
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 23rd September 2014
2:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

Minutes confirmed as true and correct at December 16 CCC Meeting

ATTENDEES:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|---|
| John McInerney | (JMcl) | Community Representative |
| Steve Ernst | (SE) | Community Representative |
| Michael Bestic | (MB) | Community Representative |
| Godfrey Adamthwaite | (GA) | Singleton Shire Council (SSC) |
| Digby Short | (DS) | Company Rep (Environment & Community Manager) |
| James Barben | (JB) | Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator) |

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:10pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Wesley
Debbie Richards

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 17th June 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: John McInerney **Seconded:** Steve Ernst

5. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

| ITEM | RESPONSIBILITY | PROGRESS COMMENTS |
|---|----------------|---|
| Tree Screen at New England Hwy – Optic fibre has been located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence. | JB Spring 14 | Scheduled for Spring Plants have been ordered for planting to occur in Spring 2014. ACHMP has been approved by DP&I, cultural heritage survey is being organised. Infill planting of existing tree screen also to be completed at the same time. |
| Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos | JB Sept 14 | In progress |
| Send letter to DoP&I asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved. | JB Sept 14 | Complete |
| Underground visit options to be circulated to CCC members. | JB Sept 14 | JB to send email to MB with proposed date and time when longwall production is more consistent. Anticipate around early to mid-October 2014. |

Discussion on the timing of the tree planting. JB stated that the tree screen planting for the SEOC along the New England Highway would occur during Spring 2014. Infill planting will also take place in the existing tree screen as requested by JMcl.

Discussion around the newsletter. CCC members would like to see a local newsletter distributed regarding the operations and activities of ACOL. DS explained that Yancoal is looking to publish a sustainability report for the benefit of the broader stakeholders.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 Introductions

The new Environment and Community Manager, Digby Short, introduced himself. The CCC Members also provided an introduction for DS benefit.

DS provided a review of the CCC Terms of Reference.

6.2 ASHTON STATISTICS

JB provided a summary of the statistics for the previous three months (June 2014 to Aug 2014).

6.3 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS / PROJECTS / EXPLORATION

JB outlined slow production at the commencement of LW103 due to geological issues.

GA asked if Ashton subsidised any roads. JB outlined that Ashton does subsidise the new Lemington Road realignment but not the New England Highway.

SE asked who pays for the repairs to Lemington Road. JB outlined and have an agreement in place which outlines responsibilities for monitoring and repairs. Ravensworth Open Cut mine is responsible for repairing the road following subsidence.

South East Open Cut (SEOC): Judge has noted that the SEOC is capable of approval subject to final conditions. A hearing is scheduled for 28th October 2014 regarding conditions.

SE asked what the current capacity of the CHPP was. JB took the question on notice.
The current CHPP capacity is approximately 3.4mtpa.

JB provided update on Upper Lower Liddell (ULLD) Drifts. Drifts are currently progressing well and are approximately 1 week ahead of schedule.

JB advised that there had been no surface exploration conducted in the period June – August 2014. Some in-seam exploration had been completed.

6.4 APPROVALS UPDATE

JB advised that a number of approvals determinations had occurred in the period with the key matters being the revised Mining Operations Plan and LW103 Subsidence Monitoring Program.

Development of the LW105-109 Extraction Plan is continuing.

6.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

JB provided the following update regarding the Ashton Coal Project (ACP) management plans:

| Management Plan | Status | Comments |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Rehabilitation MP | Approved | |
| Landscape and Vegetation MP | Approved | |
| Final Void MP | Approved | |
| Land MP | Approved | |

JB provided the following update regarding the South East Open Cut (SEOC) management plans:

| Management Plan | Status | Comments |
|--|---|----------|
| SEOC ACHMP | Approved | |
| SEOC Biodiversity MP | Being prepared by consultant | |
| Environmental Management Strategy | Approved | |
| Groundwater and Aquifer Verification Monitoring Program | Currently on hold pending SEOC court case | |
| Other Management plans will not be progressed until closer to SEOC start date. | | |

6.6 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

JB provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for depositional dust gauges, High Volume Air Samplers and real time TEOM PM₁₀ monitors, showing the Rolling Readings for the past 12 months. Of note, the HVAS at Site 1 is continuing to track high, however it has recently trended downwards in line with other monitors. This site is located in Camberwell Village.

Water Monitoring

JB presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. Both surface and groundwater sites did not record any unusual results.

Noise Monitoring

Attended monthly noise monitoring did not detect any exceedences for the reporting period.

Complaints

There were no complaints received during this quarter.

Other Matters

DS discussed the 2015 Hunter Coal Festival.

7. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

Discussion on the UHMD resulted in agreement that this matter be removed from future CCC agenda's.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

JMcl discussed with DS the section of rehabilitation with tree coverage rather than pasture. JMcl strongly supports the rehabilitation using tree species rather than pasture.

MB would like to conduct an inspection of the Bowmans Creek Diversion at the next meeting. JB agreed to organise this for the next meeting.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 2pm

MEETING CLOSED 3:45pm