

BENGALLA MINE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023
for
Department of Planning and Environment

1. INTRODUCTION

Bengalla Mining Company Pty Limited (BMC) operates Bengalla Mine (Bengalla) in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales (NSW), approximately 130 km north-west of Newcastle and 4 km west of the township of Muswellbrook.

On 3 March 2015, the Secretary of the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment, as delegate for the Minister for Planning, granted development consent State significant development (SSD) 5170 for the continuation of Bengalla to 2039 at up to 15 Mtpa Run of Mine (ROM) coal production. Bengalla commenced operations under SSD 5170 on 1 October 2015.

Condition 6 of schedule 5 of SSD 5170 (the Condition):

"The Applicant must operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This CCC must operate in general accordance with the Community Consultative Committee Guidelines: State Significant Projects (CCC Guideline 2016).

Notes:

- *The CCC is an advisory committee. The Department and other relevant agencies are responsible for ensuring that the Applicant complies with this consent.*
- *In accordance with the guideline, the Committee should comprise of an independent chair and appropriate representation from the Applicant, affected councils and the local community."*

Condition 19 of Schedule 2 " consistent with the conditions of this consent The Secretary may when issuing directions under this consent in respect of management obligations require compliance with an updated version of such a guideline ".

The CCC Guideline 2016 was superseded by the *Community Consultative Guideline State Significant Projects (CCC Guideline 2019)*. The CCC Guideline 2019 has now been superseded by the *Community consultative committee guideline State significant projects June 2023 (CCC Guideline 2023)*

Section 4.15 of the *CCC Guideline 2023* states the following:

"The Chairperson must complete an annual report on its activities and submit to the department for review before publishing it."

This report has been prepared to fulfil the Condition for 2023.

2. SUMMARY OF OPERATION OF BENGALLA MINE CCC

The BMC Community CCC meetings were held quarterly during 2023 on 22 February, 24 May, 23 August and 22 November.

The CCC membership consisted of:

- One independent chairperson.
- Two community representatives.
- Two Muswellbrook Shire Council delegates.
- Four BMC representatives.

CCC meetings generally consist of:

- Environmental monitoring and performance presentation with topics of discussion including air quality, noise management, blast monitoring, water usage, weather, rehabilitation, complaints and environmental incidents.
- Community presentation detailing BMC interactions with local community groups, organisations, sponsorships and events.

The May CCC meeting was held at the Bengalla Homestead where CCC members toured the Bengalla Homestead complex to view the restoration works that have occurred since 2015.

At the November CCC meeting the CCC visited the shutdown pad to view the 994k Wheel Loader build and visited the Facilities Dams precinct to view the operation of the dredge as part of the desilting program.

During CCC meetings, BMC Newsletters are tabled prior to being distributed to the community near Bengalla and uploaded to the BMC website.

CCC minutes are available on the BMC website following adoption.

3. KEY ISSUES

Some key topics of discussion during 2023 included:


Issue	Issue	Outcome
EL3491	Progress on the exploration area	Presentation regarding current position with respect to commencement of drilling
Air Quality	How does Bengalla monitor air quality	Presentation regarding BMC's compliance monitoring requirements and event investigations
Employment	Give an update on traineeships/apprenticeships and scholarships	Presentation regarding employment opportunities for traineeships and apprenticeships and how we support students through scholarships
Weed management	How does Bengalla manage weeds particularly St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse	Presentation regarding weed management
Mt Pleasant Mine interim discharge pipeline	Provide information on the pipeline that has been relocated	Presentation regarding interim pipeline arrangements

Mining Operations	General overview of mining	Operational update occurred at each meeting
Bengalla Link Road	Condition of Bengalla Link Road deteriorating due to increased traffic	Update given on road works
Real Time Monitoring	Environmental monitoring	Environmental monitoring results reviewed at each meeting
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation for 2023	Various aspects of rehabilitation including installation of High Density Woody Vegetation into new and existing rehabilitation were presented and discussed
Water Management	Various aspects relating to water discharge and water extraction from the Hunter River	Water management was discussed at each meeting
Pest Management	Control of wild dogs in areas surrounding Bengalla.	Pest control discussed during 2023
Hazard reduction burns	Offset properties and reducing fire risk	Hazard reduction burns have been completed at the offset properties
Dam desilting	Water management system requires maintenance including desilting of dams	CCC inspected part of the works associated with the desilting program
Predictive forecasts	Provide examples of the predictive forecasts we receive each day	Obligation under our air quality management plan, example predictive forecast provided

4. FOCUS FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS

Meetings have been scheduled for 2024. Issues to be discussed will include quarterly mining overview, environmental monitoring and performance updates, community activities and support. Other issues will be identified by the CCC at each meeting.

To my knowledge there are no outstanding issues.

CCC Chair: Malcolm Ogg	
Date: 21/02/2024	
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