

MACH Energy Australia – Mount Pleasant Operation

Annual Report [2022]

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation	Reporting Period:	Jan – Dec 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM	Proponent Contact:	Mr Richard Bailey

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. Thiess is the major mining contractor/operator on site.

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 resigned at the end of 2021 and a new member was appointed at the beginning of 2022.
- 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 continuing concern about Covid19 and various associated government policies continue to have 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) and Independent Planning Commission (IPC) hearing
- Operating procedures continued to recognize the spread of Covid 19;
- Temporary closure of Wybong Road while construction work is underway (reopened in December 2022);
- Ongoing landform reshaping and Geofluid development;
- Progress with the MOD 4 Rail Project (rail project completed in the last part of 2022);
- Progress with the mine's emplacement facility lift;

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- Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) discussed the transportation of windfarm blades and associated infrastructure to the Northern Renewable Zone. Various transport routes have been proposed including Bengalla Link Rd, Wybong Rd and Kayuga Rd.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Four CCC meetings were held in 2022. March, June, October, December. Some members participated online due to Covid 19 restrictions;
- Strong regular attendance from all members;
- Site visits were conducted for two of the CCC meetings throughout 2022.
- There were no joint CCC meetings held throughout 2022;
- Presentation by Mr Liam Sutton, PhD candidate on the Dust Lidar project with the University of Newcastle;
- Review of weed control on offset properties;
- Review the draft of the updated CCC guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Planning;
- Update on the involvement of Mt Pleasant Operations in the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme;

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Impact of the Covid 19 virus on operations	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.
Site development progress/operations	Site tours, regular updates by management.	Quarterly updates to CCC.
Applications and approvals	Quarterly update on progress; DPIE prepared assessment report on the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project in the first part of 2022 with the IPC determining the application in September 2022 and it being referred to the State and Federal Government. MOD 5 approved and includes minor changes to coverage of the Development Application in	Future updates; Wait for response from the State and Federal Government.

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	relation to DW1 discharge dam. 29 June 2022.	
Land Management	Quarterly updates by the Land Management team; site inspections when required.	Updates provided
Environment	Quarterly updates by the Environment team; site tours.	Updates provided.
External Relations	Quarterly updates by External Relations. Mount Pleasant held their first Family Day in November with approximately 500 employees and immediate family members attending.	Updates provided on stakeholder engagement including communications, sponsorship, and recording and responding to complaints.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 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;
- Continued updates on operational status of Mount Pleasant;
- Progress on applications and approvals for the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project;
- Including the Dorset Road upgrade options; Modification 6 will be submitted in 2023 and relates to the transmission tower.
- Salinity discharge pipeline update;
- Land management on site and on offset properties.

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

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