

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #71
Thursday, 13th July 2023**

ACOL Administration Office, Glennies Creek Road, CAMBERWELL.

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
John McNerney	(JM) Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MBe) Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR) Community Representative
Phillip Brown	(PB) Company Rep (Environment & Community Superintendent)
Cameron Eckersley	(CE) Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator)
Elizabeth Wyatt	(EW) Archaeologist (Stratum Archaeology)

Apologies

Aaron McGuigan	(AM) Company Rep (Operations Manager) – A/L
Michael Bartlett	(MBa) Company Rep (Acting Operations Manager)
Clr. Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA) Singleton Shire Council (SSC)

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:05 pm. PB introduced EW (Stratum Archaeology) to the Ashton CCC members. MMH also extended a welcome to EW.

2. Apologies

PB passed on apologies from MBa and GA.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Community Representatives

No change to Committee Members' pecuniary interests previously declared.

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the meeting held 23rd February 2023, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: John McNerney **Seconded:** Michael Bestic

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- a. *Invite Liz Wyatt to next CCC meeting. EW invited and in attendance.*

6. Correspondence

- a. *24/2/23 – email PB to CCC on Lemington Road intersection works*
b. *28/2/23 – email MMH to DPE – Chair's Annual Report on CCC*
c. *26/4/23 – email PB to CCC regarding Ashton's 1080 Baiting Notice*
d. *23/6/23 – email MMH to CCC regarding revised CCC guidelines*
e. *3/7/23 – email MMH to CCC regarding proposed 'Terms of Reference' for CCC for discussion at next meeting*

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation

- PB provided update on Ashton operations in 2023.*
- PB outlined future impacts forecast around Lemington Road subsidence from LW207B & LW208. Brief discussion impacts of subsidence on Lemington Road and other non-Ashton road closure/impacts.*
- MBe asked about width/length of the LW panels, PB outlined approximately 200m wide, >1km long but varies.*
- JM asked about the realignment of the New England Highway proposed by Bloomfield (Rix's Creek). Brief general discussion around future impacts, noted updates available from Rix's Creek newsletter.*
- PB advised the members to contact Rix's Creek Environment Manager Mr Chris Knight for more information.*

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Refer to environmental monitoring handout.

7.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Refer to presentation.

7.4 Environmental Activities Update

Refer to presentation.

- PB provided outcomes of Ashton's Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) completed since last meeting, including review of audit findings. General discussion about audit outcomes.*

7.5 Camberwell Update

Refer to the presentation.

- JM asked about progress to properties identified for demolition. PB noted these were being managed by corporate, but had been delayed. JM asked that the priority be raised with corporate – PB agreed.*
- MBe asked about what happened to the Wonnarua Nursery. PB noted while the property is still owned/rented, the nursery relocated due to water access issues.*

8. Presentation by Liz Wyatt, Archaeologist (Stratum Archaeology)

Refer to the presentation.

- EW presented on the archaeological works undertaken by Ashton Coal. Committee members noted the presentation was informative and interesting and provided a good explanation and understanding of the management of cultural heritage and archaeology at Ashton Coal.*

9. General Business

CCC Guideline Update

MMH provided update on CCC guidelines and tabled 'Terms of Reference' (TOR) draft document for the committee members to review for the next CCC meeting.

10. Actions

- PB to follow up with Corporate on demolition timetable.*
- All CCC members to review TOR for finalisation at October meeting.*

11. Proposed remainder 2023 Meeting Schedule

Next CCC meeting: 26 October 2023 commencing at 1:00pm.

