

# Mangoola News

Mangoola Coal  
June 2010, Issue no. 4



## Project update



Scott Elliott,  
Project Manager.

The project is now well into the construction phase with all areas progressing well. Wybong road upgrade work is now substantially complete with final sealing and line marking to

be completed shortly. On site, bulk earth works for all areas are well advanced and construction of facilities such as offices and works shops have commenced. The coal handling and preparation plant construction is also progressing well with steel erection recently commencing. The rail loop is also moving along with a substantial amount of earthworks now completed. At this point, all going well, we aim to be producing coal mid 2011.

## Operations update



Geoff Kelly,  
Operations Manager.

From the beginning of 2010 Mangoola Coal has been building up its operations team in preparation for the commencement of operations during 2011. Our operations team is currently based in our office in Bridge

Street, this team will be relocating out to site during August/September in readiness for operations including commissioning of equipment and training and development of operators and support/other staff. This is an exciting time for the Mangoola Operations team.

The Mangoola Coal operations team is looking forward to continuing to play an active and important role in the local community, we are keen to develop strong relationships with the local



The Mangoola Ops team.

community and work with the community to provide support through our Community Support Program. Mangoola Coal in conjunction with Muswellbrook Shire Council will also provide funding for the development of employment opportunities to the residents of Muswellbrook Shire

through the Employment and Training Board.

Information regarding Mangoola Coal including our environmental monitoring results, CCC minutes and road works schedule etc., can be found on our website at: [www.xstratamangoola.com.au](http://www.xstratamangoola.com.au)

## Environment update

### Rehabilitation Studies

In the Mangoola Coal Project Approval 06-0014, there are requirements for the mine to reconstruct plant communities to an extent never seen before at a mine in the Hunter Valley.

In order to do so, Mangoola Coal, in conjunction with the University of Newcastle's Centre for Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration, have commenced the development of the Mangoola Ecological Restoration and Reconstruction Research Program (MERRRP). This will enable judgement of successful mine rehabilitation outcomes to be made against both restoration sites in the offsets and pre-mining conditions.

This research program has clear objectives in ecological restoration as well as reconstruction. In offset areas, plant communities require assistance to return to full functionality and health, and, in doing so, to assist native fauna to return to sustainable ecosystems. This will involve active and passive efforts to relieve the pressures caused by human use, including the impact of weeds and feral animals. Cattle exclusion has already had a significant

impact across many areas leading to some passive regeneration.

The research program has two initial foci: a) to build a picture of the ecological system prior to mining and b) to demonstrate our capacity to successfully restore and reconstruct ecological communities in the offset areas.

There are two key objectives for the first phase of the research program:

- 1: To develop a knowledge base of the pre-mining conditions of the ecological systems to be impacted in both offset restoration areas, and disturbance areas.
- 2: To further develop knowledge of how to restore damaged ecosystems for the support of microbes, flora and fauna in the offset restoration areas. To use the knowledge gained about the different ecological communities to inform management about how to apply it to mine rehabilitation areas.

Studies commenced in February 2010 with the commencement of topsoil and subsoil sampling across the project disturbance area for soil characterisation, seedbank properties

and to commence biological mycorrhizae plant experiments.

### Vertebrate Pest Management

The purpose of the Vertebrate Pest Management Plan is to control the populations of vertebrate pest species identified in the Mangoola Vertebrate Pest Hazard Broad Brush Risk Assessment (BBRA) that present hazards to the environment, health and safety and community values. Animals identified as pest species include cloven hoofed animals (sheep, goats, deer and pigs), canines (dogs and foxes), cats, kangaroos and rabbits.

The BBRA was conducted to assess the risk of identified pest vertebrate species on three major areas – health and safety, environment (including cultural heritage, weed spread, reducing native species richness, abundance and diversity etc) and community. As per risk management in environmental risk registers (aspects and impacts register), the areas of highest risk and/or that have legislative obligations are given priority to be addressed (i.e. top ten risks are addressed with the budget year).

Upon completing the BBRA, reducing the

density of pest species has been identified in the Vertebrate Pest Hazard Risk Assessment as a primary hazard control to reduce the risk of harm and protection of persons and activities associated with the Mangoola Coal construction and mining operations, Mangoola Coal owned properties within the Wybong area, the environment, cultural heritage areas and the greater community.

Mangoola Coal is currently undertaking a biannual monitoring and control program, in consultation with the Mid Coast Livestock Health and Pest Authority, to suppress the density of NSW major vertebrate pest species; rabbits, wild dogs, feral pigs, goats, foxes, macropods and deer.

### Wybong Uplands Land Management Strategy

After numerous meetings and scopes of works submitted by Mangoola Coal to the Muswellbrook Shire Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council has halted the progression of the commencement of works in accordance with the Wybong Uplands Land Management Strategy. Mangoola Coal has paid to date \$200,000 for this project to the Muswellbrook Shire Council.

## Community update

Mangoola Coal has continued its program of Face to Face discussions with local stakeholders, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Denman Chamber of Commerce and other interested parties to provide project updates and to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss more specific project related issues with members of our team. In addition to our regular 6 monthly Face to Face consultation Mangoola Coal has conducted Face to Face meetings with stakeholders regarding the proposed modification to relocate the 500kV ETS line.

