



# Coalpac

**Proprietors of Invincible Colliery  
and Cullen Valley Mine**

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## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE INVINCIBLE COLLIERY AND CULLEN VALLEY MINE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Date & Time: Wednesday, 11th December 2013, 1.00pm

Venue: Invincible Colliery Board Room, Cullen Bullen

Attendees: Greg Barton (GB) – Independent Chair person  
Ian Follington (IF) – Coalpac  
Graham Goodwin (GG) – Coalpac  
Ben Eastwood (BE) – Coalpac  
Racheal Waters (RW) – Coalpac (Minute Taker)  
Jessica Heath (JH) – Lithgow City Council  
Paul Cashel (PC) – Lithgow City Council  
Mark Davies (MD) – Cullen Bullen Public School  
Barbara Milne (BM) – Cullen Bullen resident  
Barry Fitzgerald (BF) – Cullen Bullen landowner  
Michael Bulkeley (MB) – Cullen Bullen landowner  
Reg Larkin (RL) – Cullen Bullen landowner

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- Meeting Commenced at 1.05pm by GB, welcoming everyone present.

#### **Apologies:**

- None noted

#### **Declaration of Pecuniary interests:**

- None noted

#### **Confirmation of previous minutes:**

- GB distributed a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting dated 5 December 2012
- The minutes were accepted by JH and seconded MB.
- GB distributed a copy of the meeting agenda.

#### **Business arising from prior minutes:**

- BE noted none from Coalpac.

**Correspondence:**

- None Noted.

**Company reports & Overview:**

- IF, GG and BE gave a PowerPoint presentation, dated 11 December 2013, which included an update on Current Operations, Site Inspections, Monitoring & Environmental Performance, Community Complaints & Responses, and Information & Community Feedback.
- GG gave an update on the current status of the operation including the work force and care and maintenance arrangements.
- BE tabled copies of the approved Care and Maintenance Mining Operation Plans (C&M MOP) for Cullen Valley Mine and Invincible Colliery at the meeting. BE further noted that copies of the C&M MOP's are available to the committee for comment and can be downloaded from the Coalpac website.
- BE commented on site inspections during 2013 by Government regulators and other interested stakeholders which included Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Division of Resources & Energy, Forestry Corporation of NSW and Lithgow City Council.
- BE noted that the Forestry Corporation of NSW visit related to back burning operations,
- IF noted that some back burning had occurred in the Ben Bullen State Forest close the town, however no back burning was carried out on Coalpac property.
- BE noted Lithgow City Council visit related to inspections of the septic systems on Coalpac properties. No further action required.

***Environmental Monitoring***

- BE presented on the environmental performance at Invincible Colliery and Cullen Valley Mine and confirmed that all monitored parameters relating to air quality, noise and water have been maintained within relevant licence limits.
- BE noted the elevated PM10 results for October at both CVM and INV were likely related to the bush fires in Lithgow and the greater Blue Mountains area during that period.
- PC questioned if the readings where a monthly average.
- BE noted that PM10 is monitored every 6 days and is a 24hr average. These results are also presented as a 12 month rolling average.
- IF noted the ramp down in mine production appears to correlate to a decrease in Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) as shown.
- RL questioned why the High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) was so far away from the mining operations at Cullen Valley Mine.
- BE noted that the monitoring regime was approved by EPA as sufficient and adequate for its purpose. BE further noted that the monitoring units are positioned to monitor potential impacts at private receivers and sensitive locations such as the Cullen Bullen Township. BE noted that the purpose of the monitoring units is to monitor impacts of the mining operation on the local community.
- RL made a statement that "his wife had fallen ill from dust generated during the construction of the northern noise bund at Cullen Valley Mine". No documentation or evidence supporting this claim was tabled at the meeting and no further action was sought on the matter.

