be difficult to achieve, however it would be good if UCML could send a representative to attend the meeting, and work it out within the industry to nominate a representative.

JL Acknowledged that UCML is a significant land manager within the Ulan area in addition to the other mines. Therefore UCML would discuss the issue internally and resolve how the company would respond.

JW Indicated that the next BFMC meeting will be around August 2009

Next Meeting

UCML will advise on the next meeting to allow for coordination between specialist consultants and UCML. It is anticipated that the next meeting would be held in the middle of July 2009.