### Information

Mangoola Coal will be conducting a Community Information Session to provide the community with a project update, commencement of mining operations on site and the proposed modification to relocate the 500 ETS line. The Community Information Session will be held at Wybong Hall on the 14th July 2010 between the hours of 5pm and 7pm. Details are available in the Hunter Valley News and Muswellbrook Chronicle. For any further information please call Evelina Hendry, Community Relations Coordinator on 6549 5512.



Community Information session.

Mangoola Coal has continued to provide information to the local community regarding road upgrades and changes in traffic conditions through signage on the road and our website [www.xstratamangoola.com.au](http://www.xstratamangoola.com.au).

### Mangoola Coal Community Consultative Committee

The Mangoola CCC meets quarterly in February, May, August and November. The CCC provides a forum to establish good working relations between the company, the community and other stakeholders in relation to the mine. It also provides a mechanism for ongoing communication of information on mining operations and the environmental performance of the mine. In accordance with Schedule 5, Condition 9 of the Project Approval, minutes of each meeting of the CCC are available on Mangoola Coal's website [www.xstratamangoola.com.au](http://www.xstratamangoola.com.au)

The Mangoola Coal CCC comprises the following community and MSC representatives:

- Stephan Ward (Chair – MSC Representative) – 6549 3700
- Martin Rush (MSC Representative) – 6549 3700
- Chris Gidney (Muswellbrook Shire Council) 6549 3700
- Keith Campbell (Community Representative) – 6547 8168
- Fiona Hordern (Community Representative) – 6547 2929
- Ross Reichel (Community Representative) – 6547 8174



Community Support Program – Wybong Rural Fire Service (above left) and Mangoola Rural Fire Service (above).



- Penelope Young (Community Representative) – 6547 4589

Please contact one of the community representatives if you have any issues you would like raised at Mangoola Coal's CCC meetings.

### Community Support

Mangoola Coal has continued its commitment to support the local community in which we operate. To reflect this commitment, Mangoola Coal has been involved in and supported the following diverse and innovative local community activities:

- Solar Boat Challenge
- Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair
- Relay for Life
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter



Solar Boat Challenge.



Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod.

- Denman Chamber of Commerce
- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce
- Wybong Hall
- Mangoola Rural Fire Service
- Wybong Rural Fire Service
- Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod
- Bursting with Energy Expo – Questacon
- Denman Children's Centre
- Wildlife Aid



Relay for Life Launch.

## Health and Safety

The Mangoola Management team has recently undergone some planned organisational changes within the division of Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) responsibilities as required leading into the transition period from construction to operations.

Darren Andrews has recently joined the Mangoola team as Health and Safety

Manager allowing Jane Chung, who was previously responsible for HSEC across the site to focus on the Environment and Community area.

Other recent changes to the Health and Safety team includes the welcoming of Michael Godschalk – Safety Coordinator from the NSW Projects Team, Liz Brewer – Office Administrator – HSEC, Kate Caruana

– Health and Safety Coordinator, Amanda Elliot – Parsons Brinkerhoff, Chris Gregory – Parsons Brinkerhoff with the addition of a Health and Safety Coordinator and a Training Coordinator in the coming weeks.

The team's focus will be on the implementation and monitoring of the Xstrata plc Sustainable Standards as they apply to Mangoola, our employees and our contractors. Some of these standards include the management of Behaviours, Awareness and Competency, Communication and Engagement, Risk and Change Management, Operational Integrity, Contractors Suppliers and Partners as well as Monitoring and Review, Product Stewardship and Health and Occupational Hygiene.

The operations team has conducted several high level risk assessments to determine the priorities in managing the key focus areas and to allocate appropriate and sufficient resources.

So, as you can see we have lots going on and look forward to keeping you informed of progress of the Health and Safety team in our next newsletter.



The Mangoola Health and Safety team – Liz Brewer, Chris Gregory, Kate Caruana, Amanda Elliott, Michael Godschalk, Darren Andrews (Manager).

## Human Resources

Mangoola Coal has conducted its first round of recruitment with applications closing for staff, operators, shotfirer and maintenance/service technician positions on 22 May. There was an over whelming response with over 4000 applications being received. Interviews are currently underway.

Mangoola Coal will conduct the first assessment centre from 21-24 June 2010 and will then conduct further assessment centres during August with the first intake due to commence in September 2010 in preparation for operations to commence. Mangoola Coal will also be advertising its next round of staff positions in the very near future so keep a look out for our adds in the local press (Hunter Valley News and Muswellbrook Chronicle).

For further information visit :  
[www.xstratamangoola.com.au](http://www.xstratamangoola.com.au)

Email:  
[mangoolaenquires@xstratacoal.com.au](mailto:mangoolaenquires@xstratacoal.com.au)

Community Response Line:  
**1800 014 339**

For information on articles in *Mangoola News Issue No. 3*, or other operational and environmental issues, please contact the relevant people listed.

### Xstrata's commitment to Sustainable Development

We are committed to the goal of sustainable development. We balance social, environmental and economic considerations in how we manage our business. We believe that operating to leading standards of health, safety and environmental management, contributing to the development of sustainable communities, and engaging with our stakeholders in two-way, open dialogue, regardless of our location, enhances our corporate reputation and is a source of competitive advantage. This enables us to gain access to new resources, maintain a licence to operate, attract and retain the best people, access diverse and low-cost sources of capital, identify and act upon business opportunities, and optimise our management of risks.