MEETING CLOSED at 2.45 pm



Community
Consultative
Committee
13th July 2023

Business Arising

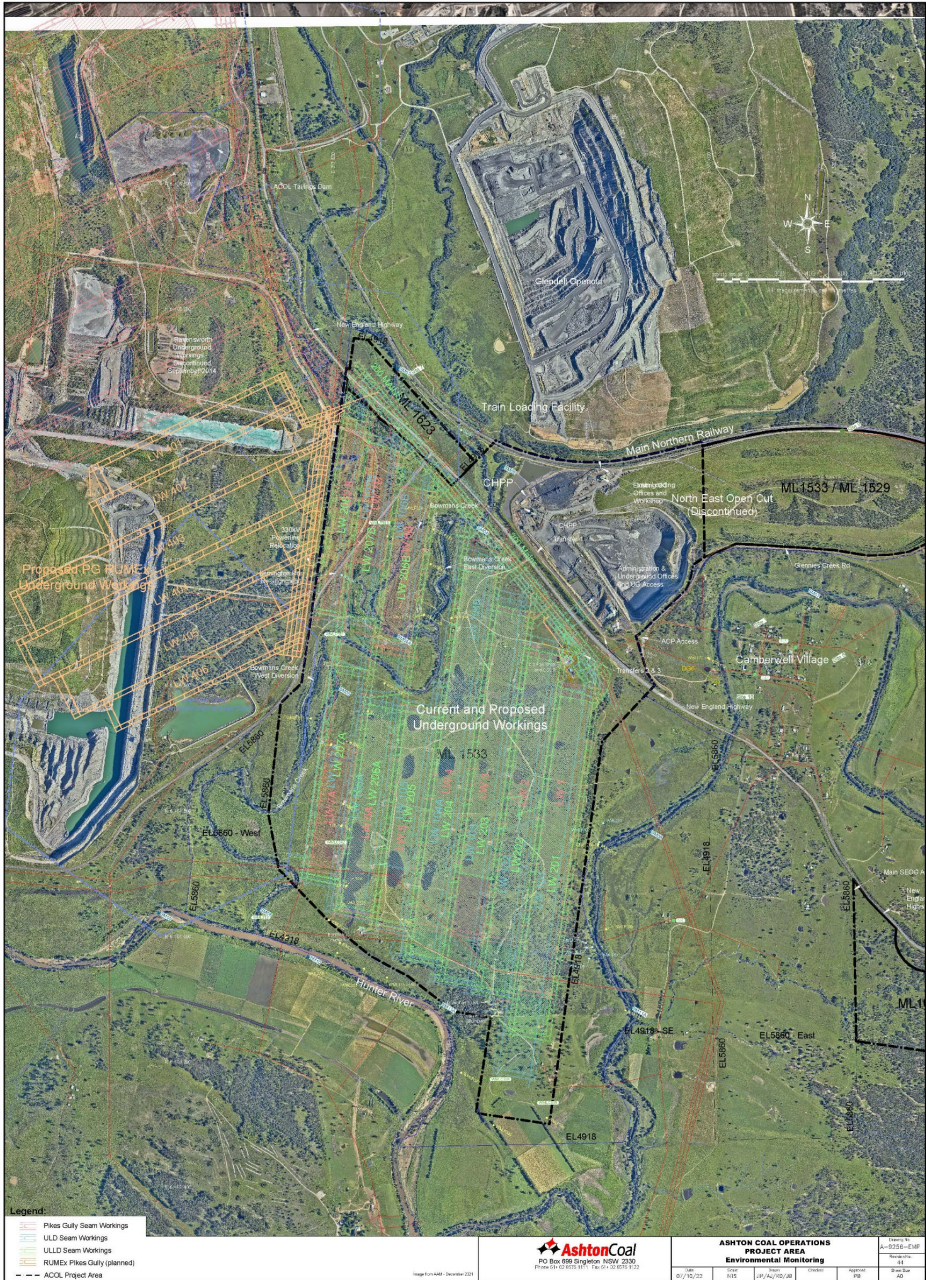
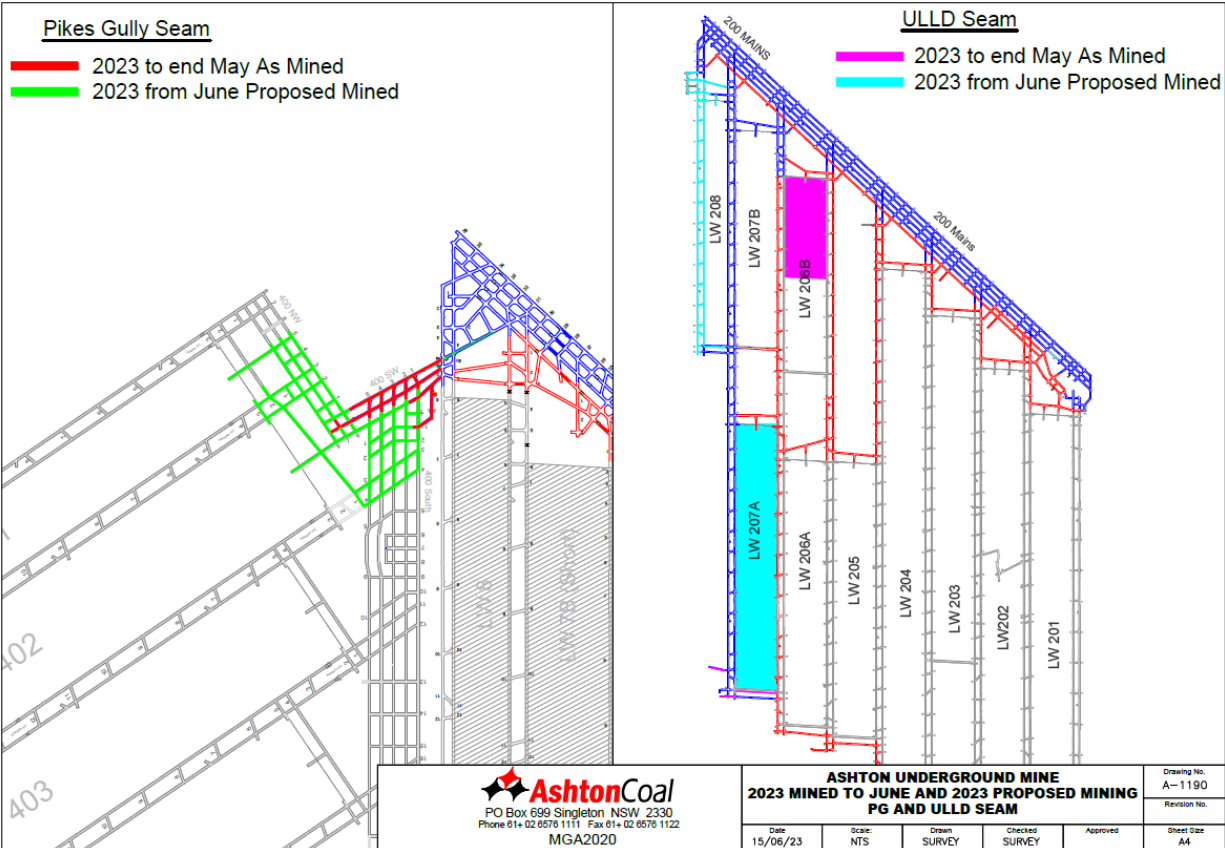
a. Liz Wyatt (Stratum Archaeology) to attend June meeting and present on Ashton's cultural heritage management

