
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2012
1.40PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JMc)	Community Representative
Brian Chilcott	(BC)	Company Rep (Open Cut Manager)
Sarah Roberts	(SR)	Singleton Council (Chairperson)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environmental Coordinator)
Cassandra Storm	(CS)	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:35pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Wesley, Lisa Richards, Godfrey Adamthwaite, Brian Thomas & Tracey Vollebregt.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 20 March 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Steve Ernst **Seconded:** Scotney Moore

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

An ACOL newsletter with an advertisement for the vacant CCC position will be sent out by ACOL prior to next CCC meeting in September.

BW requested SM to commission the noise consultant to conduct a review of the current noise level of the breaker station. SM provided an update on the noise monitoring on the breaker. The new insulation was installed before noise testing could be completed. Noise consultants have been to site and conducted testing after the installation was

complete. ACOL are awaiting the results and will provide CCC members with further information next meeting.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Underground & Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

Mining operations in Longwall 8 panel is complete. Recovery of the longwall face equipment is complete with installation currently underway in the Upper Liddell Seam Longwall 101 Panel.

Development production is continuing in the Maingate 101 gateroad and is nearing completion. Development production in the Upper Liddell Mains will resume shortly, with drive progressions, towards the Maingate 102 panel.

Archaeological salvage works have been completed in Longwall 101 surface area and have moved to the 102 surface area.

Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

Finalisation of installation of the cobbles in the Western Diversion is currently being undertaken. Final shaping of fish holes and the floor has commenced. Logs are being laid out in readiness to be positioned into the creek over the next week. These will be done in conjunction with the rock bars. Dewatering of the Eastern Diversion is continuing with good progress. The project is scheduled to be completed in approximately 3 months.

CCC members provided positive feedback from the BCD project site visit conducted on the 5 June, 2012. CCC members asked if ACOL could hold another inspection for the CCC prior to the project's completion. ACOL to organise and advise CCC members of the date. SR asked if other Council employees could take part in the inspection. ACOL to advise once inspection date has been scheduled.

North East Open Cut (NEOC)

The NEOC is no longer producing. SM provided an update on rehabilitation of the NEOC area. Rehabilitation for 2012 was completed in the first week in of June. 18.8 hectares have been rehabilitated for the 2012 year. ACOL are still ahead of their rehabilitation schedule until rejects emplacement has been completed. Maintenance of the area is continuing.

SE asked about topsoil depth and if thicker topsoil is put on the top of slopes compared to the bottom to take into account erosion. SM advised the topsoil is approximately 100mm deep and is applied as evenly as practical.

South East Open Cut (SEOC)

The second public meeting held by the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) was on Thursday the 31 May, 2012. The PAC board advised the aim was to look at the information based on the addendum report received from the Department of Health, NSW Office of Water and Ashton Coal. The PAC advised they are aiming to reach a decision by the end of June.

JMc asked BC the exact RL height of the pit. BC replied it will be lower than the NEOC, he will confirm the exact height and provide the information back to CCC members. SE asked the highwall height and the duration it will be exposed BC replied it will be exposed for 6-9 months and he will find out the exact height and send out the information with the minutes.

The planned rehabilitation of the SEOC area was also discussed. BC advised the rehabilitation will be undulating. An update on the SEOC rehabilitation plan can be presented at the next meeting – SM to organise.

6.1 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Ventilation Development Consent Modification

On Tuesday 5 June, Modification 9 - for construction of 5.5m diameter upcast ventilation shaft, two extraction fans, ducting and support facilities and construction of two mine service drop holes (1m in diameter) was approved by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DoPI). The shaft will be constructed to the Upper Liddell Seam (the next deepest seam underlying the Pikes Gully Seam) and has been designed to provide efficient and adequate ventilation for the deeper seams, as the mine progresses. ACOL are planning to commence civil works in July.

Gas Drainage Network Development Consent Modification

Work on the development consent modification for the gas drainage network is in the final stages. As discussed in previous meetings ACOL are proposing to install a series of vertical boreholes of various depths through which goaf gas, mainly methane, will be drained from the goafs of Longwalls 1-8 via a surface pipeline reticulation system connected to a central gas extraction plant. The proposal will maintain underground levels of methane below 2% and minimise gas within the goaf from entering the mine workings and ventilation system. Existing goaf gas drainage has been undertaken

during extraction of Longwalls 6A and 7A of the Pikes Gully seam. Currently drainage is undertaken utilising a mobile gas drainage plant. ACOL plans to submit the modification in July 2012.

Extraction Plan

CS advised copies of the EPs have been distributed for review by various agencies. ACOL are in the process of reviewing EPs in line with feedback received from government agencies.

6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

Dust Monitoring

CS provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for the three month period. Ashton Coal did not exceed their PM₁₀ criteria during the quarter.

Blasting

No blasting has occurred since September 2011.

Water Monitoring

CS provided an overview of the surface and ground water monitoring results for the three month period.

Noise Monitoring

Statutory noise monitoring was undertaken in May and there were no exceedences of the Ashton criteria.

Complaints

There were 0 complaints and enquiries received directly to Ashton over the period, however 3 complaints were made to the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH). The complaints were in relation to noise and compost.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

Nil environmental related operational changes were made during the reporting period.

7. NSW MINERALS COUNCIL UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE (UHMD)

CS provided an update on the NSWMC UHMD Social Impacts & Infrastructure Working Group (SI&IWG). The NSWMC released the courteous & safe driving guidelines. The SI&IWG is also researching options for a study on housing impacts and local infrastructure due to growth of the mining industry within the Lower Hunter.

SM provided an update on the Land Management Working Group (LMWG), the NSWMC through the UHMD LMWG funded \$10,000 towards the aerial baiting wild dog control program, due to inefficient funds being available from the Mid Coast Livestock

Health & Pest Authority (LHPA). The aerial baiting program will occur in early August 2012. The weed project has kept progressing with potential sites in Muswellbrook having been visited, however the UHMD LMWG, are still waiting to hear back from Singleton Council to visit potential sites in their local government area.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil general business to report.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 September 2012 @ 1.30PM Site visit Bowmans Creek Diversion Project
2.30PM CCC Meeting ACOL Boardroom

MEETING CLOSED 3:56pm

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
CCC member advertisement to be placed in next ACOL newsletter	LR Aug-12
SM to report noise monitoring results breaker to be completed and report back to CCC members	SM 31/07/2012
Bowmans Creek Diversion Project inspection to be organised	LR Aug-12
SM to provide information on the SEOC planned rehabilitation	SM 18/09/12