
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 11th March 2014
2.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company General Manager
Julie McNaughton	(JMcN)	Company Rep (Environmental Consultant)
Alan Tight	(AT)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
James Barben	(JB)	Company Rep (Acting Environment & Community Manager)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:08pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Scotney Moore
Steve Ernst
John McInerney

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 17th December 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: *Debbie Richards* **Seconded:** *James Barben*

5. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

HSEC Policy was circulated at the last meeting and was discussed. No issues have been raised so the action can now be closed out.

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.	SM/AT	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.
During next meeting discuss and schedule CCC members visit of the underground mine.	JMcN Dec-13	Complete – John McInerney attended underground tour.
Present and discuss audit findings from 3 yearly compliance audit at next meeting	JB Dec-13	Complete - Discussed at December 2013 meeting and final report has been circulated to all CC members since last meeting.
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	Complete - HSEC policy added to ACOL website in September 2013. CCC members agreed in this meeting that there were no issues with the HSEC policy and are happy with the current policy.
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	JMcN Mar-14	Ongoing
Send letter to DoP&I asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved.	JMcN Jan-14	DP&I advised that they require a letter from the chairperson. SM to draft letter for GA to sign and submit.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 ASHTON STATISTICS

AT provided a summary of the statistics for the previous three months (December 2013 to February 2014)

BW advised that a TRI reported in February which was related to a fractured finger had recently been upgraded to an LTI.

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 ACOL has also applied for mining leases over the SEOC area and is currently awaiting the outcome of those 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. BW advised that ACOL are currently in the process of obtaining the required approvals and will be going out to contract shortly.

AT advised that the archaeological clearance of the crack zones within the Ox Bow area will be commencing on the 17th March and will initially take place for minimum of 3 weeks.

The Gas Drainage Plant (GDP) was commissioned in December 2013. The purpose of the GDP is to flare the underground gas to mitigate our carbon and greenhouse gas impacts. BW advised that the plant has been running at a fairly low capacity and that flames will not be visible from the stacks.

6.3 APPROVALS UPDATE

JB advised that ACOL is applying for licences for additional dewatering boreholes as well as ground water monitoring piezometers.

Also, development of the LW105-109 Extraction Plan is currently underway in addition to the previously discussed approvals related to the ULLD drifts.

6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

AT 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 HVAS at Site 1 is continuing to track high.

Depositional dust gauges D2 (nearest to Lemington Road) and D5 (on the New England Highway) were the only two gauges to exceed. AT explained that the current location of these gauges makes them susceptible to non ACOL influences.

Water Monitoring

AT presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. Average rainfall was achieved during February. The Electrical Conductivity (EC) trends in Bowmans Creek were indicating low flows until the rain in February. Hunter River and Glennies Creek are showing steady, regulated flows.

It was discussed that the historical elevated readings at SM4 were related to the outcropping of a saline coal seam into Bowmans Creek at the sampling location. That is why this site trends differently to the remainder of the Bowmans Creek Sites.

Noise Monitoring

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

Complaints

There was one complaint received during this quarter (February) received via the DP&I compliance officers. The noise files were assessed for the time of complaint and they were found to be dominated by noise from highway traffic. This information (including noise files) have been provided to the DP&I in response to the complaint.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

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

6.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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

Management Plan	Status	Comments
Bushfire MP	Approved	
Noise MP	Consultation with DP&I, SSC, Integra, Glendell has occurred.	Expect to lodge by 15 March.
Air Quality MP	Consultation with DP&I, SSC, Integra, Glendell has occurred.	Expect to lodge by 15 March.
Spontaneous Combustion MP	Lodged with DRE for their comment.	
Waste MP	Consultation with SSC, still need to consult with EPA.	Expect to lodge by 15 March.
Lighting MP	Lodged with DP&I for their approval.	

JMc provided the following update regarding the South East Open Cut (SEOC) management plans:

Management Plan	Status	Comments
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ACHMP	Approved	
Biodiversity MP	Final draft being prepared by consultant	
Environmental Management Strategy	Lodged with DoPI for approval.	
Groundwater and Aquifer Verification Monitoring Program	2 nd Draft with ACOL for review	
Other Management plans will not be progressed until closer to SEOC start date.		

7. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE

JMcN advised that the UHMD website was currently down and that a tour of the website would not be possible. Intention is to postpone until next CCC meeting.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

MB asked if ACOL had any idea when the SEOC judgment will be received?

BW advised that there had been some movement from the LEC and ACOL had been asked to supply additional information, although there is still no indication of when the judgment will be made.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Additional UG mine tour dates to be sent out after consulting with the UG Mine Manager.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th June 2014 at 2pm

MEETING CLOSED 15:00

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Tree Screen at New England Hwy – Optic fibre has been located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to	SM Oct-14

commence.	
Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos	SM Jun-14
Send letter to DoP&I asking for the endorsed CCC applicant to be approved.	SM Jun-14
Underground visit options to be circulated to CCC members.	SM & AT Jun-14
Look at UHMD website next meeting	SM Next meeting 17 th June 2014