Ashton Mine Statistics YTD 2022

Ashton Coal Key Statistics

	2023 Budget (31.05.2023)	2023 Actual (31.05.2023)
ROM (Mt)	0.8	0.5
Product Coal (Mt)	0.4	0.3
Total Coal Sales (Mt)	0.4	0.3
Total Recordable Injuries (TRI)	10	2
Total Employees (FTE)	351.6	316
Complaints	0	0
Environmental Incidents	0	0

Current Mining Plan



Environment Monitoring Data

- Refer to monitoring data attachment

Complaints and Incidents

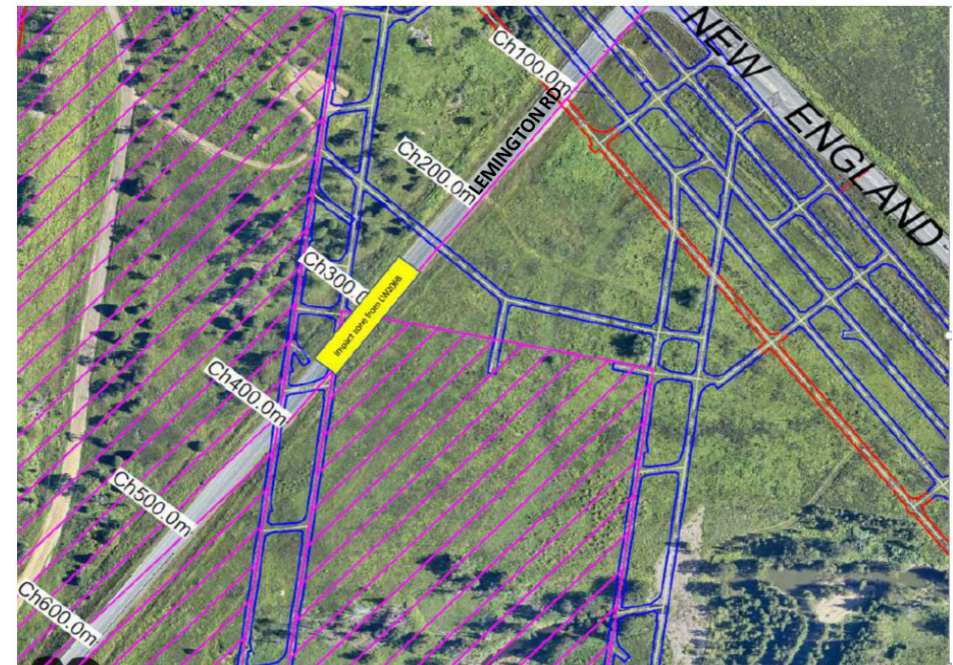
- There have been no community complaints since the last meeting.
- Nil environmental incidents YTD.

