
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2012
1.30PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JMc)	Community Representative
Sarah Roberts	(SR)	Singleton Council (Chairperson)
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environmental & Community Relations Manager)
Brooke Holland	(BH)	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 3:00pm. (site inspection was held prior to the meeting)

2. APOLOGIES

Scotney Moore (SM), Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA), and Tracey Vollebreght (TV).

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 26 June 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Sarah Roberts **Seconded:** Steve Ernst

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

An ACOL newsletter with an advertisement for the vacant CCC position will be sent out by ACOL prior to next CCC meeting in December.

BW requested SM to commission the noise consultant to conduct a review of the current noise level of the breaker station. Spectrum Acoustics provided advice on 24 July 2012 that the noise level is in compliance with specifications. This letter was provided to attendees.

A site inspection of the Bowmans Creek Diversion was successfully undertaken by LR, MB, and SR prior to this meeting. MB and SR reported being impressed with the project.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF YANCOAL ACTIVITIES

BW provided a brief overview of the Yancoal merger with Gloucester and explained that this merger also provided compliance with the Foreign Investment requirement for the listing of Yancoal Australia on the Australian Stock Exchange. He further stated that the Corporate Structure has yet to be finalized; however the operation of sites is not expected to undergo much change as a result of the merger. Yancoal is the managing partner, and holds a majority of shares in the company, circa 70%, with Gloucester holding 22%, and the balance on the market.

6.2 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Underground & Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

All of the Pikes Gully seam has been mined with the exception for LW6, which requires the Bowmans Creek Diversion to be completed before we may commence mining there.

Mining operations currently underway in the Upper Liddell Seam Longwall 101 Panel, at the Southern end, with drivage progressions, towards the Maingate 102 panel.

Currently there is a Ventilation Shaft under construction where Main Fans are to be installed. It is planned to have the new fans in operation by early 2013, at which point the current fans will be switched off.

Powerlines over the LW 101 are will be subsided; to facilitate this Ashton has upgraded the lines to be able to manage the impact of the subsidence.

The plan for the Mod 10 Gas Drainage Project was explained: Bores are to be constructed and initially flaring will be used (with the exception of LW101 which will be free vented). A network of pipelines is to be constructed, to connect all the bores to a central plant, where the flare will be located. Ashton is to explore future beneficial usage of the gas, and is assessing its qualities and quantities.

A de-watering bore has been constructed at the Southern end of the Underground (LW1 – LW2 area). At this time the dewatering at this point has not been commissioned. As currently done for the operations the water that will be extracted will be piped to the CHPP site, where it is recycled. Ashton will be de-watering the Lower Seam.

Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

The construction phase of the Project is nearing completion; our expectation is that this will occur towards the end of October. Currently we are working on the ends of each Diversion, in preparation for removal of first the bottom and then the top plugs.

Environmental rehabilitation is already underway, with tree-planting ongoing, as well as the use of hydromulch, turf, and irrigation. The life of the rehabilitation work is projected to be approximately seven (7) years; the current phase is stabilisation of the site.

North East Open Cut (NEOC)

Rehabilitation of the site is complete, however maintenance is continuing.

South East Open Cut (SEOC)

The most recent submission to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) was made on 5 September 2012. Ashton anticipates that a decision will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The general consensus is, however, that whatever the decision handed down, it will be appealed.

The rehabilitation plan for the SEOC includes a natural landform design, for example the RL in the South Dump area is 120, which is consistent with the height of other hills in the area. Significant work has been done on the construction design for dumps and ridges etc. LR has offered to make a presentation by the Designer of this program available upon request to all relevant parties. SE asked a question about "Lifts" on the design for compaction. LR responded that the detailed dump operation has not been defined and will be part of the opencut engineering when the pit is in operation.

LR noted that alternate dump locations have been included in the Plan; this will allow flexibility in dumping to account for environmental conditions such as wind.

6.3 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Gas Drainage Network Development Consent Modification

The development consent modification for the gas drainage network has been submitted, and Ashton is anticipating that this will be approved in the coming weeks. As discussed in previous meetings ACOL are proposing to install a series of vertical boreholes of various depths through which goaf gas, will be drained from the goafs of Longwalls 1-8 via a surface pipeline reticulation system connected to a central gas extraction plant. The proposal will maintain underground levels of methane below 2% and minimise gas within the goaf from entering the mine workings and ventilation system. Existing goaf gas drainage has been undertaken during extraction of Longwalls 6A and 7A of the Pikes Gully seam. Currently drainage is undertaken utilising a mobile gas drainage plant.

Extraction Plan

The Extraction Plan and Subsidence Management Plan were approved in July and mining of the ULD seam commenced in August.

LR - will shortly submit an updated Extraction Plan for LW6B.

6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

LR provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for the three month period. Ashton Coal did not exceed their PM₁₀ criteria during the quarter, although levels were higher than previous months. This may likely be attributed to the recent lack of rain in the area.

Blasting

No blasting has occurred since September 2011.

Water Monitoring

LR provided an overview of the surface and ground water monitoring results for the three month period.

Noise Monitoring

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

A report for an independent noise assessment was finalized and submitted to the Department of planning in July. The report concluded that Ashton was compliant.

MB asked about the process involved in the commissioning of an independent assessment. LR responded that Ashton's development consent sets out the process to request such an assessment. Although Ashton is required to pay for the assessment, it does not determine the scope or parameters of this assessment.

Complaints

There were 0 complaints and enquiries received directly to Ashton over the period, however 2 complaints were made to the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH). The complaints were in relation to noise.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

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

Site Management Plans

Ashton's Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Flora & Fauna Management Plan, and Site Water Management Plan have been approved. Other

Management Plans are progressing according to schedule and will be submitted by the end of the year.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

This meeting will be SR's final one; new representatives from Singleton Council will become involved in the CCC. Cassandra Storm is no longer working at Ashton; her replacement is scheduled to commence work mid October.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4 December 2012:

- 1.30PM Site visit Bowmans Creek Diversion Project (Tentative)
- 2.30PM CCC Meeting ACOL Boardroom

MEETING CLOSED 4:00pm

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
CCC member advertisement to be placed in next ACOL newsletter	LR Aug-12
Camberwell signage to be discussed at next meeting (does not include date established)	LR / SM Dec-12
Bowmans Creek Diversion Project inspection to be organized (tentatively)	LR Nov-12