
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2009
1:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Relations Mgr)
Adam Spargo	(AS)	Observer (Environmental Co-ordinator)
Cassandra Ferguson		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1. 10pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Greg Summerhayes from the Department of Primary Industries), John McInerney and Deidre Olofsson Community Representatives.

Due to late notice of apologies a substitute for the Community Representatives was unable to be found.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil declared.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 24 March 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Thelma DeJong

Seconded: Brian Thomas

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

PB provided an overview of the current mining operations being undertaken onsite. PB discussed that operations were currently static.

The proposed SEOC Environmental Assessment is in progress. Final submission and public exhibition estimated around September.

There are no changes to the operation of the North East Open Cut. Underground operations are continuing currently completing works in Longwall 4 and will change over in October to Longwall 5. A nitrogen injection plant has been installed in the underground mine vent shaft compound. This is to be used if required to ensure an inert gas environment is maintained in the sealed goaf.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

DUST MONITORING

LR provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for the three month period.

BLASTING MONITORING

Results for the past twelve months to date – in total 119 blasts were carried out - with no exceedences.

BT queried if a blast had occurred on the 29/5 at 10.00am, he reported that the Singleton Council offices were shook from what was assumed to be a blast at this time. AS reviewed blast data for the date and time and confirmed that ACOL had not blasted at that time, but had recorded low vibration and overpressure at its monitoring sites. LR discussed that it could have come from neighbouring operations.

WATER MONITORING

LR provided an overview of the groundwater monitoring results for the past three months.

NOISE MONITORING

No exceedence of criteria was recorded for the period March 2009 to May 2009.

REHABILITATION

LR discussed the rehabilitation program and highlighted on the aerial plan the areas in which rehabilitation has been completed. LR advised that slopes will be rehabilitated with pastures and the top of the pit will be seeded with trees. TDJ queried what was in the cover crop mix. AS informed her that it was rye corn, clover and namoi vetch. The aim of this mix was to provide cover whilst the trees seeds are getting established without dominating the area. PB discussed that the main objectives of the rehabilitation program was to: reduce visual impact of the mine; reduce dust impacts of the mines and to return the mined area back into natural vegetation. TDJ queried when rehabilitation works along southern side of eastern emplacement area will be completed. LR advised there are some final earth works to be completed regarding drainage however, these works do not continue west to join the Glennies Creek Road environmental bund.

BT Asked where tailings to fill the final void of the North East Open Cut will come from. LR responded that they will come from the UG mine.

7.3 SECTION 94 SIGNAGE

AS provided the meeting with an update on the Section 94 Contributions. He has been in contact with Kim from the parks department of Singleton Shire Council, who is in contact with the RTA regarding the approval of location for each of the signs. The location of the North bound sign near the Glennies Creek bridge has been informally approved, by RTA however the South bound sign proposed to be located on the corner of McInerney Road has not. Further survey work has been completed and this information has been sent to the RTA. AS is currently awaiting approval for this location from the RTA. After discussions with Kim from SSC, AS discussed that the funding for the signage may not cover the earthworks to be completed prior to the signage installation. He is waiting to hear back from SSC regarding final quotes for the works.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

TDJ asked how the SEOC was progressing. LR advised that the Director General's Requirements (DGRs) for the project had been received and the Environmental Assessment was currently being completed.

BT queried if any feedback had been received regarding the future vision for Camberwell, discussed at last CCC meeting. LR replied that minimal feedback had been received since the last meeting and the SEOC open day. Work on the future vision of Camberwell had been place on hold until the DGR's were received. LR advised that the next step would be to discuss the vision with SSC. Consultation with SSC will be held prior to the submission of the Environmental Assessment for the SEOC.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 September 2009 at 1.00pm.

10. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

A site inspection of the rehabilitation works was conducted. All meetings attendees participated.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.15PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY