
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2011
1:05PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Sarah Roberts	(SR)	Singleton Council
Godfrey Adamwaithe	(GA)	Singleton Council (Chairperson)
Brian Wesley	(PB)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Relations Mgr)
Cassandra Ferguson	(CF)	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John McInernery (JMc).

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 14 December 2010 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Steve Ernst **Seconded:** Sarah Roberts

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

SR confirmed letters had been sent out by SSC to Thelma DeJong and Deidre Olofsson thanking them for the participation in the ACOL CCC.

Section 94 – Town signage –Kim Horn from the Parks department at Singleton Council is redoing the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) to accompany the Development Application (DA) for installation of the town signage. GA asked SR if there was a time frame for the application process SR replied not specifically. SR mentioned possible the 9-10 March for completion of the DA. SR was to follow up.

Advertising for new members of the ACOL CCC - ACOL received the advertisement for the new committee member from SSC. SSC received an application from Michael Bestic for the committee position. Currently waiting to see if there were any additional applications .

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Underground

BW provided an update of current UG operations. Approval had been received for the Bowmans Creek Diversion (BCD) project. ACOL are currently working through receiving subordinate approvals with a view to commence partial operations in mid March. Longwall equipment is currently being installed in LW7A, which is to the south of the Bowmans Creek Diversion. The drift has been completed from the Pikes Gully to the upper Liddell seam and ACOL plan to commence mining in the Upper Liddell in March. GA asked BW if ACOL will superimpose the Upper Liddell over the Pikes Gully. BW replied there is a 6m offset of the roadways GA asked if it will be the same height BW replied the seam is thinner and roadways will be mined at the same height. BW advised ACOL will commence the Western diversion followed by the Eastern. SE asked who will be supervising construction of the diversion. BW advised ACOL have employed a Construction Manager & Supervisor. BW advised ACOL will be conducting specific engineering & environmental monitoring during the diversion. SE advised the BCD project has been utilised as a case study for Tim Duddy's election campaign. BW replied he had seen the flyer and advised the project was approved in consultation with the NSW Office of Water (NOW).

North East Open Cut

BW provided an overview of the open cut operations. The last Barrett seam was mined in early February. ACOL are currently mining sections of the Arties pit. Mining in the Arties pit will be completed in early April. SR asked if this was part of ACOL's contingency plan due to ACL not having approval for the SEOC project yet. BW replied yes. BW advised part of the workforce has been doing other works and some of them will be on BCD construction crews. The crews have also been completing training programs. The development consent modification for the Hebden seam will add another 3 months to production of the current open cut.

BW advised ACOL provided Department of Planning (DoP) with additional information regarding the SEOC proposal in January 2011. The bund and pit shell has been moved further back from the highway, an impermeable clay wall has been added and there will only be day and afternoon shift, there will be no mining activities on night shift for the first two years. The submission also included reassessment of dust, air, ground and surface water. SE asked if this was a DoP required modification LR replied that DoP requested that ACOL look at ways of minimising impacts on Camberwell village.

SE asked with the election in the near future are ACOL expecting a decision on the SEOC project LR replied the SEOC will go to an independent Planning Assessment Commission not to the Minister for the decision on the final approval so it is hoped that it will not be affected by the election but this is not certain. SR replied the government goes into caretaker mode. LR responded that this does not include the government departments.

6.1 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

PROPOSED GAS DRAINAGE & VENTILATION DEVELOPMENT CONSENT MODIFICATION

LR did a presentation on the development application modification for the Hebden pit and gas drainage wells. The joint modification was submitted to DoP in February 2011. As discussed in the last CCC meeting the modification includes the Construction and operation of approximately fifteen gas venting surface wells for the underground mine and Open cut recovery of about 100,000 tonnes (t) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal from the Hebden Seam, about 13 m beneath the floor of the existing open cut mine, over a period of 3 months. The modification will allow for continued safe operation of the existing underground mine and continuation of employment for approximately 80 people while the SEOC project is being assessed.

6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

DUST MONITORING

LR 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

A total of 63 blasts were conducted during from December – February 2011. ACOL are currently not exceeding blasting criteria.

WATER MONITORING

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

NOISE MONITORING

Statutory noise monitoring was undertaken in February and there were no exceedances of the Ashton criteria.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

LR discussed the current rehabilitation works with the meeting attendees ACOL have had the dozer working with a rock rake on the Southern and Northern slopes. This work is to remove areas of heavy Galina (weed) infestation prior to reseeded with pasture. There had been some complaints in relation to the noise while this work was being undertaken as some of the areas are within view of Camberwell residents. All work in these exposed areas was being done in the best available weather conditions with the dominant wind away from Camberwell and only during daylight hours.

SE asked if there was any difference on the noise trace files of the D10 against the D11. LR replied no however there is a noticeable difference between the trucks. It was also noted that the new attenuated dozer is quieter than the others. LR advised that all truck in the existing ACOL truck fleet have been retrofitted with sound attenuation except the chitter truck which will be done in the near future. BW highlighted this will assist in minimising noise when the equipment is moved over to the SEOC.

LR advised ACOL updated the company's website (www.ashtoncoal.com.au) in January 2011.

MEETING CLOSE 2:31 PM**8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7 June 2011 @ 2.30PM

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS – Not conducted**ACTION ITEMS**