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**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2010  
1:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

**ATTENDEES:**

Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
Sarah Roberts	(SR)	Singleton Council (Chairperson)
Brian Wesley	(PB)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Relations Mgr)
Scotney Moore		Minute Taker

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Brian Thomas and Godfrey Adamwaithe, Singleton Council and Peter Barton, Company Representative.

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

TD handed her resignation letter to Council (SR) and indicated she was resigning from the CCC and leaving the meeting.

DO handed her resignation letter to Council (SR) and indicated she was resigning from the CCC and leaving the meeting.

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

**Moved:** Steve Ernst

**Seconded:** Lisa Richards

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

JM asked what is slot mining in the Open Cut. LR explained slot mining and its processes.

JM asked if there were any adverse effects. LR replied that there were no adverse environmental effects though the Open Cut production was suffering as it is a slower process.

JM said Glennies Creek Road is still cracking. LR said the road will continue to experience slight cracking at a decreasing rate while the void is being filled behind. These movements are within predicted levels and do not pose any risk.

SE asked if there had been any movement on the eastern side. BW replied there had been only some small movement. LR said the hill will never fail towards the village due to the current movement. LR drew a diagram on the board and explained the movement. The slot mining process has been advised by the Geotechnical consultants to minimise ongoing impacts.

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

### **6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

BW provided an overview of current Open Cut operations. North East Open Cut (NEOC) is scheduled to finish during December 2010 / January 2011. Ashton is currently waiting for approval for the South East Open Cut (SEOC) Project.

BW provided an update of the underground operations. Mining is currently being completed in Longwall 6 South. Scheduled completion date for Longwall 6 South is November 2010. Development is occurring in Maingate 8 and in the drift.

BW advised Ashton at this stage will not be producing in coal in first quarter of 2011 with the Longwall being down until April and there will be no coal from the SEOC in quarter one.

### **6.1 PROJECTS OVERVIEW**

#### **South East Open Cut**

LR provided an update on the SEOC Project approval process. SR asked if we had heard from Department of Planning (DoP). LR advised ACOL has had the submission in since June 2010. DoP has asked for additional information regarding the cumulative impacts on Camberwell. JM asked how far away ACOL are from receiving the project approval. LR indicated that ACOL were hoping to see an approval late October / early November 2010 however this was not guaranteed as DoP were still assessing the project. ACOL expect that the Christmas break and State election would cause issues if we don't have approval by end of November 2010.

#### **BOWAN'S CREEK DIVERSION**

LR provided an update on the Bowman's Creek Diversion Project approval process and explained the issues that have been addressed with DoP. The submissions have been sent to the NSW Office of Water.

LR, SE & SR discussed Integra and Mt Arthur's approvals.

JM asked why ACOL approval had been held up. LR explained that it is due to DoP paying close consideration to the environmental / dust impacts on Camberwell and the proximity of the project to Camberwell. LR discussed the dust and noise impact areas for the SEOC and that trucks onsite are currently in the process of being retrofitted with sound attenuation packages.

### **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 PM<sub>10</sub> criteria during the quarter.

**BLASTING**

A total of 136 blasts were conducted during the 2009-2010 AEMR reporting period.

**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 on the 10 August and there were no exceedances of the Ashton criteria.

**REHABILITATION**

LR provided an overview of the Autumn/Winter rehabilitation which was completed in August 2010.

JM said he had slashed around the Site 8 monitoring location and wondered if it had increased the PM<sub>10</sub> levels.

LR explained the PM<sub>10</sub> monitors have 10 minute average readings review results to see if there had been an increase in levels, LR asked JM when he completed the slashing JM replied it was around a fortnight ago.

LR asked JM to report the date and time when he next slashes around Site 8 and ACOL will conduct a review of dust results for that day.

JM asked if ACOL have made commitments to improve dust conditions for the SEOC compared to NEOC. LR explained ACOL has made commitments for exposed overburden faces to be rehabilitated quickly and where there were delays due to ongoing dumping, cover cropping and/or a sealant will be conducted.

JM said mine rehabilitation should aim towards producing woodlands as their areas will never go back to pasture for grazing. LR explained for the SEOC Ashton is planning to use natural regrade with valleys and peaks which will be predominately woodland areas on the slopes and valleys with pastures on top.

JM asked what is the planned RL height of the dump near the New England Highway for the SEOC. LR said offhand she was not sure but it was lower than the Burgess peak. Lisa then explained natural regrade and the proposed landform with the use of some final landform plans proposed for the SEOC.

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

JM reported there had been a noisy dozer reversing at 0300am about 3 weeks ago.

LR replied the only equipment ACOL only have a dozer operating on the product stockpiles at that time as the open cut shuts down at 2200. It is possible the noise may have been coming from another operation. LR explained how our attended noise monitoring consultants have been picking up noise levels from other mines in the village after 2200pm. If JM Can provide ACOL with exact time and date next time the noise occurs ACOL will investigate potential noise sources.

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SE asked if DoP had been interviewing for their positions in Singleton. LR said at the time of the dust audit DoP agents said they had been.  
SR also confirmed this and that two had been appointed for a 3 year period.

JM asked what's happening with section 93 (Camberwell town signage).  
LR said she was not sure, it was currently with council, all plans and designs had been submitted to council and the RTA.  
SR said the last she knew that the problem was that the sandstone was hard to get.

**MEETING CLOSE 2:05 PM**

**8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14 December 2010 @ 1.00PM

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

**MEETING CLOSED AT 2:49PM**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Council to send letter to TD and DO thanking them for time on the CCC;
2. Council to advertise for two new members on the CCC; and
3. SR to find out from Kim where the Camberwell town signage is up to.