
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 17th June 2014
9:30AM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

John McInerney	(JMcl)	Community Representative
Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environmental & Community Relations Manager)
Alan Tight	(AT)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
James Barben	(JB)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator) / Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:31pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Wesley

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 11th March 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Michael Bestic

Seconded: Alan Tight

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	Scheduled for Spring Plants have been ordered for planting to occur in Spring 2014. ACHMP has been approved by DP&I, cultural heritage salvage will be required before then.
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	JB Sept 14	To be finalised.
Send letter to DoP&I asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved.	JB Sept 14	To be drafted and signed by GA before submitting to DoP&I.
Underground visit options to be circulated to CCC members.	JB Sept 14	JB to send email with proposed date and time to MB.
Look at UHMD website next meeting – June 2014		Completed during meeting.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 ASHTON STATISTICS

LR provided a summary of the statistics for the previous three months (March 2014 to May 2014). JB discussed the LW102 dyke and the low yield due to this dyke.

6.2 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS / PROJECTS

South East Open Cut (SEOC) is still awaiting a final decision from the Land & Environment Court (LEC). JB advised that the LEC had asked for additional information which has now been provided. ACOL are hopeful of a decision by August 2014. ACOL has also applied for mining leases over the SEOC area. SEOC Mining Lease Application 396 (infrastructure and dump area) has been approved and we are currently awaiting the outcome of the remaining applications. The Camberwell common issue has not been resolved to date.

Upper Lower Liddell (ULLD) drifts (access to third seam) are planned to start in June this year. JB advised that ACOL have recently obtained the required approvals from the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE).

6.3 APPROVALS UPDATE

JB advised that ACOL's applications for licences for additional dewatering boreholes; ground water monitoring piezometers; first workings for the Upper Lower Liddell Seam Drift; and SEOC Mining Lease Application 396 (infrastructure and dump area) had been approved.

Also, development of the LW105-109 Extraction Plan is currently underway.

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

LR 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. The HVAS at Site 1 is continuing to track high, however it has reduced in it's exceedance level.

Depositional dust gauges D2 (nearest to Lemington Road) and D9 (on the Richards property) were the only two gauges to exceed. LR explained that the current location of these gauges makes them susceptible to non ACOL influences.

Water Monitoring

LR presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. The Electrical Conductivity (EC) trends at SM4 Bowmans Creek were indicating low flows until flows increased in November 2013 and April 2014. Hunter River and Glennies Creek are showing steady, regulated flows.

Noise Monitoring

Statutory quarterly noise monitoring was conducted in May 2014. There were no exceedences for the reporting period.

Complaints

There were no complaints received during this quarter.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

There were no environmental related operational changes made during the reporting period.

6.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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

Management Plan	Status	Comments
Bushfire MP	Approved	
Noise MP	Approved	
Air Quality MP	Approved	
Spontaneous Combustion MP	Approved	
Waste MP	Approved	
Lighting MP	Approved	

LR 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.		

7. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

JB presented the UHMD website to the meeting, giving a brief demonstration of what information is available on the website.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

LR informed the meeting of the recent restructure at Yancoal and therefore at Ashton Coal has proceeded through. Both SM and AT will be finishing up at Ashton Coal at the end of June 2014. JB will take on all the responsibilities of Environment & Community Relations Coordinator. LR has taken a new position within Yancoal's corporate office as the Compliance Manager based in the lower hunter. LR will stay on at Ashton Coal until the Environment & Community Relations Manager position is filled.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd September 2014 at 2pm

MEETING CLOSED 10:50

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Tree Screen at New England Hwy – Optic fibre has been located, (AAPT personnel will need to attend when the ripping for the tree rows is to be done) and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence.	JB scheduled for spring 2014
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	JB Sept 14
Letter to be drafted and signed by GA asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved, then submitting the letter to DoP&I.	JB Sept 14
JB to send email with proposed date and time for Underground visit to MB.	JB Sept 14