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**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT**  
**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013**  
**2.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

**ATTENDEES:**

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Council
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environmental & Community Relations Manager)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator) / Minute Taker
Alan Tight	(AT)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)

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

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:23pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

John McInerney (JMc) Community Representative

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

Michael Bestic for representing Steve & Carol Ernst

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 30 November 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

**Moved:** Steve Ernst **Seconded:** Michael Bestic

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

LR discussed the guidelines for the ACOL and SEOC consent. The CCC accepted to stay under the current system and for LR to write to Scott Brooks (Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoP&I) compliance) confirming the CCC's decision.

SM gave an update on the Camberwell Village signs, he had had spoken to Richard Upston at Singleton Council and they had no concerns with the establishment date being added onto the signs. Richard called back later to confirm the establishment date for Camberwell village was the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1885. Richard was then going to find out the costs for the establishment signs to be manufactured, SM is still waiting on these details from Richard.

LR gave update on possibility of planting further tree screens along the New England HWY for the SEOC. The area down towards the Camberwell Hall is Singleton Council land designated as a children's playground and therefore would need Singleton Council approval if we wish to plant there. The area from Smiles' gateway back towards Singleton has a hard rock shelf there limiting the possibilities for tree planting along there. Also the fibre optic line would have to be confirmed in both locations.

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

### **6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

#### **Underground**

Currently mining in the Upper Liddell seam (ULD) in Longwall 101. Currently there is very hard roof and floor and the equipment cannot get low enough to fully avoid this hard stone, causing very low production rates. Due to the low seam thickness and hard stone the longwall will be modified for Longwall 102. During June Longwall 101 will finish and then ACOL will head back to the pikes gully seam to mine Longwall 6B before then heading back to the ULD to mine Longwall 102.

The finalisation of the fan designs are currently be undertaken. The backroad vent 2.2m fan and borehole number 3 are in final stages of construction.

There has been only minor subsidence repairs required along the main access road as a result of Longwall 101, in the conservation area and on private property 130.

#### **Bowmans Creek Diversion Project**

There has been significant flows since the Australia Day weekend. There has been some rock armouring repairs carried out. Scott Brooks (DoP&I) and Fergus Hancock from New South Wales Office of Water (NOW) have been out on site visits and whilst giving some recommendations for minor site improvements were positive regarding the progress of the project.

Revegetation planting has continued for the last month, planting casuarina trees and lomandra grasses.

The Extraction Plan for LW6B was submitted for approval in early November. This week we've received comments back from NOW which will be addressed, drafted and sent to Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

#### **North East Open Cut (NEOC)**

A caisson pump has been installed and stage 1 completed in the void of the NEOC. This will be used to de-water the void, using the water at the CHPP. Further lifts of the caisson pipe will be installed as required.

**South East Open Cut (SEOC)**

Currently in the Land & Environment Court, a Directions/Case Management Hearing was held last Friday (22.3.2013). The Hearing is scheduled to start on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Geotech drilling works starts after Easter and Management Plans and Mining Leases are continuing to be processed.

**6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL****Dust Monitoring**

LR provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for depositional dust gauges, High Volume Air Samplers and TEOM PM<sub>10</sub> monitors, showing the "Rolling Readings" for the past 12 months.

**Blasting**

No blasting has occurred since September 2011.

**Water Monitoring**

LR presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. For the last 3 months the rainfall has been above the long term median average whereas the previous 6 months had been extraordinarily low. The EC levels have returned back to trends indicating 'flowing' streams rather than 'pooled' water.

**Noise Monitoring**

Statutory noise monitoring was undertaken in February, and there were no exceedences of the Ashton criteria.

**Complaints**

There were 0 complaints or enquiries received over the period.

**Environmentally-Related Operations Changes**

Nil environmental related operational changes were made during the reporting period.

**Site Management Plans**

The MOP 2013-17 has been approved and covers the Landscape & Revegetation Management Plan; Land Management Plan; Final Void Management Plan; and Rehabilitation Management Plan.

**7. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE**

Land management Working Group – waiting on DPI for the cattle trial program methodology.

Water Working Group – Hunter Valley coal mines to be compliant with the MCA Water Accounting Framework Stage 1 by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Social Impacts Working Group – for next UHMD social impacts meeting the drive in drive out (DIDO) accommodation facility to be incorporated into the housing study.

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**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

MB has grave concerns with the Singleton housing DIDO facility proposal with the type of accommodation and issues it will cause in the community.

Happy Easter to Everyone!

**9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013:  
Site tour at 1pm, meeting at 2pm

**MEETING CLOSED 15:50**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
LR to write a letter to Scott Brooks indicating the CCC wish to carry on with the CCC under the current system	LR Apr-13
CCC member advertisement to be placed in Singleton Argus	SM Apr-13
SM to confirm costs of establishment signs for Camberwell Village signs from Richard Upston at Singleton Council	SM Jun-13
LR to send copy of MOP 2013-17 to CCC	LR Apr-13