

**Notes of Briefing from Council**

<b>This meeting is part of the determination process</b>	
<b>Meeting note taken by:</b> Jorge Van Den Brande	
<b>Date:</b> 03/07/2018	<b>Time:</b> 04:00 pm
<b>Project:</b> Mount Pleasant Coal Mine – MOD 3 Extension of Mine Life	
<b>Meeting Place:</b> Muswellbrook Shire Council offices.	
<p><b>Attendees:</b>            Commission Members: Alan Coutts (Chair); Peter Williams and Prof. Zada Lipman            Commission Secretariat: David Koppers (Team Leader) and Jorge Van Den Brande (Planning Officer)</p> <p><b>Muswellbrook Shire Council</b>            Martin Rush                    Mayor            Fiona Plesman                Acting General Manager            Anthony Willis                Planning Lawyer            Sharon Pope                  Executive Manager, Planning, Environment and Regulatory Services            Aleksandar Mitresky        Policy Officer</p>	
<b>Meeting Purpose:</b> The purpose of the meeting was for Council to comment on the proposal and the Department's assessment report.	
The Council briefed the Commission on the matters below:	
<p><b>Proposed modification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The modification should be assessed as a new development application due to the extent of the proposed changes to the original project.</li> <li>• When the project was originally approved, the surrounding environment was significantly different to what it is today, and the development and impacts of more recently approved neighboring mines was unknown.</li> <li>• Existing approval is not best practice.</li> <li>• Proponent proposing a new SSD application within two years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Contributions to Thomas Mitchell Drive and road affectation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Thomas Mitchell Drive Contributions Study, May 2015, referred to in condition 41A, does not include Mount Pleasant as a contributor and therefore would not impose an actual requirement on the project.</li> <li>• Contributions to Thomas Mitchell Drive are made by mining operations that use this road. As Mount Pleasant operations will also use this road, conditions should require the respective contribution.</li> <li>• The Department's Environmental Assessment Report has not considered the Muswellbrook Affected Mine Roads Study.</li> <li>• Council believes that Mount Pleasant should pay to have both their road studies updated and pay reasonable costs to road upgrades.</li> </ul>	

**Microrelief**

- Council acknowledges the proponent's willingness in improving the final landform with appropriate microrelief.
- Table 14 Rehabilitation Objectives of proposed condition 53 in the proposed consent is not consistent with what the Department has approved for other mining operations, in relation to final voids and mine site as a whole.
- Mount Pleasant's consent should be required to comply with the same standards as other mining operations, including final voids.
- IPC should delegate sign-off of rehabilitation requirements to itself and not the Department.
- Conditions should set minimum levels for final voids and amounts of microrelief.

**Air quality**

- Council is concerned that air quality in Muswellbrook is at the permitted health level and would worsen if this project is approved.
- Council argues that air quality averages do not reflect separation of day-time and night-time levels, and if future assessment was to assess these separately, it would show night time levels significantly above the permitted levels.
- Night-time operations are difficult to comply with due to inversion layers which compress the dust.
- Proponent should prepare a study now on 2x12hr exposure and exceedances.
- Mount Pleasant will have the most significant impact on Muswellbrook's air quality.
- Muswellbrook regularly exceeds PM2.5 standards, mostly due to woodfires, but power generation and mines contribute.

**Documents:** Council provided a copy of the Thomas Mitchel Drive Contributions Study, May 2015 and Table 14 Rehabilitation Objectives of the Mt Arthur's consent.

**Outcomes/Agreed Actions:** Council will provide a full submission on the matters discussed at the briefing within seven days of the public meeting.

**Meeting closed at:** 5:00 pm