Environmental Update

- Monthly noise monitoring undertaken. No issues identified.
- Ancillary approvals progressing (Mining Lease, Management Plans etc).
- Works are underway on raising the western block banks in Bowman's Creek.
- Bi-annual aquatic ecology monitoring completed in May
 - Considerably drier conditions observed – Bowmans Creek back to ephemeral ponding in large stretches.
 - Species identified (and relocated from isolated ponding) included native eel-tailed catfish and mullet.
- Annual rehabilitation and flora monitoring completed in May
 - Generally drier conditions but increased floristic diversity noted.
 - Northern Brown Bandicoots observed on site for the first time.
- 2022 Annual Review submitted to DPE March 2023
- Independent Environmental Audit submitted to DPE March 2023

Environmental Update

- Lemington Rd Subsidence Monitoring and Maintenance Program (complete)
 - A-Plus Contracting conducted monitoring and maintenance works over a number of months.
- Minimal maintenance repairs were completed.
- Further works will be communicated ahead of mining in LW207B later in 2023 and early 2024.



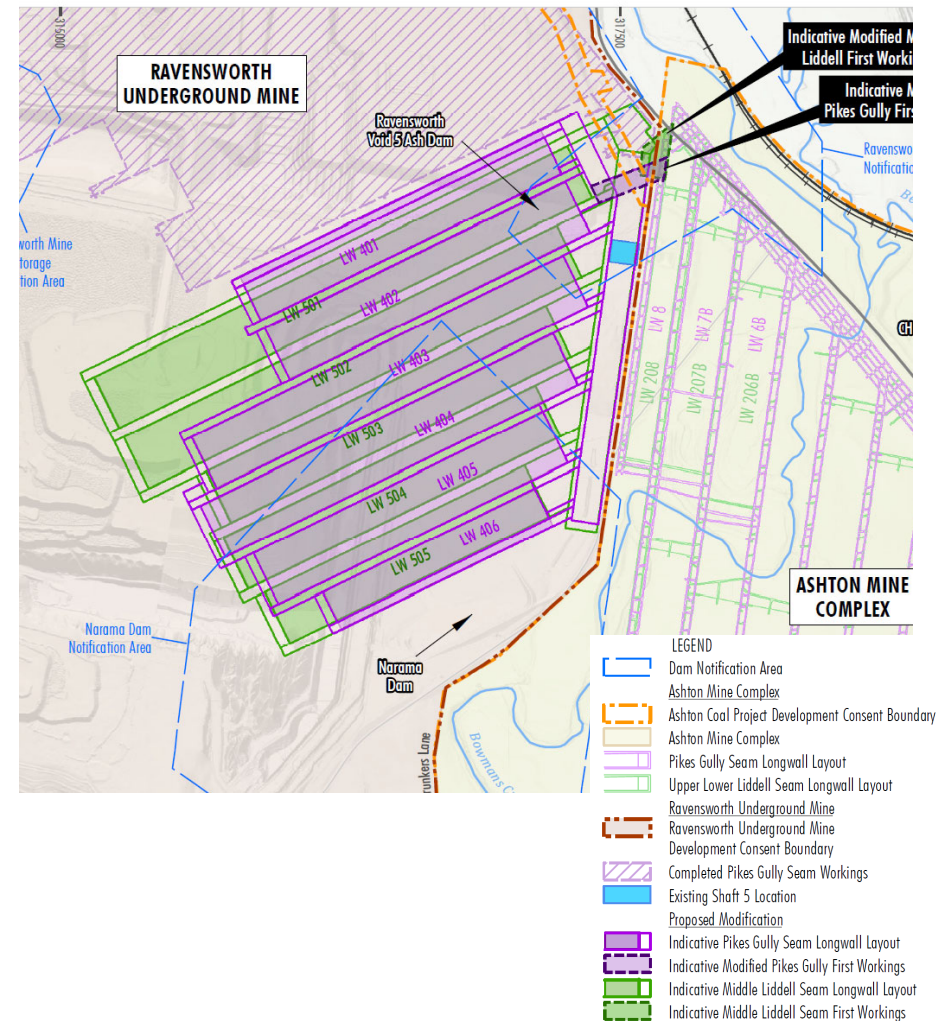
Environmental Update

- Archaeological salvage works – LW207A.
 - Throughout February-June, our archaeologist (Liz Wyatt) from Stratum Archaeology has been onsite with representatives of the Registered Aboriginal Parties to continue artefact salvage works ahead of mining in LW207A. The current excavation has yielded ~10,000 artefacts and is nearing completion.

Ashton-Ravensworth Integration (RUMEx)

Modification Applications Update

- Management Plan updates to integrate RUMEx ongoing.
 - Noise Management Plan, Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, Heritage Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy approved.
 - Water Management Plan and Flora/Fauna Management Plans still with the Department for approval.
- Extraction Plan approval required prior to mining second workings.



IEA Actions

Condition	Non-compliance	Corrective action	ACOL Comments	Proposed Action	Action Date
DA 309-11-2001-I					
Schedule 3 Condition 12	<p>Ashton exceeded the 24-hour PM₁₀ three times between 12 September 2021 and 29 October 2021. These exceedances were reported in the 2021 annual review.</p> <p>The most recent modification of the development consent has now formalised that the exceedance of 24-hour PM₁₀ criteria is only applicable if the incremental impact is due to the Ashton Coal Mine Complex on its own. <u>Therefore</u> no corrective action is required.</p>	No corrective action proposed	Modification 11 to Development Consent DA No. 309-11-2001-I approved on 6 th July 2022 changed the Air Quality Criteria to report only if the incremental impact is due to Ashton Mine Complex on its own (Schedule 3 Condition 12).	Nil	Nil
