



Managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia

**Overview of
Consultation with Aboriginal communities
for proposed development at
CATHERINE HILL BAY**

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Targeted stakeholder meetings

In November 2006 Coal & Allied began an extensive consultation process to provide an overview of the company's proposed residential development and conservation land transfer in the Lower Hunter. This consultation included a series of targeted stakeholder meetings in April 2007.

Key messages conveyed by Coal & Allied during these meetings were the preferred planning process being pursued and an outline of the consultation program including community workshops and a charette.

Key Indigenous stakeholders for the project were identified with the assistance of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). On the recommendation of the council, introductory meetings were held with Koombahtoo, Mindaribba, Bahtabah, Darkinjung and Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC).

During these meetings representatives from each LALC were provided an overview of the proposed development and conservation outcomes as outlined in the Coal & Allied brochure 'Our Land in the Lower Hunter'.

Some of the key messages received by Coal & Allied during the meetings were inquiries regarding opportunities for the LALC to have future access to the land for education purposes and employment opportunities for LALC representatives to be involved in the cultural heritage studies to be undertaken on the sites.

Fieldwork

Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) was commissioned to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for lands at Catherine Hill Bay. The HIA considered the Aboriginal heritage and archaeology, historical archaeology and built heritage of the lands, the potential heritage impacts of the proposed development and identified a heritage impact mitigation strategy.

As part of the HIA, ERM conducted the Aboriginal community consultation with regard to the DECC interim guideline (2004) and taking into account Part 3A requirements.

The key Indigenous stakeholders to include in this consultation were identified from known groups to ERM, assistance from DECC and Lake Macquarie City Council and local advertising.

Fieldwork for the assessment was undertaken on 9 to 10 July 2007 and included seven local Aboriginal community representatives who were asked to comment on Aboriginal heritage issues in the field. A copy of the consultation log is attached to this report (Annex A).

Regional forum and charette

On Monday 27 August, Coal & Allied hosted a regional forum which focused on the potential outcomes of the project for the Lower Hunter region. This was immediately followed by a three-day charette process which involved 58 participants contributing to the development of draft integrated masterplans for the southern estates of Catherine Hill Bay, Nords Wharf and Gwandalan.

The CEO of the Awabakal LALC, Ron Gordon and CEO of Bahtabah LALC, Mick Green, participated in the regional forum and charette along with representatives from the Awabakal and Guringai Traditional Owners involved in the fieldwork.

During the charette Aboriginal representatives participated in discussions regarding the proposed developments and the creation of draft concept plans. They also provided input into the possible management options of middens and cultural land as identified during the cultural studies.

Future commitments

A further meeting was conducted with the Traditional Owners in September 2007 to discuss the land use options and management process.

It was suggested during this meeting that Coal & Allied and the Traditional Owners work together in the future to prepare a proposed Plan of Management for the culturally significant areas.

Aboriginal Consultation Log

Table A.1 Consultation Stage 1: Advisory Requests

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
28-Jun-07	Lake Macquarie News newspaper	N/A	Ad to appear on Thursday 5 July 2007, given response date of 19 July 2007
28-Jun-07	Native Title Services	N/A	Search of NNTT website of Lake Macquarie LGA shows 7 claimant applications, none of which are active. Three of these were for Wonnarua Tribal Council and were discontinued, one was for the Boongary Clan of the Taurai People which was discontinued, one was for Jamie Roy Denniss which was discontinued, one was for Mimaga Wajaar Traditional Custodians Wanuruah Claim and was dismissed, and one was for the Wonnarua People and was discontinued.
28-Jun-07	DECC	Brendan Diacono	Email requesting groups to consult. Letter received 4/07/07 identifying three Aboriginal parties who may be interested in being consulted: Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation (who we're already consulting), Mur-Roo-Ma Inc. and Arthur C. Fletcher.
28-Jun-07	Registrar of Aboriginal Owners	Megan Mebberson	Email requesting groups to consult. Email received 29/06/07 specifying that no Aboriginal owners are known for the area.
28-Jun-07	Wyong Shire Council	Chris Ferry	Email requesting groups to consult. Email received 4/07/07 directing us to contact DECC, which we have already done.
28-Jun-07	Lake Macquarie City Council	Mary Loder	Email requesting groups to consult. Resent on 25/07/07 as no response had been received. Email received 8/8/07 saying to contact Bahtabah LALC.
28-Jun-07	Bahtabah LALC	Michael Green	Phone call discussing project and checking whether a representative would be available for survey on 9-10 July. Email to this effect giving details, map and requesting groups to consult.
28-Jun-07	Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Phone call regarding project; left message. Email discussing project, giving map and asking whether a representative would be available for survey on 9-10 July; also requesting groups to consult.
28-Jun-07	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Kerrie Brauer	Phone call regarding project; confirmed that they would be available for survey on 9-10 July. Email giving proposed survey details, map and requesting groups to consult.
28-Jun-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Email discussing project, giving map and asking whether a representative would be available for survey on 9-10 July; also requesting groups to consult.
05-Jul-07	Mur-Roo-Ma Inc.	Anthony Anderson	Email discussing project, giving map and asking whether the study areas are within their area of interest; also requesting groups to consult.
05-Jul-07	Wonn1 Contracting	Arthur C. Fletcher	Email discussing project, giving map and asking whether the study areas are within his area of interest; also requesting groups to consult.

