

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2005  
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

**ATTENDEES:**

Brian Thomas	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	Community Representative
Philip Holz	Community Representative
Tracey Rock	Company Representative (Technical Services Manager)
Peter Horn	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)
Sherry Russell	Minute Taker

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.07pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cr Fred Harvison  
John McInerney  
Ian Callow  
Peter Barton  
Mike Chapman

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

No pecuniary interests were declared.

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:**        *Thelma DeJong*

**Seconded:** *Phil Holz*

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

PHorn advised cladding at the CHPP is now complete. Sprays on the ROM Pad are yet to be installed. In the interim, water carts being used. Two sets of sprays have been ordered and will be installed within the coming month.

PHolz asked what the height of the environmental bund is near the entrance to the mine. PHorn replied the bund is currently 7.5m and ACOL still have the option of increasing the height to a maximum of 15m should the expected noise reduction be inadequate. PHorn advised the bund is yet to be completed and that it has been erected for visual impact and safety for vehicles traveling along Glennies Creek Road in addition to noise control.

## **6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **6.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT**

PHorn advised that dumping operations on the Eastern Emplacement Area are 95% complete. Rehabilitation works are being undertaken, front face of bund should be complete in 2-3 months. Reached maximum depth in pit (Barrett Pit). Arties Pit is around 75% mined. U/G planning well advanced – currently have drilling equipment on site. U/G Mine Manager has been appointed along with other key personnel. Backfilling bottom of the Barrett Pit has commenced.

### **6.2 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER**

PHorn advised the National Pollutant Inventory Report and the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) are due within the next 2 months. PHorn gave an overview of what information is required to be submitted in these reports. PHorn advised noise monitoring is still being undertaken. BT asked if a noise report and other additional information could be submitted to the Committee which sets out exceedances and other required information. PHorn advised a report could be submitted to the Committee.

DO asked if a water survey has been undertaken with regard to the U/G operation. PHorn advised groundwater and surface water monitoring has been regularly undertaken. A Groundwater Monitoring Plan has been established for the U/G. PHorn advised ACOL are establishing a Conservation Area in conjunction with Department of Environment and Conservation.

PHorn advised long hole drilling works should be completed in around 7 or 8 weeks. DO raised the issue of livestock on the Common. PHorn advised that livestock had been fenced out of the areas where drillers were operating.

PHolz raised the issue of a second open cut being established. PHorn advised that ACOL were looking at options and that no decision had been made.

### **6.3 SECTION 94 – LIST OF PRIORITISED WORKS**

TD advised she had undertaken some research and confirmed the access road to St Clements Church is owned by Singleton Council. DO proposed that the Section 94 monies could be spent on the erection of a gazebo, for community use, located near the Church. Members are to write to ACOL to request a donation of land to place the gazebo. PHorn advised that ACOL would be able to have the area surveyed to establish the feasibility of the project.

#### 6.4 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

DO advised she had contacted the Dept of Lands with respect to tree removal on Crown land along situated Glennies Creek Road. DO advised that the Crown have to apply to Council for tree removal. BT advised Council have undertaken a safety audit along Glennies Creek Road the result of which was that Council was to carry out line marking on the centre of road. BT said that to progress this issue further, additional correspondence needs to be issued to Council. PHorn advised that ACOL will issue a letter to Council in support of the community's concerns.

PHolz indicated that the road re-alignment was originally a commitment from ACOL, but changes to mining plans resulted in the road not needing to be re-aligned.

PHorn to undertake duties with respect to the erection of the Common closure signage. A fold up and lockable sign is to be installed.

#### 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

TD raised the issue of green cestrum along Glennies Creek. PHorn advised ACOL conducted a spray program and will undertake further work prior to seeding occurring. DO asked if pictures of Galenia and Green Cestrum could be included in the next Newsletter.

DO asked if a copy of the complaints report could be provided to the CCC members. BT asked what information is provided in the noise complaints reports. PHorn advised that complainants' names were not listed in reports due to privacy issues. BT thought it was a requirement from DMR to provide a more detailed reporting system. PHorn advised that ACOL's reporting procedures are in line with DMR requirements.

PHolz raised the issue of "exposed areas" on Ashton stating he thought there currently exists a larger percentage than originally stated.

BT raised the issue of the complaint recording process with respect to tenants in mine-owned residences and what their rights were. ACOL advised tenants in mine-owned residences were able to complain and their complaints would be acted upon but not officially recorded. BT queried this practice with respect to measurement of environmental performance as reflected in community feedback. PHorn responded that the non-recording of official complaints by tenants in mine-owned residence is a standard practice within the local mining industry.

General discussion took place on revegetation issues such as amount of topsoil use, species of plants that will be / have been used.

DO asked about the planting of native trees in the Village. PHorn suggested there may be a liability issue with regard to this. PHorn asked DO to gather names so ACOL can establish the amount of interest in this issue.

PHolz asked if dumping operations were occurring 24 hours per day. Both PHorn and TR advised that dumping was not currently being undertaken 24 hours per day.

PHolz raised the issue of upgrading of intersection of New England Highway and Glennies Creek Road and mentioned that the works were budgeted for in the 2005 budget. PHorn advised works should be undertaken but will be dependent upon approvals from Government agencies, etc. PHorn advised ACOL have consulted with the RTA, engaged consultants to provide plans, etc. A process is in place to prepare documentation for submission. BT asked about timeline for works? PHorn responded that concept plans currently with Council to ascertain what plans will be used – works should commence this summer.

#### 8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 November 2005 at 1.00pm

#### 9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No site inspection was undertaken by Committee Members.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 3.10PM**

#### ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Provide noise monitoring results to CCC members.	Peter Horn (ACOL)
A further letter to be sent to Greg McTaggart (Singleton Council) with regard to the road safety issue.	Peter Horn (ACOL)
Pictures of Green Cestrum and Galenia to be inserted into next Newsletter	Peter Horn (ACOL)
Copy of complaints to be provided to CCC members	Peter Horn (ACOL)
Phone call to Shearers to find out where they are carting to/from.	ACOL
Gain approval for Common Closure sign in village	Peter Horn ACOL
Look into source of revving machinery (Loader / Dozer) at CHPP	Tracey Rock (ACOL)