
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 17th December 2013
2.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

John McInerney	(JMcl)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
David Gibson	(DG)	Company Rep (Acting General Manager)
Julie McNaughton	(JMcN)	Company Rep (Acting Environmental & Community Relations Manager)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator) / Minute Taker
Alan Tight	(AT)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
James Barben	(JB)	Company Rep (Approvals Coordinator)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:08pm.

GA indicated at last night's SSC meeting DR was approved by SSC's eight councillors (8 for; 0 against) as a community representative for ACOL's CCC. As part of ACOL's development consent DA No. 309-11-2001-I (MOD 10) section 10.1, ACOL now needs to write a letter to Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DoP&I) asking for the endorsement of DR as a community representative on ACOL's CCC.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Wesley – ACOL General Manager

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 18th June 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

JMcI asked how the trees screens along the New England highway was progressing. JMcN indicated Scott Brooks from DoP&I is currently on leave. Once he is back and has approved the SEOC Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP), works can commence, firstly with the archaeological clearance; issuing disturbance permit – including utilities checks; ripping of tree lines and then planting of trees.

6. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Camberwell signage to be finalised with the additional signs of “EST 1885” installed	SM Oct-13	Completed by SSC’s contractors during late September 2013.
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	JMcN Dec-13	JMcN indicated the newsletter was not yet completed, though she said it would be done in first quarter 2014.
Action the endorsement of the proposed CCC member at the next SSC meeting	GA Next SSC meeting	At the start of this meeting GA indicated DR had been endorsed by SSC as a community representative on ACOL’s CCC.
Once nominated applicant has been endorsed by SSC, endorsed applicant will be put forward to DoP&I for approval.	JMcN Once endorsement SSC is received	Letter to be sent to DoP&I for endorsed applicant’s approval.
Tree Screen at New England Hwy – Optic fibre has been located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence.	SM/AT Once SEOC ACHMP is approved	Waiting on SEOC ACHMP approval from DoP&I
During next meeting discuss and schedule CCC members visit of the underground mine.	JMcN Dec-13	The underground mine visit was discussed at the end of this meeting with the visit scheduled for the 4 March 2014 with a 8am start, lunch will be provided.
SSC Mayoral Scholarship sponsorship, BW to follow up.	BW Oct-13	ACOL are sponsoring for 2014 and payment has been made.
Roofing material on side of hill at 94 Glennies Creek Road to be removed.	BW Dec-13	Roofing material was removed by site services during late September 2013.
Present and discuss audit findings from 3 yearly compliance audit at next meeting	JB Dec-13	JB discussed the audit findings during this meeting; there are two slides in the presentation. JB will send out the final audit report to the CCC.

HSEC Policy to be added onto the ACOL website. Discuss at next meeting to see if CCC members are happy with the community aspect.	AT Oct-13	HSEC policy added to ACOL website in September 2013. CCC members asked to postpone the discussion on the community aspect of the HSEC policy until next meeting.
Investigate YTD production figures	SM Dec-13	Saleable Coal was in fact the tonnes railed from ACOL to port rather than the Product coal produced from the CHPP. Figures have been amended.
In the statistics presentation - rolling monthly production figures; and all donations and contributions to the community during the period.	SM Dec-13	Added to this meeting's presentation
Print outs of statistics to be supplied for next meeting	SM Dec-13	Print outs had been supplied during this meeting
Email the EPA Dust Report link to the CCC members	JMcN Oct-13	Emailed on 4 th October 2013 along with last meeting's minutes.

7. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The ACOL production, safety and employment figures for the past three months were presented to the CCC. The longwall move from LW6B to LW102 was completed during October and November, on schedule. Currently mining in LW102, cutting 7-9 shears per shift due to the lower cutting height.

SE asked what was the thickness of the current coal seam?

DG indicated the Upper Liddell (ULD) seam ranges between 1.9 to 2.2m. Due to the stone and quality of coal in the ULD, around 50% recovery is good in some areas for producing semi-soft coking coal.