- BF questioned the elevated reading in April 13 for at the Cullen Valley Mine HVAS monitoring site.
- BE noted that the results include dust generated from all land use sources including agricultural, recreational, residential, highway traffic, power stations, mining and others. BE further noted that the elevated reading in April 13 was well below the 24 hr limit of 50 ug/m3.
- MD stated that he sometimes keeps the school children indoors during the cooler months due to smoke from the coal fired boilers located around the township.
- BE noted that the monitoring results indicate that the general air quality within the local area is very good under the EPA state wide air quality monitoring scheme.
- RL asked if the monitoring data is still relevant because Coalpac has ceased mining operations and is now in Administration.
- IF noted that Coalpac still has relevant licences and approvals in place and must adhere to all conditions including the monitoring and reporting of environmental parameters even while in care and maintenance.
- BE noted that the approved C&M MOP's and monthly environmental monitoring data are available on the Coalpac website.

### **Biodiversity Offsets**

- BE tabled a report by Global Soils dated May 2013 title *Invincible Colliery Action Plan for Enhancing Biodiversity Offset Areas (Lots 112, 113 and Renown Farm)*.
- BE explained that the purpose of this survey was to assess the current status of these Biodiversity Offset Areas and identify any additional management measures or works required to improve them.
- BE highlighted that the Biodiversity Offset Areas are performing much better than anticipated as there is a very high proportion of native regeneration. BE noted that this confirms the current management practices of removing stock and controlling weeds and feral animals is working.
- BF asked about the tube stock trees that were planted adjacent to the Castlereagh Highway and appear to have been lost.
- BE confirmed there has been a high mortality rate in the trees, these plantings have been estimated to have had a 35% survival rate. BE showed pictures of regrowth areas in the Biodiversity Offset areas to support this.
- PC questioned if this was a backfilled area from mining activities.
- IF confirmed that Lot 112 was has not been disturbed by open cut mining activities and was set aside as a Biodiversity Offset Area.
- MB asked where the recommended 12ha of supplementary seeding was located. BE pointed out these locations on a figure included in the presentation.

### **Cullen Valley Mine - Subsurface Heating**

- IF gave a presentation on the current status of subsurface heating at Cullen Valley Mine.
- The presentation include comment on the history of the subsurface heating noting that the cause of the fire is unclear however, anecdotal evidence suggests it was originally caused by a vehicle being set alight in the underground workings or bushfire.

IF summarised the works undertaken during 2013 which included:

- The successful replacement of heat affected material in the noise bund with inert sandstone and clay material;
- Capping the central heating area with up to 70,000 bank cubic metres of material;
- Installation of three additional thermocouples into the Lithgow Seam and underground workings to monitor temperature; and
- Installation of a water monitoring bore.
- IF noted that all of the available and suitable capping material has been utilised.
- IF noted the additional works proposed to be undertaken include:
  - Raising the haul road to improve the rehabilitation slope angle;
  - Additional capping to the north west of the central heating area;
  - Closure of the 'old Smokey' water ingress pipeline; and
  - A review of the available data and update existing approved Subsurface Heating Management Plan.
- IF noted that no seeding is proposed in this area until the condition of the remediated area has been monitored to ensure its effectiveness.
- MB asked if the underground workings are burning and if they are full of water or if the open cut waste rock dump is on fire.
- IF noted that there was no direct evidence of burning in the underground workings but there was evidence of active burning in the open cut spoil that are burning. IF further noted that the water bore was installed to confirm the height and extent of water/flooding in the underground workings.
- PC enquired as to the last time burning coal was mined at Cullen Valley Mine.
- IF noted that the last of the burning coal would have been mined in approximately 2004.

