
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2006
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Cr John Martin	(JM)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Tracey Clarke	(TC)	Community Representative (Alt. Delegate)
Mike Chapman	(MC)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (Development Manager)
Tracey Rock	(TR)	Company Rep (Technical Services Manager)
Peter Horn	(PH)	Company Rep (Environmental Officer)
Adam Spargo	(AS)	Company Rep (Graduate Engineer)
John Sparkes	(JS)	Department of Planning
George Hawke	(GH)	Department of Planning
Monique McDonald	(MM)	Department of Primary Industries (part meeting)
Sherry Russell		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.05pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members:

Fred Harvison (Singleton Council)
Brian Thomas (Singleton Council)

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Deidre Olofsson.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 30 May 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: *Thelma DeJong*

Seconded: *John McInerney*

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

DO queried if the results were available from the noise monitor located at Dawson and Lethbridge Streets. PH responded there was a problem with the data collected by the consultants and the results will be issued upon finalisation of the report.

6. PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING ON THE COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT DATED JUNE 2006

Representatives from the Department of Planning provided an overview and summary of the Audit conducted in December 2005. They thanked members of the community for making their time available with respect to the consultation process which was undertaken.

JM raised the issue of the upgrade of Glennies Creek Road at the entrance to the mine site and asked when the roadworks will be undertaken. PB advised the survey and design works were complete. Plans are with Council and RTA awaiting approval – have been for 4 to 5 weeks. JM also asked about the status of signs at the top corner of Glennies Creek Road. *(Note: After follow-up by Cr Martin, Singleton Council have advised that the installation of speed and curve signs along Glennies Creek Road will be in place on or before 15 September 2006.)*

DO asked what actions have been undertaken to rectify the non-compliances as noted in the Audit Report. DO asked if CCC members could obtain a copy of the report issued by ACOL to Department of Planning advising non-compliances that have been rectified. It was agreed that a copy will be provided with the final minutes.

MC advised that ACOL are working to rectify non-compliances and they will be undertaken as soon as possible.

DO also raised issue of what happens if ACOL do not comply with the report in the specified time frame? JS responded that the Department can issue an order which enforces the actions are undertaken within a specified time frame.

TR advised that ACOL are committed to addressing all items contained within the Action Plan.

The Chairman thanked the Departmental Representatives for their presentation.

7. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 From Project Management

TR gave an overview of the current open cut and underground mining activities being undertaken on site. MC advised that minor cracking occurred along the bend at Glennies Creek Road as a result of pit wall slumping in a small area below Glennies Creek Road. ACOL have consulted both the RTA and Council at the time the cracking occurred and are still in consultation. A buffer zone has been established around this area and continuing monitoring is being undertaken.

TR provided answers on the question raised with respect to blast fumes. It was noted that the fumes coming off blasts are not dangerous when dispersed into the atmosphere – only dangerous when dispersed into confined spaces. DO asked if the information provided regarding blasts be included in the next newsletter.

DO asked what the results were from the last survey undertaken. TR advised only 11 households were included in the survey. TR advised it was not the company's intention to only survey 11 households and that only 11 households agreed to be surveyed last year.

TR advised further survey will be undertaken during Spring 2006.

7.2 From Environmental Officer

PH provided an overview of current environmental issues on site.

MM left the meeting at 2.00pm.

DO asked what ACOL are doing with respect to reducing blasting impacts. TR advised ACOL are working closely with Orica in an attempt to reduce the impact of blasts. A lot of experimental work has been undertaken.

PH advised that an additional water sampling location has been established out of comments received from the SMP public meeting.

DO asked the question of ACOL as to what is being done to reduce noise impacts? Trial testing is happening at Mt Owen with electronic beepers indicating when an exceedance is likely to happen to enable preventative action to be implemented. MC mentioned ACOL have had discussions with the Mt Owen consultant and will assess this option after trials complete and if successful.

7.3 Section 94 – list of prioritised works

TR advised that the area set aside for the BBQ area near the Church has been pegged out. TR invited members to inspect at the conclusion of the meeting.

DO asked the question with respect to additional funding. PB advised complex issue – best to go into Council direct.

7.4 Action Items from Previous Meeting

Groundwater monitoring results were provided to the CCC members.

TR advised the meeting that ACOL have been in contact with the message bank service that takes messages on the hotline number with regard to the issue of no complaints being taken after the 4th call. TR advised that ACOL have not given any direction/instruction for this action to occur.

TR and PH advised that the issue of the OCE responding to complaints has been addressed. The issue was raised at the May CCC meeting that the person making the complaint wasn't getting feedback that the mine was going to be contacted straight away and the problem rectified. The call centre now advises the person making the complaint that the mine site will be called straight away and informed of the complaint. ACOL has run through the procedures with the OCEs and Maintenance Supervisors a number of times since this issue and we are confident that the system will now operate as originally intended.

Rotary drills fitted with dust suppression equipment are being used and TR advised that the Drillers are aware of the importance of using such equipment to alleviate dust.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

MC advised the meeting that both Tracey Rock and Peter Horn will be leaving Ashton in the coming weeks. Colin Davies will be appointed the Statutory Environmental Officer until the position is filled permanently. Peter Barton will be the company's representative. MC thanked both Tracey Rock and Peter Horn for their contribution to the CCC.

JM raised the issue regarding bundwalls – 16 degree inclination. MC stated ACOL will provide an undertaking to keep the residents fully informed of all activities being undertaken on site.

DO asked if kangaroo culling will be undertaken in the future. PH advised that kangaroo culling will be undertaken – we are waiting for the contractor to become available. ACOL have 120 tags – 50 or 60 will be used on the Ashton property.

PB advised the meeting of the CHPP upgrade and Macquarie Generation tailings project. CHPP Concrete works being undertaken – slab for module 2, spirals and thickener. Completion by mid January 2007.

MacGen tailings – agreement finalised – currently going through approvals processes. Three development applications lodged – short length pipeline in the middle. Other 2 applications related to ACOL's original consent and MacGen's consent – 1 with DOP and 2 with Singleton Council.

Chairman thanked all for the presentations and for their community reps attendance.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 December 2006 at 1.00pm.

10. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No inspection was undertaken.

MEETING CLOSED AT 2.45 PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Table from the report submitted to Department of Planning on 13 September 2006 to be included with the minutes.	TR (ACOL)
Information and explanations on blasting to be included in the next Newsletter.	TR (ACOL)