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## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP  
 Time: 9:32am – 10:50am  
 Date: 31 May 2017

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Josh Chadwick (JC)	Austar Coal Mine
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
<b>Apologies</b>	
Councillor Mark Lyons (ML)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
Councillor Bob Pynsent	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	<b>Welcome</b>		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting 9:32am		
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>		
	MMH has received all members declarations using the new CCC guidelines format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes to the declarations of interest as previously stated</li> </ul>		
3	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. DH moved, AS seconded.  MMH - Discussed committee requirement in the new CCC guidelines for an independent minute taker. MMH raised and all agreed that the current minute taker, an Austar employee, provided an accurate record of meetings, and that this requirement was deemed unnecessary for the Austar CCC at this stage.		
4	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>		
	DH – Asked for an update on MB01 water level. GM advised that an update will be provided in Section 6 with environmental monitoring information.  <i>Sharing the Benefits</i> Access and Compensation Agreement and possible implications of proposed changes to the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act. GM indicated that the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act is not being repealed, but the administration of it and who pays for damage caused by subsidence is proposed to change. GM distributed a letter received from Department of Finance, Services and Innovation in October 2016 of that nature. Claimants will still lodge a claim with Subsidence Advisory NSW, but the process of administering the claim and arranging repairs will change. The Sharing the Benefits agreement will not need to change, damage will still be assessed and repaired under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act.  MMH stated that her term as the MSB was scheduled to expire in June has now been extended into next year.		
5	<b>Correspondence</b>		
	Nil		

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6	<p><b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b></p>		
	<p>GM – provided an update on current and proposed underground operations.</p> <p><b><u>CURRENT OPERATIONS</u></b></p> <p><b>UNDERGROUND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area.</li> <li>▪ Longwall mining is continuing in B3. Extraction began 11/3/2017.</li> <li>▪ BW stated LW has completed approximately 550m of extraction in B3 and scheduled to finish Aug 2017</li> </ul> <p><b>BELLBIRD SOUTH LWB4-B7 MODIFICATION</b></p> <p>GM provided an update on the LWB4-B7 modification and Environmental Assessment outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Austar lodged an application to DPE on 22 May 2017 to modify development consent DA29/95 to extend the development consent area to permit extraction of LWB4-B7.</li> <li>▪ No additional surface infrastructure or changes to existing infrastructure will be required.</li> <li>▪ Conventional longwall mining method to be used in LWB4-B7. Depth of cover approx. 400-505m. Approximately 3.65Mt of additional ROM coal may be recovered.</li> <li>▪ Approximate longwall dimensions: void widths 237m. extraction height 3.4m, void lengths: LWB4 1125m, LWB5 1105m, LWB6 1065m, LWB7 725m.</li> <li>▪ An Environmental Assessment to support the modification application has been prepared. Specialist assessments include subsidence, flooding and drainage, groundwater, ecology, cultural heritage, greenhouse gas &amp; energy. Plans showing the relevant specialist study areas were shown.</li> <li>▪ Predicted subsidence parameters less than approved Stage 2 or Stage 3 Mining Areas. Maximum predicted total vertical subsidence for LWB1-7 is 1350mm.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum modelled flood depth before and after plans show: an increase in depth in several areas but no significant change to flood extent: no changes to areas with dwellings; access to/from properties in 1% AEP storm event unchanged. A minor area of increased periodic ponding is predicted on Austar owned land adjacent to an existing ponding area, vegetation in this area has been assessed as being capable of periodic ponding without widespread loss of vegetation.</li> </ul> <p>GM also advised that the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) was modelled during this assessment. This was mentioned by the Office of Environment and Heritage during the previous modification. The PMF modelling indicated that the primary access to one property may be partly inundated during a PMF event, but not the 1 in 100 year event. There is alternate access available to the resident for safety in such an occurrence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Environmental Assessment and detailed impact assessments undertaken for the LWB4-B7 Modification conclude that the proposed modification is likely to result in only minor environmental impacts.</li> <li>▪ This is primarily due to the substantial depth of cover (&gt;400m), the design of longwall panels, the overlying and surrounding site characteristics, and Austar’s commitment to continued implementation of monitoring, management and mitigation measures.</li> <li>▪ Subsidence parameters for LWB4-B7 are less than the Stage 2 or Stage 3 mining areas. Extensive monitoring in those areas has shown no significant impacts associated with underground mining, including no visible surface cracking, negligible impacts to creeks or near surface aquifers, no observable impact to flora/fauna, and no significant impacts to built features. The LWB4-B7 mining area is predicted to have similar low impacts.</li> <li>▪ Existing management measures implemented at Austar will be extended to the LWB4-B7 mining area including additional monitoring.</li> <li>▪ The Environmental Assessment demonstrates that with the continued implementation of existing monitoring, management and mitigation measures, the proposed modification can proceed within acceptable environmental standards.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation has occurred in lead up to application lodgement with affected landholders, infrastructure owners, Cessnock City Council, and relevant agencies.</li> <li>▪ Public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment will occur from 1 to 15 June 2017.</li> <li>▪ The Environmental Assessment may be viewed at Cessnock City Council offices, at the Nature Conservation Council in Sydney, or at Austar Coal Mine main office.</li> <li>▪ Electronic version of the Environmental Assessment will be available on DPE website, and Austar Coal Mine website.</li> <li>▪ Longwall extraction of LWB4 is proposed to commence in Q3 2017, this is dependent on approval of the modification application, and of an Extraction Plan for the proposed longwall panels.</li> </ul> <p><b>STAGE 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current plan is for development to recommence mid 2018. To be followed by longwall extraction 2019.</li> <li>▪ Technical assessment of the mining area has been in progress for some time including further input from drilling, geophysical surveys, coal burst studies etc. Data collection expected to be completed in Q3 2017 to support the technical assessment for Stage 3 mining.</li> </ul> <p><b>CHPP</b></p> <p>Normal operations have been occurring.</p> <p><b>EXPLORATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exploration drilling has continued over the Stage 3 area. Four boreholes have been completed so far in 2017 with work currently beginning on the fifth.</li> <li>▪ Drilling is also planned within the Exploration Licence area south side of the Stage 3 mining area (south of Sandy Creek Road).</li> <li>▪ Ground based seismic and magnetometer surveys are scheduled for Q2-Q3 2017 mainly over the Stage 3 area and Exploration Licence area. Landholder access is presently being sought for these areas. The seismic survey</li> </ul>		