Schedule 5 Condition 1	<p>At the time of the audit, the approved EMS (Version F, dated September 2020) did not identify MOD11 and the updated mining leases currently applicable to the site.</p> <p>Following the approval of MOD11, Ashton Coal wrote to DPE informing them that a review of management plans had been undertaken and that the EMS would be updated to reflect the most recent statutory approvals relevant to the development. The EMS has been submitted to DPE and is pending approval.</p> <p>As no further action can be undertaken Ashton <u>Coal</u> to achieve compliance with this</p>	No corrective action proposed	No action required. EMS modified due to Modification 11 to Development Consent DA No. 309-11-2001-I and is currently with DPE for consideration.	Nil	Nil

Condition	Non-compliance	Corrective action	ACOL Comments	Proposed Action	Action Date
	condition, no corrective action is proposed.				
Statement of Compliance Modification 6, Condition 7.1	The bed and bank of Bowmans Creek are required to be surveyed every five years. This assessment was due to be undertaken in 2022, however was delayed until 2023.	Ensure that the geomorphological assessment is undertaken in 2023.	The delay in carrying out the survey was due to unavailability of Dr Chris Gippell to undertake the work and COVID restrictions. Soil Conservation Service will now undertake the survey.	Soil Conservation Service to undertake the survey.	30.06.2023
EPL 11879					
M2.1	A non-compliance against this condition was recorded in the 2020 and 2021 EPA Annual Return, where sampling frequency for air quality was not continuous. The auditor notes that the EPL has recently been modified to include Condition M2.4. Condition M2.4 defines continuous as 95% of the time for the annual return periods for condition M2.2. Non-compliances reported in previous annual return periods had data capture percentages above 95%, and would therefore be compliant under the current EPL and therefore no corrective action has been recommended.	No corrective action proposed.	The EPL was varied on 3 November 2022 to include Condition M2.4 which defines "continuous" to mean the operation of requirement to achieve a minimum pollutant and/or meteorological data capture rate of 95% for the duration of the Annual Return reporting period. No further action required.	Nil	Nil
M2.2	Condition M2.2 requires PM ₁₀ to be monitored continuously. PM ₁₀ was not monitored continuously in 2020 and 2021 due to outages and maintenance works.		The EPL was varied on 3 November 2022 to include Condition M2.4 which defines "continuous" to mean the operation of requirement to achieve a minimum pollutant and/or	Nil	Nil

