

FINAL MINUTES OF THE WALLARAH 2 REFERENCE GROUP
Held 24th October 2013
25 Bryant Drive TUGGERAH

MATTERS	DETAILS	ACTION	TIME LINE
<p>PRESENT</p> <p>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>ABSENT</p>	<p>Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH) Chairperson Kenny Barry (KB) Wallarah 2 Peter Smith (PS) Wallarah 2 Insik Kim (IK) Wallarah 2 Grahame Lesha (GL) Chittaway Bay Merv Church (MC) Jilliby Narelle Caldwell (NC) Blue Haven Douglas Ford (DF) Toukley</p> <p>Sandra Dunshea Wallarah 2</p> <p>Suzanne Allport Kanwal Daniel Farmer NSW Business Chamber Australian Coal Alliance Representative</p>		
<p>WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>DECLARATIONS</p>	<p>MMH welcomed everybody and declared the meeting open at 4.05pm.</p> <p>MMH Usual disclosure of interest NC declared she has entered into a contract with Coal Services</p>		

<p>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</p>	<p>MMH Confirmed MC questions were amended to statements.</p> <p>MMH Acknowledged DF had some issues.</p> <p>DF Yes the Monitoring update by PS on Page 3.</p> <p>The question was not answered regarding bacterial accounts.</p> <p>PS Bacterial accounts for air are not taken. The project does not undertake bacterial accounts for air. We undertake bacterial sampling of water in streams.</p> <p>MMH Asked if PS response clarified DF question.</p> <p>DF insert “community environmental awareness is at much greater levels” and at the end insert “it’s extremely important”. Also asked for levels before during and after. No specific answer was given.</p> <p>PS We do do modeling for noise and dust it’s all in the EIS, but there is no actual data for “during” or “after” because there is nothing to measure at this stage until we commence operations.</p> <p>DF At end of section, I did not say “yes” I said “for the time being”.</p> <p>KB specifically asked you that question and you said “yes”.</p> <p>DF Asked you to use some comparison to compare a micron and compare to talcum powder or other examples of dust sizes so people understood.</p> <p>MMH This was mentioned at previous meetings and was taken on board.. The minutes are not a transcript but a record of decisions made.</p> <p>DF minutes are supposed to be a true and accurate account.</p> <p>MMH Agreed but it is relevant to what format they are presented. This is a summary of points raised and is not intended to be verbatim.</p> <p>DF Page 5 past half way “370 cubic metres add per second” which works out to be 1,332,000cm/hr - I had that worked out on the day.</p> <p>KB disagreed, you cannot think of additions after a meeting and have them retrospectively inserted as a true record of what you said. General group discussion did not recall a specific amount being stated but agreed on an amount per second for clarity.</p> <p>MC I think it’s fair to have a dimension and include it in the minutes.</p> <p>DF In the back part of page 6 I was put down as “yes” and it was not “yes”.</p> <p>MMH queried if DF amendment should be “yes, at this point in time for the moment”.</p> <p>DF Agreed.</p>		
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<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>BUSINESS ARISING</p>	<p>In Email June Newsletter Email 10/10/13 September Newsletter Email 23/10/13 forwarding letter of resignation from SG Out Email 24/10/13 acknowledgement and thank you to SG</p> <p>MMH advised Peter Fryar has left Wyong Shire Council. WSC have not advised of a replacement. GL DF raised at the last meeting about submission - if they get acknowledgement. DF I checked with Department of Planning (DOP) who said they had some problems with the website system but they did fix it and all submissions are posted on the website. MMH Confirmed with DOP that submissions lodged via email receive an on screen acknowledgement, otherwise receipts are not given. However all submissions are posted on the website.</p>		