DG indicated there has been approximately a 50% improvement in total recordable Injury (TRI) results for 2013 compared to 2012. The High Potential Injury (HPI) incident during September was discussed.

JB discussed the audit report and their findings where over 90 approvals were audited. A full copy of the audit report and their findings will be provided to the CCC members. JB then discussed the current approvals in process including the first and second workings for LW105 to LW108 in the ULD seam.

JMcI asked where does the water go from the underground dewatering boreholes?

JB explained the water is transferred over to the process water dam at the CHPP; the water is then used in the CHPP for processing the coal.

7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

SM 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 dust gauges which were trending above the compliance criteria in the previous reporting period are continuing to trend above compliance criteria for this reporting period. The TEOMs showed 16 days during the quarter which were above the 50ug/m³ criteria, all days where the dust levels were above criteria all watercarts and stockpile sprays were available and in operation. Upon investigations these results were not due to ACOL operations.

Water Monitoring

SM presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. Except for November where there was 175mm, the total rainfall for past seven months was well below the average. The Electrical Conductivity (EC) trends in Bowmans Creek were indicating low flows until the rain in November. Hunter River and Glennies Creek are showing steady, regulated flows.

Noise Monitoring

Statutory quarterly noise monitoring was conducted in November 2013. 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.

7.3 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

JMcN indicated the review of the Bushfire Management Plan by the RFS had been completed and sent back to ACOL. The RFS stated the plan was very detailed and comprehensive. RFS *"It is the only plan in 8 years that has incorporated the aspects of Bushfire Management Planning."*

SE asked if the firebreaks are maintained?

SM responded, Yes we have them slashed on a regular basis.

SE asked if the watercarts are available for fires?

SM responded, Yes the large mining watercart is available for fires onsite and the Heavy Rigid watercart which is licenced and road registered is also available for any fires.

DR asked if ACOL uses a contractor or use their own tractor for the slashing?

SM we use our own tractor for the majority of the slashing and we have been using a contractor to slash the rehabilitation in the NEOC where we needed 4WD capabilities.

DR asked if they are registered?
SM indicated both tractors are registered.

MB asked if we are seeing a feral pig problem here onsite?
SM indicated not here onsite, however upstream on Bowmans Creek our weed and pest control contractors have spoken about the increased works they are conducting on pig control on properties to the north.

MB asked if there were any photos of the creek diversion from the recent heavy rainfall in November?
AT indicated there were photos taken however these were taken after the peak of the event had flowed through at roughly 8pm. The flows had topped over the block banks as designed.

8. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

JMcN gave an update on the annual community and industry workshop held on Tuesday 3 December. Some of the discussion during the workshop was how to get the information out to the community; currently the information is being put on the UHMD website. Next meeting we will look at the UHMD website.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

DR what's happening with the common?
JMcN said ACOL are waiting on the Minister of Lands. ACOL found issues with how the Common was established; these were provided to the Minister, who delayed the initial Common meeting. The horses which were in the common have been vacated and the signs on the gates and fences have been removed whilst the tenure of the land is unknown.

JMcN any recommendations from the community as to what they would like to see in the Annual Environmental Management Report?

MB more good news documents/articles like the BCD rehabilitation brochure.

10. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Underground Mine CCC Tour 8am Tuesday 4th March 2014; 3-4hours underground, lunch provided after underground tour, MB, DR, JMcl and Judy McInerney attending the tour.

Tuesday 11th March 2014; Meeting at 2pm

MEETING CLOSED 15:40

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	JMcN Mar-14
Send letter to DoP&I asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved.	JMcN Jan-14
Tree Screen at New England Hwy – Optic fibre has been located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence.	SM/AT Once SEOC ACHMP is approved
Underground visit scheduled for the 4 March 2014 with a 8am start, lunch will be provided.	JMcN & DG Mar-14
Final audit report to be sent out to the CCC members	JB Jan-14
Discussion with CCC members to see if they are happy with the community aspect of the HSEC policy.	To be discussed at next meeting 11 March 2014
Look at UHMD website next meeting	JMcN Next meeting 11 March 2014