
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2007
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Cr Fred Harvison	(FH)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
Paul Ashford	(PA)	Community Representative
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (Development Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environmental Co-ordinator)
Adam Spargo	(AS)	Company Observer (Graduate Engineer)
Sherry Russell		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.10pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Greg Summerhayes and John McInerney.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil declared.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 6 March 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record with the following inclusion:

8. *General Business*

DO asked if the cleaning and desludging of water tanks was an option available to all residents in the village. LR responded that the cleaning of tanks was available to non-mine owned residences within the village.

Moved: **Thelma DeJong**

Seconded: **Paul Ashford**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was noted by the Committee that the previous minutes were issued belatedly after the last meeting. Ashton assured the Committee that in future all minutes will be issued in a timely manner.

DO asked if the cleaning of roofs and water tanks was available for rental properties within the village. It was stated that properties owned by Ashton will not be included in the program – only properties which are privately owned are included. DO asked what the status was with regard to the cleaning of tanks within the Village. LR responded that to date seven (7) households have been done. The work is being undertaken in groups of six (6) or seven (7).

BT asked about the methane gas issue with respect to the underground mine. PB advised a meeting was held last week with Macquarie Generation. They are currently working through the approval phase and further documentation will be provided by them in the next few weeks.

DO enquired as to the status of the complaints line. LR advised the complaints process has been updated and that both LR and AS will be notified of after hours complaints immediately via SMS.

PA enquired if the website was up to date in particular with respect to the blast results data as the data for the previous two months is not included. AS to check website and update blast results.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT – KEY ISSUES

Glennies Creek Road

PB advised the Glennies Creek Road is now complete. Only outstanding item is that Council has requested the batters be hydro-mulched, this work will be carried out. FH mentioned the right-hand turn into the mine site from Glennies Creek Road was not very clear. PB advised he would look into this matter. DO mentioned the drainage from Glennies Creek Road going into the Common and the volume of water is a concern. FH requested that DO raise the issue with Council. BT to arrange for the relevant Council officer to contact DO directly.

CHPP Construction

The CHPP is now fully operational. PA suggested that the doors on the Breaker House should be kept closed to minimize escaping dust.

MacGen Tailings Disposal Project

Dam and pipelines are complete. Commissioning of water transfer pipes has occurred. All construction works will be finished by the end of the June. The pumping of tailings commenced at the end of May.

U/G Operation

Ventilation shaft is complete. Underground borehole shaft at in-bye end of Longwall Panel 1 is under construction.

6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL

LR provided the meeting with an update of the environmental monitoring data with respect to dust, noise and blasting issues. BT queried if the EIS predicted that the dust deposition criteria would be exceeded. PA raised concerns about the levels being high without Glendell being operational. LR advised that criteria are standard guidelines, the EIS identifies areas where these are predicted to be exceeded. As a review is currently being undertaken of the EIS predictions, LR was unable to provide a definitive answer.

PA advised that he is receiving a lot of coal dust at his property. PA believed this to be linked to the new CHPP. He noticed that the doors to the Breaker Station were open at the time. PB advised this will be investigated. He also mentioned he is seeing a white smoke-like mist coming up from the underground ventilation shaft. PB responded that it may be moisture and he will raise the question with the underground staff.

LR advised that additional blast monitors have been installed at the Church due to inconsistent monitoring results being received at the currently approved monitoring site. Interim approval has been given by the Department of Planning to relocate the monitor to a more representative location. DO expressed concern about cracks in the Church. TD commented that since the recent rain the cracks seemed to have reduced in size which is consistent with what the structural assessment indicated. Parsons Brinckerhoff were commissioned to undertake a structural report/survey of the Church. In addition to this, a structural engineer recommended by the Diocese was also later commissioned for a second opinion. A copy of the report by the independent engineer was provided. TD noted the report did conclude that the cracking is not associated with blasting but to do with the clay material which acts as the foundation for the Church. It was noted that if moisture is introduced below the foundations that cracking will be less severe.

LR provided an overview of the noise monitoring which has been undertaken for second quarter - February and the third quarter - April. CCC members were provided with a copy of the noise monitoring report by Ashton's noise consultants for the third quarter. During the monitoring period for the second quarter and the third quarter there were no noise exceedances recorded.

DO mentioned there was a problem with the lights being set up in the dump which are shining directly into the village, which could have potential safety issues. PB suggested that additional training be organised for the OCE's to alleviate this problem in the future.

AS provided an overview of the community works being carried out. AS explained the workings of the "water boy" which allows for water to be taken from the top of the tank rather than from the bottom of the tank.

DO asked if the community programs will be undertaken on a regular basis. LR advised that Ashton would be looking at carrying out community works on an annual basis.

6.3 SECTION 94 – LIST OF PRIORITISED WORKS

TD advised that due to vandalism issues at the Church over the recent months, the original proposal to erect a BBQ area at the Church has been shelved. After discussion, it was agreed that the Section 94 Funds be spent restoring the Church and/or the Cemetery. BT will ascertain from Council if the money can be spent on these projects. BT will also look into the issue of erecting a shed on the land near the community hall and check the insurance implications.

6.4 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Covered in section 6.3 above.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

DO asked when the next community surveys will be undertaken. LR advised new surveys are likely to be undertaken in September 2007.

PA asked if an EIS has been started with respect to the south-east open cut. PB advised that no EIS has been commenced. Preliminary investigations indicated that the current exploration area was only a marginal project. Reviews are ongoing.

Documents provided:
Quarter 3 Noise Report – SSC and CCC
Quarter 2 Dust Report – SSC and CCC
Church Structural Inspection - TD

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 September 2007.

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No site inspection was undertaken.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.40PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
White smoke-list mist coming up from the underground – issue raised by Paul Ashford and dust coming from the CHPP, mainly at night time.	PB
OCE training with respect to the installation of lighting on the dump.	LR
Money from Section 94 Contributions to be spent on restoring St Clements Church and/or Cemetery – Council to advise if this is possible.	BT