

Meeting Notes

Perilya North Mine - Community Consultative Committee

Meeting No. 9

18 March 2021 – 11am to 1pm

Location: Perilya Southern Operations, Wentworth Road, Broken Hill

Attendees:

Chairperson: Margaret Harvie

Community representatives: Linda Nadge (LN), Allan Carter (AC), Mary Ellen Jinks (MEJ), Jody Whitehair (JW), Christine Adams (CA)

Local Government representative: N/A

Perilya representatives: Geoff Hender - Deputy General Manager - Broken Hill Operations, Brett Bussell - Environment Superintendent.

Apologies: Chris Dougherty, Isabelle Eriksson, Marion Browne (Broken Hill Council), Adam Forster

In attendance: Christie Roll (notetaker)

Item	Details
1.	Welcome and apologies Margaret Harvie opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.
2.	Declarations of pecuniary and other interest Nil
3.	Actions from last meeting PBH to watch out for future opportunities to meet with government officials ('implementation committee for line of lode'). There might be the opportunity to facilitate a meeting between this group and the CCC. Nothing has happened. MH given the contact for Simon Molesworth who indicated that he would be aware if there were initiatives via the Premiers Department / other agencies in terms of Broken Hill. Nothing has changed, no activity at all in relation to heritage. LN – thinks this is something that we should watch out for, try to ensure that the community is ready to welcome the end of life of the mine and the need to transition. CA – She is aware that Councillor Browne has brought this up with the Council. Has a feeling they started a committee for after mine life. CA & MB were on the original heritage committee way back when Andrew Lord was there and both are keen to look at after mine life issues. ACTION: CA to check with MB and report back at the next meeting. MH – Acknowledged the need for people to psychologically and physically prepare. CA – It is hard for Broken Hill people to do that because, for over 100 years the generations have been told that the mines are going to close. People are aware that it is in the near future. The rate consequences may make this more real.

		<p>LN – And also water bills. She is concerned about Essential Energy’s pricing for water and increase in bills by stealth. She understands that Perilya is about quarter of the income for water. The community doesn’t realise there has been a gentle rise. As a pipeline customer she has been told she will need to pay 49.5% extra in water in the next determination period, after a 45% increase in the previous. Anyone interested in riveting reading, I put a submission in on the IPART pricing, it’s on their website.</p> <p>Basically, it turns out Essential Energy has been making a lot of errors in their billing and everyone in this room has more than likely been overpaying based on their erroneous bill calculations. This is based on their corporate overhead charges not being understood. There is a direct consequence if income is not derived from the mining industry extracting water from the reticulated system. I suggest that roughly a quarter of the income is from the mine community. I don’t know how much is paid between Perilya and CBH but it’s a significant amount of revenue and removal of this is going to impact everyone.</p> <p>CA - The same is true of the rates. Suggests its going to be a big problem if the new council follows through with their ideas to reduce rates for business people. You’ve got to get so much in rates and it’s the way that is divided that’s problematic. The only way to make business and residents pay less is to go back to the mines. If they follow through I don’t think the mines will look at that very well.</p> <p>AC – Wonders how much would need to be paid if the mines were out of the equation as income for water, how much would Essential Water be able to reduce their infrastructure? Would their infrastructure costs drop?</p> <p>LN – They are based on fixed and variable charges. In short, if the mines close, rates and water become a significant issue within the community.</p>
4.	Update on progress of the operations	<p>The mine was successful in the MOD3 application with an increase from 300,000t per annum to 400,000t per annum. What that mean in terms of truck movements is going from an average of 16 permitted to 21 permitted loaded movements per day across the calendar year. Also, another control in there is to make sure we don’t exceed an average of 42 loaded trucks per day combined from Potosi and North Mine.</p> <p>Perilya increased the No.3 vent shaft from 235m/s to 275m/s by putting an exhaust stack on top.</p> <p>Successful in getting that approval before the end of the year which allowed us to continue production from North Mine for the latter half of December, otherwise, we would have had to close the operation. We did have to push hard to be compliant with our truck movements. Approval came through at the death knock and allowed us to finish up the year.</p> <p>Submitted the updated Human Health Risk assessment in March to DPE and that was on the back of the revision of the HHRA we had to do for the MOD3.</p>

		<p>COVID is significantly affecting the mine operations more so now than at anytime in the last 2 years. We've had a couple of positive cases on site but these haven't resulted in transmission on site. We've directly lost 804 man shifts in the year to date and 359 were in the month to date plus we lost a number of workers because of the restrictions, particularly from October on. We lost a number of contractors we are yet been able to replace, skilled workforce that accounts for another 706 shifts lost. It's really hurting us, we are struggling to keep a workforce.</p> <p>Right now, we have some skilled positions that we are struggling to fill due to COVID and the impacts. We're doing everything we can to keep COVID off the site and keep the majority of our workforce safe and healthy.</p> <p>There were two media articles in the BT directly related to the mine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Production for North Mine Ramped Up'</i> and • <i>'Major Intersection Upgrade'</i>. <p>There have been no community concerns or complaints since 2019.</p> <p>Going forward, we will continue with production and development. Continuing business and surviving with COVID, which is the biggest thing for us.</p>
5.	Questions	<p>AC – Where have the commodity prices sat in relation to your thinking and budgeting?</p> <p>GH - They are sitting pretty good right now (KPI graphs were presented for interest). Both lead and zinc are sitting about 20% above what we had forecast. Need to also consider where the AUD is at present and that's a bit high which pushes it down a bit.</p> <p>Sitting in a good position right now. We are, however, still 4,000t YTD behind in our planned production as well and that's a factor. We achieved as a business, our metal production planned for 2021, pulling out all stops to get there. We lost some areas that we had scheduled to mine in the first half of this year, so we are struggling to recover from that. In effect, we are about half a month behind where we planned to be, when the budget was developed.</p>
6.	Round the Table	<p>MJ – haven't heard anything.</p> <p>CA – haven't heard anything – everyone is focused on COVID.</p> <p>AC – haven't heard anything – think people have come to accept that it's now part of what Broken Hill is. There have been no comments about the trucks.</p> <p>JW – no issues. Think everyone's focus is on COVID.</p> <p>GH – even when the traffic work diverted traffic up Holten Drive for the whole period, there was nothing. Holten Drive was previously such a big issue.</p>

		<p>LN – Does not think there’s enough understanding of the connection between the water pricing (rates) and end of mine life. This is something Linda feels people should pay attention to. We need to understand how this community can stay in touch with what’s happening in the bigger picture, we can be short sighted in this town, looking for right now at 6-12 months. We need to start looking 10-20 years out for this town because theres some significant shocks.</p> <p>Action – LN to keep the committee up to date when the IPART report is available for review and to advise on future consultation opportunities.</p>
7.	Next Meeting	<p>Plan to have an annual meeting going forward. We will provide an update if anything significant arises (as part of the consultation process) and make a decision if it requires a meeting or not.</p> <p>The Department is keen to have the community with a formal means of communication and the conditions of approval allow for the ongoing operation of the CCC.</p> <p>Next meeting date to be confirmed – March/April 2023.</p>
8.	Close	11:57am