

BENGALLA MINE

Community Consultative Committee Update

The Bengalla CCC Newsletter...

The material in this issue of the Bengalla Mine Community Consultative Committee (BMCCC) newsletter has been selected by the CCC representatives.

The BMCCC is comprised of community representatives and representatives from Bengalla Mine including the Chief Executive Officer. This newsletter aims to inform interested community members on matters discussed during CCC meetings.

Bengalla Offset Land Fire Management

Bengalla Mining Company (BMC) manage 6,215ha of land for biodiversity conservation to offset land disturbed by mining.

In January 2018, a dry electrical storm resulted in two bushfires igniting on the Kenalea offset property, Rural Fire Service (RFS), SEM and BMC attended the property to suppress the fire, The Kenalea fire burnt a total area of 344ha.

A quote from Bengalla CEO Cam Halfpenny said, “Bengalla received outstanding support from the local RFS from Rouchel and Stuarts Brook along with our Kenalea neighbours. We cannot thank them enough for their work managing the fires on our land while their own land was at risk and also in the middle of a severe drought. A number of Bengalla employees and contractors provided excellent support and we say thankyou to them all.”

In 2016, Kleinfelder Australia Pty Ltd (Kleinfelder) was engaged by BMC to prepare the biodiversity offset *Bushfire Management Plan (BMP)* and identify a fire trail network. Following the recommendations provided by Kleinfelder, *Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA)* was engaged by BMC to undertake an independent audit of Kleinfelder’s report.

In July 2017, ELA undertook a risk assessment of the vegetation fuel loads for all the offset areas and identified areas that require hazard reduction burns.

Throughout 2017 BMC engaged *Singleton Earthmoving Pty Ltd (SEM)* to undertake the maintenance and upgrade works to the fire trail network for all the offset lands, totalling over 140km.

In March 2018, BMC commenced plans to undertake hazard reduction burns in accordance with the *Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP)* and in consultation with RFS, *Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)*, *National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)* and the local community.

LRM Fire & Rescue Pty Ltd (LRM), were engaged to undertake a fuel load assessment at Kenalea and to determine an area that required hazard reduction burns. LRM successfully executed the hazard reduction burn resulting in a 7ha burn on 8 May 2018.

BMC will undertake hazard reduction burns on all offset areas over the next 12 months as per the recommendations from RFS and LRM.



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Upper Hunter Regional Show

Bengalla has been associated with the Upper Hunter Show for over 21 years and is proud to be strongly associated with this important community event.

Mining is a significant aspect of our regional economy and Bengalla's ongoing sponsorship of this event is consistent with our broader efforts to demonstrate and promote the co-existence of mining with the agricultural and horticultural pursuits across the region.



Warbirds Soar Over Scone



Bengalla Warbirds Over Scone took to the skies of the Upper Hunter for the first time in fifteen years.

Over 6,000 spectators from all over Australia attended driving a cash injection of over \$1million dollars in economic benefit in the community. Many of the visitors to the Air Show explored what else the Upper Hunter has to offer which in turn helped enhance Scone and the Upper Hunter as a tourist destination.

Bengalla CEO Cam Halfpenny said, "Bengalla are proud to sponsor events such as this that really support the region's growth."

Bengalla Offer Unique Experience to High School Students

Bengalla mine welcomed 10 students to site as part of the Muswellbrook High School work experience program for 2018.

The students were provided with hands-on experience, as well as learning many valuable workplace skills.

They all experienced exposure to operational work environments while gaining guidance and feedback from skilled personnel.

"It was a fantastic way to see the many jobs within the mining industry," Muswellbrook High School student Marlo

Court-Kriesch said.

"The Bengalla staff was like a family. They were always willing to help and encouraged me to try different things."

Speaking of the support from Bengalla, Muswellbrook High School careers advisor Sonya McDonald added: "It is encouraging to see their support of our students. For many, it is their first introduction to the working world and they come back to school with a new enthusiasm and goals to strive for."

Bengalla CEO Cam Halfpenny said the company was pleased to welcome the

youngsters to the site.

"The work experience program provides students with the opportunity to make informed decisions by assessing their own capabilities and interests in potential fields of work," he said.

"Being involved in the [work experience] initiative with Muswellbrook High School is a great partnership."

"It gives Bengalla an opportunity to engage with young people in our community and help them build on their school-to-work pathway."



The minutes and presentations from CCC meetings are available for public viewing at the Muswellbrook and Denman Libraries. If you have an interest in any of the topics discussed at the CCC and would like further information on this topic or in future newsletters, please contact one of the members listed below.

If you wish to attend a Bengalla CCC meeting, or would like an issue raised by one of the Committee members, please contact any of the members listed below:

Mr Malcolm Ogg (Chairperson)	Ph: 6543 4583	Mr Noel Downs	Ph: 65431 288
Mrs Llewellyn Bates	Ph: 6547 9170	Mr Dennis Burton	Ph: 6543 2730
Mr Cam Halfpenny (Bengalla CEO)	Ph: 6542 9500	Mr Jonathon Moore	Ph: 6547 9164
Mrs Debbie Day (Bengalla)	Ph: 6542 9500	Mr Craig White (Bengalla)	Ph: 6542 9500
Clr Michelle Green (Muswellbrook Council)	Ph: 6549 3700		

Bengalla Environmental Complaints Hotline number: 1800 178 984

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