

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2005
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Fred Harvison		Singleton Council (Chairman)
Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Tracey Clarke	(TC)	Community Representative (Alternate Delegate)
Dr George Hawke	(GH)	DIPNR
John Sparkes	(JS)	DIPNR
Monique McDonald	(MM)	DPI
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Representative (Development Manager)
Tracey Rock	(TR)	Company Representative (Technical Services Manager)
Peter Horn	(PH)	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Representative (U/G Mine Manager) (part mtg)
Sherry Russell		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.05pm.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded. It was noted that Phil Holz had resigned from the Committee.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

No pecuniary interests were declared. BT gave an overview of the meaning of pecuniary interest.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: *Thelma DeJong* **Seconded:** *Brian Thomas*

DO joined the meeting at this time.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 6.4 from the previous minutes, BT advised that line marking of Glennies Creek Road will be undertaken in the near future.

5.1 INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman introduced the two DIPNR representatives, Dr George Hawkes and Mr John Sparkes. JS gave an overview of their respective roles within DIPNR with regard to how their auditing procedures are undertaken with respect to community consultation. General discussion took place on the auditing process. JS asked the Chairman his opinion on the best approach with respect to community consultation. JS advised the audit mainly deals with environmental issues. DO asked if the audit included 'mine closure', mainly with regard to how the land is left when mining finishes. DIPNR advised the audit was conducted on current mining activities – rehabilitation plan is part of the 'closure'. BT suggested that DIPNR meet with the 4 community representatives of the committee with regard to carrying out the auditing process. It was decided that the venue for the community consultation would be at Council's offices. PB advised that ACOL welcomed the audit as it provided Ashton the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the development consent.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT

TR provided a presentation regarding open cut mining and rehabilitation works currently being undertaken. General discussion took place on the rehabilitation works which have been carried out to date. DO asked whether a copy of the community survey could be provided to DIPNR to assist with their auditing procedure. PH advised that this would not happen due to privacy issues, but a summary would be provided to the audit team.

PB introduced Brian Wesley to the meeting as the Underground Mine Manager. PB provided a presentation to the meeting on the future underground mine operations.

Discussion took place on the topic of mining under Bowmans Creek. CCC members advised they were not aware that mining activities would be carried out under the Creek. PB advised that mining occur under the Creek is an integral part of the development consent, the only issue is the depth of aquaclude that needs to be left in place. MM advised that mining under Creeks is monitored closely by the Department

6.2 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

PH gave a detailed presentation to the committee providing environmental monitoring information including blasting and noise data results. JM raised the question of installing an additional monitor in the village and queried the location of the monitors PB advised the location of the monitor was determined in consultation with EPA and incorporated in to the Environmental Protection Licence..

Tracey Clarke left the meeting at 3.00pm.

Fred Harvison and Monique McDonald left the meeting at 3.30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3.30pm.

Meeting reconvened at 3.40pm.

6.3 SECTION 94 – LIST OF PRIORITISED WORKS

PH informed the meeting that further consultation is being conducted within the village to ensure that the whole community was in agreement with the proposal. PB advised the funds are available but Section 94 contributions cannot be used on privately owned land. BT suggested the community members contact Garry Woodman at Council to ascertain if the road owned by Council near the Church could be utilised. It was agreed that the community members are to meet with Council on 2 December 2005. BT to confirm this meeting time / date.

6.4 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed by the meeting that sufficient information has been provided to members with respect to noise monitoring results.

PH advised that management of ACOL suggested the letter to Council regarding to road safety issues be issued by the CCC members. ACOL will provide a letter to Council on behalf of CCC members for presentation to Council at the meeting to be held on 2 December 2005.

TR advised Shearers no longer using Glennies Creek Road – this activity ceased approximately two (2) months ago. Shearers were carting to / from Camberwell Quarry.

TR advised the revving of the loader, looking into what can be done to prevent this noise.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

PB advised plans regarding entrance to the mine along Glennies Creek Road have been drawn up and issue should be resolved in the New Year.

DO asked where EL5860 is located? PB advised the area is east of Glennies Creek. PH advised he will provide a plan to DO. PB further stated that the area is only an exploration licence area and that only drilling can occur. Depending on the results of this drilling, Ashton will assess whether or not the area has any mining potential. JM asked what mining ops will take place either open cut or underground – PB advised that the area is probably not suitable for underground, so any potential mine would likely to be an open cut operation.

The issue of the appointment of a new community representative was raised. ACOL to conduct a letterbox drop advising the community of a vacancy on the committee.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 February 2005.

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No site inspection was conducted.

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.15PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Monique McDonald requested the issue of signage in the Village with regard to the erection of a blast notice sign be resolved within the next month.	Peter Horn (ACOL)
Thelma DeJong raised the issue of Prickly Pear encroaching near church grounds.	Peter Horn (ACOL)
Letter to Council on behalf of the CCC members regarding road safety issues along Glennies Creek Road. Letter to be presented to Council at the meeting to be held on 02.12.05	Peter Horn (ACOL_
Letterbox drop to be carried out advising the community of the vacancy on the CCC	Peter Horn (ACOL)