Condition	Non-compliance	Corrective action	ACOL Comments	Proposed Action	Action Date
	Refer to M2.1 for discussion regarding data capture in relation to the provisions of M2.4.		meteorological data capture rate of 95% for the duration of the Annual Return reporting period. No further action required.		
M2.3	One monthly surface water sample was unable to be collected from SM9 (EPL Point 6) in March 2021, due to boggy conditions preventing safe access to sampling location. As this has not occurred again since the non-compliance was reported, no corrective actions are proposed.	No corrective action proposed.	127mm of rainfall had fallen in the preceding 30 days prior to the sampling date. The sampling sheet has been modified to identify mandatory EPL sampling points to ensure that all required samples are undertaken.	Nil	Nil
M4.1	Weather monitoring was not undertaken continuously in 2020 and 2021 as per the requirements of this condition. Refer to M2.1 for discussion regarding data capture in relation to the provisions of M2.4.	No corrective action proposed.	The EPL was varied on 3 November 2022 to include Condition M2.4 which defines "continuous" to mean the operation of requirement to achieve a minimum pollutant and/or meteorological data capture rate of 95% for the duration of the Annual Return reporting period. No further action required.	Nil	Nil
M7.1	Data capture was not undertaken at 10-minute intervals during 2021. Refer to M2.1 for discussion regarding data capture in relation to the provisions of M2.4.		The EPL was varied on 3 November 2022 to include Condition M2.4 which defines "continuous" to mean the operation of requirement to achieve a minimum pollutant and/or meteorological data capture rate of 95% for the duration of the Annual Return reporting period. No further action required.	Nil	Nil
R1.5	The Annual Return for the 2019 reporting period was submitted on 31 March 2020, greater than 60 days since the reporting	No corrective action proposed.			

Condition	Non-compliance	Corrective action	ACOL Comments	Proposed Action	Action Date
	period finished on 31 December 2019. The Annual returns for 2020 and 2021 reporting period were submitted to the EPA within the <u>60 day</u> timeframe. No corrective actions are proposed.				
Standard Conditions Mining Regulation 2016 Schedule 8A Part 2					
16 (2)	The Forward Program is not on the website as per the requirements of this condition, therefore constituting an administrative non-compliance.	Publish the Forward Program on the website.	The Forward Program was submitted to the Resource Regulator on the <u>25th</u> January 2023. The Forward Program is available on the website.	Nil	Nil
16 (3)	The Forward Program is not on the website as per the requirements of this condition, therefore constituting an administrative non-compliance.		The Forward Program was submitted to the Resource Regulator on the <u>25th</u> January 2023. The Forward Program is available on the website.	Nil	Nil
DA 309-11-2001-i					
Schedule 3 Condition 40	A bushfire management plan has been prepared for the site, however, was last updated in 2014.	Whilst not a statutory non-compliance, it is recommended that the bushfire management plan is reviewed and updated.	The Bushfire Management plan is an internal document and was in draft form having been reviewed in 2019.	Update Bushfire Management Plan	31.03.2023
EPL 11879					
O5.1	Ashton informed the auditors that minor amendments have been made to the PIRMP. It is recommended that the PIRMP be formally updated through a new revision.	Ensure that the PIRMP is updated as per the outcomes of the PIRMP test. Publish the updated PIRMP to the project website and make available to site staff.		Update PIRMP and publish on the ACOL website	31.03.2023

2023 Ashton Coal Community Support Program

- Ashton Community Support Program funded fourteen community groups across the Upper Hunter Valley region, sharing in \$85,000.
- Funding will help purchase equipment, buy school gear, fund training, upgrade buildings and facilities and run various community events.
- All the community groups were pleased to receive the financial assistance – we look forward to seeing the projects and initiatives come to life!



Camberwell update

- 33 Residential Tenancy Agreements
- 11 Dwellings in Asset Maintenance Program
- 16 Vacant residential lots
- 2 Commercial agreements
- 10 rural areas occupied



Any Questions?