

# Metropolitan Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2020

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Metropolitan Coal	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	April 2019 to April 2020
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Stephen Love</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

Metropolitan Coal Mine is one of the oldest continually operating coal mines in Australia and has been part of the Helensburgh community for 129 years. With its location amongst residential areas and the national park in Helensburgh, Metropolitan continues to meet its environmental monitoring requirements and community expectations in a sensitive region.

The committee members continue to receive informative presentations from staff on the mine's operations and compliance with conditions of approval, including:

- Findings of the Independent Environmental Audit and Annual Review.
- Regular updates on the Independent Expert Panel on Mining in the Catchment and Metropolitan's contribution in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.
- Updates on Extraction Plan & Long Wall modifications.
- Noise monitoring and mitigation improvements, including the implementation of low-noise idlers.
- Air quality results.
- Groundwater monitoring results.
- Trucking of Coal Wash Rejects (CWR) and beneficial reuse options.
- Updates to the Water Management Plan (WMP), including the stream remediation plans for Eastern Tributary and Waratah Rivulet.
- Consultation regarding the consideration and assessment of options for the heritage powerhouse.
- Complaints register; and
- Its community investment program in the region.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (January 2019). The committee membership consists of:

- Five local community representatives
- One stakeholder group representative (National Parks Association)
- One Wollongong City Council delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

I am pleased to report that Peabody Energy continue to consult with the community at a high level with three meetings held over the calendar year, being April, August and December, with good attendance by members.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Company restructure with the CCC welcoming the new Metropolitan General Manager Rae O'Brien.
- There were meetings held on site in April 2019, August 2019, December 2019 and the April 2020 was held remotely due to the COVID-19 situation.
- The CCC has been kept informed by the company of the Independent Expert Panel's investigation on the impact of mining activities in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas, with a particular focus on risks to the quantity of water in the Illawarra Catchment.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to other commitments.
- The site inspection to the Eastern Tributary scheduled for December 2019 was postponed due to high bush fire risk.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

## 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
<b>Recycling of water on site</b>	Efforts to increase water recycling and reduce potable water consumption at Metropolitan.	Ongoing updates to CCC.
<b>Noise</b>	The company operates in accordance with its approved Noise Management Plan.  All noise complaints are recorded and staff take appropriate action at the time they are reported.	Noise complaints are presented at each CCC.
<b>Mitigation works to surface conveyor belt to reduce noise</b>	Metropolitan implemented progressive installation of low noise idlers to surface conveyors in 2018.	Implemented continual improvement to site noise when purchasing new equipment.
<b>Dust</b>	The company operates in accordance with its approved Air Quality Management Plan.	Dust monitoring results are presented at each CCC.
<b>Coal Wash Reject Railing Initiative</b>	Metropolitan is currently loading a shipment of 55,000 tonnes of high ash thermal product via rail bound for overseas cement industry. Shipment representing >3,000 truck movements. Metropolitan to continually assess	Ongoing updates to CCC.

	viability/sustainability of this CWR management option.	
<b>Eastern Tributary Update</b>	Metropolitan continues to provide updates on the remediation of the Eastern Tributary.  An amendment to the project's Water Management Plan was required as well as updates to its Stream Remediation Plan to continue remediation works.	Metropolitan commenced remediation activities in February 2019.
<b>Historic Powerhouse</b>	Metropolitan Coal recently commissioned an assessment of the structural integrity of the historic powerhouse building which concluded that it would be uneconomical to repair.  The company is currently consulting stakeholders to discuss the future of the building including the CCC.	Metropolitan has commissioned an industrial archeologist to undertake historical documentation of the building.

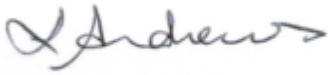
#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- A site inspection.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on the remediation of the Eastern Tributary.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Continued consultation and updates regarding the future of the Historic Powerhouse building.
- Continued updates on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	30 April 2020