

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Maules Creek	Reporting Period:	2020 (calendar year)
Independent Chairperson:	David Ross	Proponent Contact:	Darren Swain

1. Executive Summary

It was an active year for the CCC with four standard CCC meetings taking place as well as a joint CCC meeting (as part of the Boggabri-Tarrawonga-Maules Creek complex of coal mines) requiring the attention of committee members. Yet, due to the pandemic, it was also a frustrating year for the committee with members having to hold two of the meetings via videoconference and have one joint CCC meeting cancelled. While it was important to maintain conversations across the group, even via videoconference, the quality of internet reception for many and the inability to successfully hold genuine group discussions via video meant that meetings had to be stripped right back.

While there were new issues to focus on over the year (specifically, two modifications), nevertheless, there were some issues, which have been the focus of the CCC over the past few years. These include the trialling of an autonomous haulage system (AHS) for the mining trucks, biodiversity and mine rehabilitation, to name a few.

These issues provided for much discussion and numerous actions and responses.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

There were four CCC meetings held during the year with members well represented at each meeting. It was pleasing that, pre-pandemic, members attended a site visit in February, which was very well received.

Where members could not attend meetings, alternates attended. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile observing that it is becoming progressively more difficult to find new members to join the Boggabri-Tarrawonga-Maules Creek (BTM) complex of coal mine committees.

A joint CCC was held in May via a combination of video- and teleconference. While it was important to attempt to bring the three committees together, it was extremely difficult to run in a productive manner due to the poor technology. Nevertheless, the Department was able to attend in order to answer questions that community members had on an array of topics.

3. Key issues

As part of the review into the key issues discussed throughout 2020 as well as future interests and needs of the committee, feedback was also sought from CCC members at our February 2021 meeting. These are:

- Biodiversity offsets and rehabilitation management
- Feral animals and fire management
- The trialing of AHS trucks
- Onsite covid practices and ramifications of the pandemic
- Two modifications


Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Site Visit	Having had a substantial period of time since the last site visit was held, members were keen to visit the site. This allowed them to gain a greater perspective of the site and its operations as well as see up close how the AHS vehicles operate.	The site visit generated much interest, resulting in members keen to visit the site again in the near future
Biodiversity	Updates have been given on the biodiversity offsets and how they are being managed. Similarly members were keen to hear about planting on rehabilitation sites and how successful that has been	A site visit in the new year will include attendance of rehabilitation sites as well as a presentation from an appropriate WHC expert
Feral animals and fire management	Information presented at CCCs and Joint CCC on how this is being managed.	Updates on these matters will continue into 2021.
AHS vehicles	Committee members have been asking questions about the AHS for some years now, curious as to what the impacts this policy will have on staff numbers. While questions have always been responded to by WHC, seeing the vehicles during the site visit was most helpful.	Members will appreciate continued updates on the trials through the forthcoming year.

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Covid practices	Once the pandemic commenced, members were very interested to find out about what practices the mine had put into place to ensure that work could continue as productively as possible, minimizing interruptions.	Members will continue to receive updates into 2021.
Modifications	Two modifications were discussed during the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A landform modification for the Northern embankment • A powerline modification, installing and connecting electricity to the Roma Bore. 	Members expect to continue to receive updates on the modifications as well as notification once they go on exhibition.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Planned Activities that have been discussed include a site visit to look at the rehabilitation sites (completed in February 2021)
- Suggestions included having staff from the Resources Regulator present on the MOP reforms; someone from the mine or NSW Health present on the impacts of silica; and further details on the Leards Forest Environmental Trust
- Other issues that are to be explored through 2021 continue to include biodiversity, air quality and noise

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	12 th June, 2021