Welcome to the fourth edition of the Coalpac Community Newsletter. This month we bring you news of the Voluntary Planning Agreement recently agreed by Coalpac and the Lithgow City Council and an update on the Coalpac Consolidation Project assessment process.

Coalpac commits funding to Cullen Bullen

Coalpac and Lithgow City Council agree to the terms of Voluntary Planning Agreement

Coalpac and the Lithgow City Council have agreed to a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), dedicating approximately $5 million to fund capital works in the local community over the life of the project.

The VPA will now go on exhibition prior to final adoption and registration by Council. This agreement will form part of the Coalpac Consolidation Project that is still subject to Project approval.

Coalpac and Lithgow City Council Commit Funding for Cullen Bullen

It is expected that the centrepiece of the Voluntary Planning Agreement will be the funding of work required to connect Cullen Bullen to the main sewerage network.

Connecting Cullen Bullen to the local sewerage network would include the design, approval and construction of a reticulated sewerage system consisting of the construction of a sewerage treatment plant (or transfer of sewerage to an existing facility), the installation of mains, manholes, pumping stations (if necessary) and sewer junctions.

There will be regular opportunities for members of the local community to suggest additional projects that could be funded by the VPA through the life of the Project.

All remaining funding will be dedicated solely for the purpose of capital works in the local community.

There is further information on the back of this newsletter on how the funds will be allocated and how you can have your input.
What is a VPA?
A Voluntary Planning Agreement or VPA is a legally binding agreement entered into by a planning authority (in this case the Lithgow City Council) and a developer (in this case Coalpac).

A VPA provides for funding of public works in the local area. Voluntary Planning Agreements are governed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).
Voluntary Planning Agreements are a common aspect of planning approvals in NSW and exist across the state.

How can you have your input?
Members of the local community will have regular opportunities to provide comment and have input into how the funds are allocated through the Coalpac Community Consultative Committee (CCC) which will meet regularly through the life of the Project.

For more information about the Coalpac CCC please visit the Coalpac website or contact Grant Medlock on: 6350 6305 or by email at GMedlock@cetresources.com

What is the Community Consultative Committee?
The purpose of a community consultative committee (CCC) is to provide a forum for open discussion between the company, the community, the council and other stakeholders.

All funds dedicated to public works by Coalpac will be held in a Community Trust managed by the CCC.

The CCC is made up of an independent chairperson, three representatives of the local community, one representative of the Lithgow City Council and two Coalpac representatives.

The CCC membership and framework helps to ensure that funds from the Community Trust are used only to address local needs in Cullen Bullen.

The Coalpac CCC will be calling for nominations for new representatives shortly. More details will be provided on this process as it becomes available.

Coalpac Consolidation Project Update - Response to Submissions
The Coalpac Consolidation Project continues to progress through the regulatory assessment process.

Submissions were provided to the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DPI) during the public exhibition period. Coalpac has prepared a Response to Submissions document addressing each of the issues raised in these submissions.

A copy of the Response to Submissions report can be viewed on the DPI website:

Step 2. Under “Search Project” enter “Coalpac”
Step 3. Click on “Coalpac Consolidation Project” and the download the “Response to Submissions” under “Attachments & Resources”

Public hearings for the Project will be held by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission on Wednesday, 19 September in Lithgow and on Thursday, 20 September in Cullen Bullen.

Mark Peychers Invincible Mine OCE (Open Cut Examiner)