<p>RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS UPDATE</p>	<p>Power Point Presentation By Kenny Barry (see attachment)</p> <p>KB We are still in the planning process and nothing much has happened since the last meeting We have submitted our RTS Advised of - MINE RESCUE VISIT FRIDAY 29TH NOV - CONFIRM BY WED 13TH NOVEMBER</p> <p>MMH: Asked for an indication from those present. All yes</p> <p>KB: Bus will leave here around 8.45AM</p> <p>DF: Advised on feedback that the Federal Environment Minister has intervened with CSG mines in the Upper Hunter</p> <p>KB Asked if DF meant the water trigger?</p> <p>MMH Part of the Government aligning the legislation with the States and cutting red tape, trying for a bipartisan approach</p> <p>MC Is the response on the website?</p> <p>KB Confirmed all on the DOP website</p> <p>PS You only have to go to the section of Response to submissions RTS</p> <p>MC Are the various issues raised in submissions, collated in sections?</p> <p>KB Yes there are a lot with headings with comments from Government Agencies We found the Government Agencies, for example the Office of Water only looked at the part relevant to their interest and not other parts of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We had to advise them where the information was they were seeking in the other sections.</p> <p>MC The first thing people say or talk about is the Groundwater or Aquifers. It's still on peoples mind. There must be more documents on that.</p> <p>KB they were all answered, we have worked closely with (NOW) Office of Water and believe they are satisfied with what we have presented.</p> <p>MC Because of all the signs and a lot of people saying that we are going to lose the dams without knowledge to back up their claim, many did not put in the time to do the reading and checking of the documents. People are usually put at ease if a Government entity says or agrees that there are only small effects on surface or groundwater etc.</p> <p>KB What you can be assured of if we move forward from this stage to the PAC it generally means that they are satisfied.</p>		
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	<p>PS Sometimes the additional information requested is simply a matter of presentation, for example where Government agencies request the same data to be differently presented, such as shown in graphs.</p> <p>MC Need to be confident within myself I have read it through and all the indicators are there and you have extracted data from south of Sydney from things that have actually taken place. There is still that niggling thing of calculations and that margin of error. I am somewhat satisfied but you need to be fully satisfied and not brainwashed.</p> <p>KB If we get to the next stage, the PAC, it generally means the information is adequate and then it is up to the PAC to make a decision.</p> <p>NC Our issues are more air quality than water in our area. There is a set of standards, whether or not that satisfies people in the community and that's the issue I have. In terms of assisting and getting the message out, it appears that the project's media strategy is "softly softly" until there is something significant to announce.</p> <p>KB We have to be guided by DOP sort of like a gateway process (even though it's not). It's about palatability, one might agree and one not.</p> <p>NC All you can do is meet the standards. The people we represent, the standards are the things they don't understand.</p> <p>DF Had 25 years in public service the Government will not stipulate any values.</p> <p>KB Noise, Air Quality etc are all stipulated for monitoring and assessment, that's a fact. You might not agree but it is true.</p> <p>MMH There is an increasing amount of accountability and scrutiny, the community demands it and the Government wants to make the process as transparent as possible. It is not a case of one size fits all, the average person will have a specific interest such as "Subsidence". If they go to the relevant section and look at what are the issues the agency has questioned and what the responses are. This should give them a better understanding. Even with the EPA, which is the compliance arm, now has unexpected audits from a third party. As Jock Laurie, the Land and Water Commissioner said, it is a matter of getting the regulations in place and testing them.</p> <p>MC It's one thing to have it put forward by W2CP. It's another thing to be accepted. It's like the Mine Subsidence Board come and say something which is different to these guys saying things as they are independent. You feel much more comfortable because it is independent. If you have got people that are paid by W2CP it does not give you the same confidence as an independent.</p>		
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	<p>MMH My role is independent chair, my reputation and integrity is priceless. No one worth their salt would jeopardize their career.</p> <p>PS It is evident that the EIS and approval system involves a string of robust measures so there is transparency, accountability and fairness in the process.</p> <p>MC Water is of concern and air with some people saying “We will get coal dust blowing here won’t we” but people at Blue Haven seem to be accepting of the situation. And if that’s the case, then those that live further away should be more relaxed.</p> <p>NC Need to have confidence in the process. This is what is supposed to happen but what happens if the expected doesn’t happen.</p> <p>MC Our names are on the record as members of the CRG.</p> <p>MMH Your role is to get information back to people, to let them make their own decision, not influence them.</p> <p>GL Don’t know how a public meeting will help. It will be a noisy affair.</p> <p>KB If we have a public meeting it’s a chance for people to get up and have their say. I went up to the Hunter Valley to a PAC hearing a couple of weeks ago and people have the chance to get up and have their say and know that they are being heard.</p> <p>MMH It does provide an opportunity for a better understanding.</p>		
GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>KB We will get an email out to the members that are not here today for the tour and we can have a talk on the way up and way back.</p> <p>GL Questioned if there would be another representative from Darkinjung?</p> <p>MMH Not at this late stage, we are nearly at the end of the process. Same with Council. If the project is approved there will be a new consultative committee formed under the planning process. If it is granted I suggest you all put your hand up to be part of the new committee.</p>		
NEXT MEETING	TBC		
MEETING CLOSED	5-01pm		