

# MACH Energy Australia – Mount Pleasant Operation

## Annual Report [2021]

### Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	Jan – Dec 2021
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Mr Richard Bailey</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

The Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee was established as part of the condition of consent by the NSW Minister for Planning's 1999 approval of the Mount Pleasant Operation (Development Application 92/97).

The Mount Pleasant Operation is an open cut coal mining project that is situated west of Muswellbrook, in the Muswellbrook Local Government Area. The project produces high quality thermal coal that is approved to be exported via the Port of Newcastle, and used for the local energy market.

The Committee includes a group of five residents who have an interest in the operations at Mount Pleasant and meet regularly with Mt Pleasant operations and a Muswellbrook Council member to discuss the project's current and future operations. The Committee follows the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Meetings are held quarterly between the members of the Committee, including:

- Five local community representatives;
- One member from Muswellbrook Shire Council;
- Members from the MACH Energy Australia and representatives from the mine operator, Thiess, depending upon the agenda and issues to be discussed; and
- One independent Chairperson.

Discussions held in the Committee meetings were on numerous topics related to the project, however the continued spread of Covid19 and various government lockdowns had implications for the project as well as the management of the CCC itself. The committee still operated and covered both new and ongoing topics including:

- Future plans for the mine, including updates the State Significant Development (SSD) application (Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project);
- Independent Planning Commission (IPC) hearing date to be advised;
- Modifications to the operating procedures with the outbreak of Covid 19, including the implementation of compulsory Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) prior to coming on site;
- Temporary closure of Wybong Road while construction work underway;
- Ongoing landform reshaping, Geofluv, snag trees and seeding;
- Progress with the Mod 4 rail project;
- Progress with the fines emplacement facility;
- Update on the Voluntary Planning Agreement with Muswellbrook Council;

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- Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) appointed a Development Compliance Officer, Theresa Folpp will attend MPO CCC meetings as the MSC CCC Member;
- 220mm rain in November on site. Largest November rainfall since 1874. Average is 75mm.
- Resignation of community member Mr Rod Upton and discussion about the process to involve further community members in the CCC;
- Concern about the Rossgole Tower and possible interference with communications due to landform changes.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Four CCC meetings were held in 2021. April, June, September, December. Some members participated online due to Covid 19 restrictions;
- Strong regular attendance from all members;
- Site visits were conducted for only one of the CCC meetings throughout 2021. As in 2020, other site visits had been planned however inspections and meetings had to be managed according to the Covid 19 operating protocols in force at the time. This resulted in some meetings having to be held online while planned inspections had to be cancelled.
- There were no joint CCC meetings held throughout 2021;

## 3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Impact of the Covid 19 virus on operations</b>	Review and update relevant work practices as more information becomes available.  RAT tests conducted with employees, contractors and site visitors prior to entering the site.	Continue to monitor and implement best practice to prevent the spread of Covid in the workplace and abide by the government restrictions.
<b>Site development progress/operations</b>	Site tours, regular updates by management.  Fines Emplacement Facility (FEF) lift to commence.	Quarterly updates to CCC.  The FEF lift will be completed in approximately 18 months.
<b>Applications and approvals</b>	Quarterly update on progress; submissions received on the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project.  268 submissions received including objections, support and comments. MACH Energy responded to all submissions.	Future updates; response to submissions.

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## Annual Report [2021]

<b>Land Management</b>	Quarterly updates by the Land Management team; site inspections when required.	Updates provided
<b>Environment</b>	Quarterly updates by the Environment team; site tours.	Updates provided.
<b>External Relations</b>	<p>Quarterly updates by External Relations.</p> <p>Aboriginal Community Development Committee sponsored programs discussed including the Gundi Program.</p> <p>Conducted four school tours for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue School Tour program.</p>	Updates provided on stakeholder engagement including communications, sponsorship, and recording and responding to complaints.

### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Site tours to be conducted prior to meetings depending upon Covid 19 restrictions;
- Updates on the fines emplacement facility;
- Updates on the work on Wybong Road;
- Continued updates on operational status of Mount Pleasant.
- Progress on applications and approvals for the Mt Pleasant Optimisation project.
- Encourage applications from community members to participate in the CCC.

Community Consultation Committee Meeting minutes are available on the Mount Pleasant website.

Signature of Chair:	<b>W.E.J. Paradise</b>
Date:	28/4/2024