Table A.2 *Consultation Stage 1: Aboriginal Group Registrations Received*

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
28-Jun-07	Bahtabah LALC Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Michael Green	Phone call discussing project and checking whether a representative would be available for survey on 9-10 July. Email to this effect giving details, map and requesting groups to consult.
28-Jun-07	Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Kerrie Brauer	Phone call, registering interest in being consulted.
28-Jun-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Phone call registering interest.
29-Jun-07	Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Phone call and email registering interest.
16-Jul-07	Wonn1 Sites Officer	Arthur C. Fletcher	Fax registering interest.

Table A.3 *Consultation Stage 2: Briefing and Methodology Advice Sent*

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
29-Jun-07	Bahtabah LALC Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Michael Green	Email of methodology and invitation to participate in fieldwork; survey date of 9-10 July 2007.
29-Jun-07	Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Kerrie Brauer	Email of methodology and invitation to participate in fieldwork; survey date of 9-10 July 2007.
29-Jun-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Email of methodology and invitation to participate in fieldwork; survey date of 9-10 July 2007.
29-Jun-07	Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Email of methodology and invitation to participate in fieldwork; survey date of 9-10 July 2007.

Table A.4 *Consultation Stage 2: Aboriginal Comments Received*

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
01-Jul-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Email providing agreement with the methodology, offering fieldwork services and providing copies of insurance certificates.
02-Jul-07	Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Email and fax providing agreement with the methodology, offering fieldwork services and providing copies of insurance certificates.
02-Jul-07	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Kerrie Brauer	Email of letter providing agreement with the methodology, offering fieldwork services and providing copies of insurance certificates.
06-Jul-07	Bahtabah LALC	Michael Green	Email of letter indicating agreement with the methodology and offering fieldwork services.

Table A.5 Consultation Stage 3: Draft Report Sent

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
31-May-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Draft report sent, with feedback form to fill out if desired; comments requested by 15/06/07.
31-May-07	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Draft report sent, with feedback form to fill out if desired; comments requested by 15/06/07.
31-May-07	Bahtabah LALC	Kerrie Brauer	Draft report sent, with feedback form to fill out if desired; comments requested by 15/06/07.
31-May-07	Wonn1 Sites Officer	Michael Green	Draft report sent, with feedback form to fill out if desired; comments requested by 15/06/07.
31-May-07		Arthur C. Fletcher	Draft report sent, with feedback form to fill out if desired; comments requested by 15/06/07.

Table A.6 Consultation Stage 3: Aboriginal Comments Received

Date	Organisation/group/individual	Contact Name	Details
4-Jun-07	Awabakal Descendents Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Shane Frost	Phone call indicating agreement with findings of report.
6-Jun-07	Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie	Fax of feedback form indicating agreement with report.
8-Jun-07	Bahtabah LALC	Kerrie Brauer	Fax of feedback form indicating agreement with report.
20-Jun-07	Wonn1 Sites Officer	Michael Green	Phone call indicating agreement with findings of report.
20-Jun-07		Arthur C. Fletcher	Phone call indicating agreement with findings of report.

