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**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
2.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

**ATTENDEES:**

John McNerney	(JMcl)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Council
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)

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:17pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Steve Ernst (SE) Community Representative  
Brian Wesley (BW) Company Rep (General Manager)

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Nil

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 28 March 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

**Moved:** Michael Bestic      **Seconded:** Godfrey Adamthwaite

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

JMcN had emailed Scott Brooks indicating the CCC had discussed covering both the existing operations and the South East Open Cut (SEOC) project, and sought approval for the current CCC to cover both projects. ACOL is yet to receive a response from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I).

The vacant CCC position is currently being advertised in the Singleton Argus.

SM indicated ACOL had requested a quote from Singleton Council for the completion of the Camberwell Village signs (including the establishment date on existing signs). Once these details have been provided the completion of these signs will commence.

Electronic copies of the MOP 2013-17 is available on ACOL's website and a hard copy was offered to the CCC members.

## **6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

#### **Underground**

Currently finalising bolt up of Longwall 101 in the Upper Liddell seam (ULD). The longwall will be then moved to Longwall 6B in the Pikes Gully seam then back to the ULD to mine Longwall 102. Development is progressing well in the ULD for Longwall 102.

There has been only minor subsidence repairs required for Longwall 101; these areas included patches in the conservation area, private property 130 and along sections of the south end of Dairy Lane access road.

#### **North East Open Cut (NEOC)**

During this quarter stage 2 of the caisson pump has been conducted where the next lift of caisson pipes has been installed on the caisson pump.

JMCI asked what was the caisson?

AT explained it was a well within the rejects emplacement area in the NEOC void. The well is constructed of caisson pipes with a pump placed at the bottom. The water from the void will be used as water source for the CHPP.

### **6.2 UPDATES ON:**

#### **Bowmans Creek Diversion Project**

The last of the tree and grass planting is finishing up this week for the winter break, planting will recommence in spring.

#### **South East Open Cut (SEOC)**

Currently in the Land & Environment Court. The hearing is scheduled to start on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013. A determination not expected until sometime in quarter one 2014. ACOL's technical experts are currently developing responses to the appellant's documentation.

### **6.2 PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

#### **Underground Ventilation and Gas Drainage Plant**

The 11KVA electricity supply line has been installed and currently the Geotechnical testing for the foundations is being carried out for the 5.5m Ventilation shaft and Gas Drainage Plant.

The 2.2m Backroad Ventilation fan is being commissioned and noise testing is being carried out.

#### **6.4 ENVIRONMENTAL**

##### **Dust Monitoring**

SM provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for depositional dust gauges, High Volume Air Samplers and TEOM PM<sub>10</sub> monitors, showing the "Rolling Readings" for the past 12 months. There are currently dust gauges which are trending above the compliance criteria; four of the depositional dust gauges (two which were onsite gauges), one HVAS. As for the TEOMs there were four days over the quarter which were above the 50ug/m<sup>3</sup> criteria. Upon investigations these results were not due to ACOL operations.

##### **Water Monitoring**

SM presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. There was a dry end to summer though a wet start to winter. The EC trends in Bowmans Creek indicate there was pooling and little to no flow at the start of the reporting period, with flow returning during the latter part of the reporting period.

##### **Noise Monitoring**

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

##### **Complaints**

There was one complaint received during this quarter. The complaint was received anonymously via the Department of Planning & Infrastructure relating to excessive noise on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. A review of the real time noise monitoring data for this period has been undertaken and it has been established that ACOL was not the source of the noise in question.

##### **Environmentally-Related Operations Changes**

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

#### **6.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The MOP 2013-17 has been approved and signed off. The Noise Management Plan, Air Quality Management Plan and Tailing Emplacement Operations Plan are currently being reviewed. The Extraction Plan for LW6B has been approved by the DP&I, and we are currently waiting on approval of the Subsidence Management Plan by the Department of Trade and Investment.

#### **7. UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE**

Last week an industry working group meeting was held to determine projects that could be proposed to the stakeholder working groups for delivery between now and the end of 2014. The Air Quality Working Group are currently looking at predictive meteorological modeling for the Hunter Valley. The DPI have supplied a draft version of the cattle

grazing trial to the Land Management Working Group, which is currently being reviewed with stakeholders. Both Hunter Valley Operations and Mt Arthur Coal have put forward areas for the trial. While the Social Impacts Working Group is continuing with the housing study.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

MB asked if the presentations could contain extra statistical information such as production data; employment figures; other things that have an impact on the community; positive contributions that mining is making in the community; money into the community – total payroll and royalties paid; rehabilitation status; and safety figures, etc.

JMcI asked what had happened to ACOL's community newsletters?

JMcN said she would investigate on whether they should be reinstated.

JMcI asked if the tree planting along the New England highway from Smiles gateway towards Singleton had been shelved?

SM explained there may be issues associated with the optic fibre cable being located in the area and potential hard rock outcrops. JMcN indicated ACOL will look into having the optic fibre located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence.

## **9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013:

Site tour at 1pm, meeting at 2pm

**MEETING CLOSED 15:28**

<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
CCC member to be appointed once applications have been received	JMcN Sept-13
SM to waiting on response from Richard Upston at Singleton Council with final costs and design of establishment signs for Camberwell Village signs	SM Aug-13
For next presentation to contain extra statistical information such as production data; employment figures; other things that have an impact on the community; positive contributions that mining is making in the community; money into the community; rehabilitation status; and safety figures.	SM Sept-13
Investigate on reinstatement of Newsletter	JMcN Sept-13
Can the AQ plan be updated in the presentation	SM Sept-13
Once applications have been received, a preferred applicant will be put forward to Department of Planning for confirmation.	JMcN Sept-13
Present to CCC the SHEC policy	SM Sept-13
Tree Screen at New England Hwy - Optic fibre to be located and the area archeologically cleared to allow for the tree screens to commence.	SM/AT Sept-13