### ***Rehabilitation***

- BE gave a presentation and update on the status of rehabilitation at Invincible Colliery and Cullen Valley Mine.
- BE noted rehabilitation was brought in as close as practicably possible behind the active mining area and waste dumps.
- BE noted that to date 200ha of land has been rehabilitated at Cullen Valley Mine and Invincible Colliery.
- RL asked how many hectares have not been rehabilitated at Cullen Valley Mine.
- BE noted that based on the February 2013 rehabilitation plan, approximately 35 ha of land required shaping and seeding at Cullen Valley Mine.
- RL suggested that the area as shown on the plan did not appear to be rehabilitated when viewed from his property.
- IF confirmed that shaping and seeding had been carried out in the area in question and that the new growth may not yet be visible from RL's property.
- JH asked if monitoring is carried out once rehabilitation has been undertaken.
- BE confirmed that the area is monitored as part of the annual biodiversity monitoring surveys. BE further noted that DTIRIS\_DRE also undertake a review of the site as part of the Rehabilitation Cost estimate process. BE confirmed that DRE had been to Cullen Valley Mine in 2013 for this purpose.

- BF asked if the hill at Invincible Colliery that can be seen from the Castlereagh highway has been rehabilitated.
- IF confirmed that these areas have been rehabilitated and were seeded approximately 12 months ago.
- BE described the supplementary habitat trial that has been implemented at Cullen Valley Mine and Invincible Colliery. BE explained that nesting boxes have been installed to attract wildlife into the area in particular the Gang Gang cockatoo, squirrel glider and Kookaburra.
- JH asked if there were any results available from the nesting box trial.
- BE noted that the monitoring results would form part of the annual biodiversity surveys which has not been completed this year.
- RL asked about the area that still requires rehabilitation and who would fund this work now that the company is under administration.
- IF noted that a government rehabilitation bond is in place to cover any outstanding rehabilitation work that would be required if the mines were to close.

### **Community**

- BE noted that eight complaints had been received during 2013. BE noted that these complaints related to air quality (3), noise (1), traffic (1) and other (3).
- BE noted Coalpac's community support including Celebrate Lithgow event, Portland fair, Cullen Bullen Tidy Towns and Progress Association and various other donations to the local community.

### **General Business:**

- IF gave an update of the status of Coalpac and its operations. IF noted that:
  - Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) report was released on 4 October 2013 stating the Coalpac Consolidation Project could not be supported in its current form;
  - Coalpac withdrew its application on 17 October 2013; and
  - Coalpac was placed under Voluntary Administration 18 October 2013.
- IF noted that the current (7) staff will be retained until the end of January 2014 pending the recommendation of the Administrator.
- PC asked if Coalpac could have the same Project assessed and pick up from where it got to in the approvals process.
- IF explained that the Coalpac Consolidation Project had been withdrawn and could not be progressed or further modified.
- BF asked about weed spraying adjacent to his property boundary.
- BE noted that some weed spraying and slashing had been carried out to target St John's Wart and Patterson's Curse. BE confirmed that the St Johns Wart adjacent his boundary had been slashed.
- IF noted that no further weed spraying is proposed to be undertaken this season while the company is under Administration.
- BF raised concern that some small wattle trees on Coalpac land that may fall onto the northern boundary fence with his property and cause damage.
- IF confirmed that Coalpac would inspect the fence line and trim any trees which might cause problems.

- BF asked about the noise at Cullen Valley Mine Monday morning 9 December 2013.
- GG acknowledged the receipt of a complaint that morning and explained that four highway registered trucks were removing a coal crusher from the site. GG noted that these trucks left the site and travelled through Cullen Bullen and the Castlereagh Highway heading north. GG confirmed that he had spoken to the contractor about the complaint and concerns relating to potential noise impacts.
- MD asked if Coalpac had properties in Cullen Bullen and if these properties could be made available for families with children attending the school.
- IF explained that while under Administration he was unfortunately not in a position to make any offer of assistance on behalf of Coalpac.

**Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting is proposed to be held in June 2014.

**Meeting Closed: 2.30pm**

**Minutes Reviewed by Chairperson and accepted:** 

**Action List**

Item No.	Description	Responsibility	Date
1	Forward a copy of the CCC presentation to CP	BE	16/12/13
2	Inspect fence line on northern boundary with Fitzgerald property for potential tree damage	GG	15/03/14