
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2011
2.30PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Steve Ernst	(SE)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JMc)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA)	Singleton Council (Chairperson)
Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council Representative
Brian Wesley	(PB)	Company Rep (General Manager)
Lisa Richards	(LR)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Relations Mgr)
Scotney Moore	(SM)	Company Rep (Environment Coordinator)
Brooke Holland	(BH)	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:30pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tracey Vollebreght (alternate delegate).

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

LR / BW declared current negotiations with SE and JMc for purchase of properties.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 9 June 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Brian Wesley **Seconded:** Steve Ernst

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Section 94 – Town signage – Final approvals lodged with Singleton City Council around three weeks ago. Kim Horn is no longer a Council employee. New contact at SCC is Alan Fletcher. CCC members expressed their frustration at the delay in installing the town signage, noted that this process has taken a number of years, seemingly without any meaningful progress during this time.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**6.1 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

Underground & Bowmans Creek Diversion Project

LR explained that the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) had been granted and that salvage works for Aboriginal Heritage had commenced.

ACOL Are waiting on water approvals and licences from NSW Office of Water (NOW) before construction can start on the Bowmans Creek diversions. Due to the delay in the construction of the Bowmans Creek diversion it was necessary to move the longwall, which caused the sterilization of 610,000 tonnes of coal. As such 50% of LW7A has been mined and the longwall has been moved to LW7B.

North East Open Cut

BW advised that there are only two weeks' left of mining in the Hebden seam; ACOL's final blasting to occur tomorrow, Wednesday 14 September 2011. Mining operations will cease from 28 September 2011.

LR explained the procedure that ACOL would then follow: rehabilitation of the open cut site; the methods that ACOL would use – standard seed mix used for cover cropping prior to full rehabilitation being undertaken.

BW answered JMc's question as to how long staff would be kept on once Hebden operations cease. The answer is that there is no definitive answer. ACOL will do its best to keep people on for as long as possible.

LR pointed out that staff would be needed to carry out the rehabilitation work.

South East Open Cut (SEOC)

If development consent is awarded by the Planning Assessment Commission, then a process of applying for and obtaining various other subordinate approvals commences. The duration of this process is typically 3 – 4 months.

The PAC visited ACOL Monday September 5, 2011, and then held a community meeting Tuesday September 6, 2011. LR explained that there are still some issues being discussed between the Department of Planning and the NSW Office of Water.

The Plains Clan of the Wanaruah people have appealed the Native Title decision in the Federal Court ; at present, the grounds for their appeal are not clear.

ACOL expects that a decision on Camberwell Common Land and Environment Court proceedings will be forthcoming this week or early next week.

Action Item – Once the galenia trials area finalised send a copy of the final report to CCC members; trials are nearly complete.

LR advised a small amount of drainage works, a cover crop and possible spray crusting agent is still to be completed on the rehabilitation works program. BW advised the Hebden material once mined will go back into the Arties then placed in the lower levels for a buttress. This previously stopped the cracking on Glennies Creek Road. MB asked if long term the open cut void would disappear. BW replied yes it would as the void will be filled with rejects. SE asked if the current void would be sufficient for the SEOC rejects as well as UG. LR replied yes and the tailings dam located at Macquarie Generation will also be utilised. Any excess underground tailings will be stored in the SEOC void once completed.

6.1 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Proposed Gas Drainage Network & Ventilation Development Consent Modification

LR explained that no substantive changes or developments have occurred for this project.

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

Ashton Coal were compliant in all blasts that took place over the last period.

Water Monitoring

LR provided an overview of the surface and ground water monitoring results for the three month period. LR explained that 5 of the past 6 months have seen abnormally high levels of rainfall and that our tree rehabilitation has benefitted from this phenomenon.

Noise Monitoring

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

Complaints

There were 8 complaints over the period from two complainants,. All complaints were related to noise.

Environmentally-Related Operations Changes

Additional Water carts were utilised on 5 July 2011 due to windy conditions.
Blast delayed 7 July 2011 due to conditions.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

NSW Minerals Council Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Cassandra Ferguson is sitting on the Community Working Group.
Scotney Moore is sitting on the Rehabilitation Working Group.
Lisa Richards is sitting on the Environmental Working Group (SM fills in for her in case of absence).

11 August 2011: Department of Planning sent out *guidelines* for mine websites; this contains suggestion that each member of CCC be named on the website. As the minutes of each meeting are part of the public record, and no details other than names shall be published, no member of the committee objects to this change.

Action: CF to arrange for this amendment to be made to the ACOL website.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6 December 2011 @ 1.30PM – site visit (CF to liaise on this)
2:30PM – CCC meeting ACOL Boardroom

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS – Not conducted

ACTION ITEMS	
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Once the galenia trials area finalised send a copy of the final report to CCC members	SM
CF to amend the ACOL website to list CCC members names	CF