
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 30 MAY 2006
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (Development Manager)
Tracey Rock	(TR)	Company Rep (Technical Services Manager)
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Rep (U/G Mine Manager) – part meeting
James Grebert	(JG)	Company Rep (Mining Engineer) – part meeting
Joanne Woodhouse	(JW)	ERM
Sherry Russell		Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.10pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members:

Fred Harvison (Singleton Council)
Peter Horn (Environmental Officer)

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil declared.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 22 November 2005 and 28 February 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: *Thelma DeJong*

Seconded: *John McInerney*

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

JM raised the issue of the vacancy on the CCC meeting. BT advised Council had received 2 enquiries – no submissions have been received in writing.

JM raised the topic of safety issues along Glennies Creek Road – advised new white lines were a good improvement – no speed limit sign in place as yet. BT to raise signage issue with Greg McTaggart from Council.

TD raised the issue of prickly pear near Glennies Creek. Previous advice from DLWC was that the Cactoblastus beetle should control. Nil evidence to date.

JM advised noise was heard at 7.45am one Sunday morning. TR will look into this matter.

TR advised the noise issue raised at the last meeting was being caused from a loader feeding the hopper at the CHPP. It was also noted that under the DA the CHPP is allowed to operate 24 hours per day.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 From Project Management

TR provided a presentation of the current and future operations of the mine.

PB provided an overview of the MacGen tailings dams project. Infrastructure works will commence in August. Tailings will be moved to the void area by pipeline.

No questions were raised at the conclusion of the presentations.

6.2 From Environmental Officer

TR provided the environmental presentation to the committee showing the data collected with respect to environmental monitoring.

JM questioned the location of the environmental monitors, namely, location 7 and its usefulness as a background dust monitor. PB responded that it is in the best available position.

DO raised the issue of groundwater water monitoring results with respect to underground mining. PB advised that the groundwater results are available for reference in the AEMR. TR advised results could be distributed with the minutes.

JM advised that there is more dust coming from the open cut mine as we mine closer to the surface. TR will look into this issue and confirm that drillers are using all dust suppression available.

JM raised the issue of the Environmental Hotline and advised that residents not happy with the message service facility. Queries are not being addressed within the 24 hour period. TR went through and explained the process with respect to the message bank service. PB advised that all complainants are notified and advised of the outcome of their complaint within the 24 hour period. If this is not the case residents are asked to provide specific examples for follow-up.

6.4 Underground Mine Subsidence

BW introduced Joanne Woodhouse from ERM to the Committee. ERM have been engaged by Ashton to undertake the Mine Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) study. BW provided an overview to the meeting of the underground operations with respect to the mine subsidence. BW advised that local residents can contact Joanne Woodhouse on 4964 2150 or contact the environmental hotline on 1800 657 639 with any comments regarding the SMP. BW advised no water is discharged off site – any water is transferred to the washery.

SMP will be submitted at the end of July 2006. It was decided that a notice be issued via a Newsletter to local residents to advise a meeting will be held on Thursday 29 June 2006 commencing at 5.00pm. Residents wishing to attend to required to contact Ashton.

6.5 Section 94 – list of prioritised works

TR advised the issue of changing the zoning and the installation of a “picnic area” near the Church is around \$55,000. JM asked if Ashton would provide the additional funding. PB advised that Ashton have written to Council advising there will be an additional section 94 contribution with the respect to the underground mine employees. BT will chase this issue up. JM asked if TR could provide a breakdown of costs with respect to the \$50,000 mentioned above. Ashton will issue a further letter to Council requesting that a portion be spent on community enhancement. Letter will be tabled at the next CCC meeting.

6.6 Action Items from Previous Meeting

Issues were discussed in item 5 above.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Items discussed above.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 September 2006 at 1.00pm.

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No site inspection was undertaken.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.55PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Blast fume – presentation for next meeting with reference to what it is, is it harmful, how is it prevent and all other facts that will provide information for the community.	TR (ACOL)
Groundwater monitoring results for the underground and the EC graph for Glennies Creek River to be issued with the final May minutes.	TR (ACOL)
Environmental Hotline – contact message bank service provider to find out why they refused to take complaints after the fourth complaint.	TR (ACOL)
Newsletter to be distributed advising residents of the “Special CCC” meeting on Thursday 29 June 2006 to discuss the SMP.	TR (ACOL)
DO requested that an explanation be printed in the next Newsletter explaining the stone dusting process, what it is, why, what its made up, how it works and what the effects are.	TR (ACOL)
Further letter to be issued to council regarding section 94 contributions – letter to tabled at the next meeting.	PB (ACOL)
Raise the issue of OCE’s responding to complaints – advising complainants the complaint has been received and are rectifying the problem.	TR (ACOL)
Rotary drills – confirm that all dust suppression equipment is being used and that the drillers understand the why it is important to use such equipment.	TR (ACOL)