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	<p>will be completed using a buggy mounted vibration source, and magnetometer surveys will involve pedestrian surveys. A handheld vibration unit will be used in sensitive areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further consultation directly with relevant landholders will be undertaken to discuss exploration proposals.</li> </ul> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Incidents (28 March 2017 – 31 May 2017)</b></p> <p><b>8 May 2017 – Noise Exceedance Monitored</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise levels measured from Austar’s CHPP on 8/5/17 were below EPL noise limits at all locations until 5dB modifying factor was applied as is currently mandated in the Industrial Noise Policy for “low frequency noise”.</li> <li>▪ With the 5dB modifying factor applied the resultant noise level at NMC2 and NMC3 was 5dB and 4dB greater than the relevant noise limit respectively and the resultant noise level at NMC4 and NMC5 were 1 and 2 dB greater than the limit.</li> <li>▪ No atypical operations were occurring at the CHPP during this period.</li> <li>▪ Actions: EPA &amp; DPE notified once exceedance was confirmed on 9/5/17. Follow up monitoring occurred on 16/5/17 with no exceedances measured. Onsite measurements to continue noise control options assessment and identification of potential “low frequency” sources was already scheduled to occur on 10/5/17. An incident report was sent to EPA &amp; DPE on 16/5/17. DPE and EPA were advised that follow up monitoring complied with noise limits.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE</u></b></p> <p><b>Subsidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subsidence surveys have occurred over the centerline of LWB2, LWB1-B3 crossline, Sandy Creek Road and Barraba Lane.</li> <li>▪ Max. recorded surface level movement is ~270mm. 40mm on Sandy Ck Rd.</li> </ul> <p>Discussed undermining Sandy Creek Road. GM advised that visual inspection to look for possible damage is undertaken during</p>		

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	<p>mining as has been undertaken in the Stage 3 area for Quorrobolong Road. Also, Sandy Creek Road has been undermined by the Ellalong Colliery immediately adjacent to the Bellbird South mining area, and it is difficult to observe where the mining area commences and ends. This is due to depth of cover and overlying strata being a large sandstone unit.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Results General</b></p> <p>Graphs showing results for the period on subsidence, air quality, water, groundwater, noise and vibration monitoring were presented.</p> <p><b>Groundwater Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Monitoring Bore 01 (MB01)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Quarterly monitoring, completed during March 2017 shows the water level in sandstone overburden bore MB01 (located over longwall panel A9) continues to decrease but at a lesser rate.</li> <li>▪ No decrease due to mining has been observed in other nearby monitoring wells (MB02).</li> </ul> <p><b>Noise Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (28 March 2017 to 30 May 2017)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise exceedances recorded during one monitoring event on 8 May 2017. Follow up monitoring was within limits. Details were provided in Incidents section of the presentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vibration</b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (28 March 2017 to 31 May 2017)</b></p> <p><b>Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No new events greater than 1mm/s</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitor V9 – Barraba Lane - Thompson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No new events greater than 1mm/s</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Complaints</b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (28 March 2017 to 31 May 2017)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nil Complaints</li> </ul>		

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7	<b>General Business</b>		
	<p><b>Landholder Access and Compensation Agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Austar has received enquiry from landholders in the Stage 3 mining area regarding Austar’s Sharing the Benefits Agreement (STBA).</li> <li>▪ Both a Short Form Access Agreement and the STBA have been offered in Longwall Top Coal Caving mining areas (Stage 2 and Stage 3). Stage 2 mining was completed in 2013. Stage 3 landholders were advised of the arrangements during community meetings and individual correspondence/discussions regarding land access and compensation during the Stage 3 mining area Project Application and Stage 3 Modification.</li> <li>▪ Austar confirms the Short Form and STBA continue to be offered to landholders in the Stage 3 Mining Area.</li> <li>▪ Stage 3 landholders will be advised in writing of the recommencement of mining in the Stage 3 area.</li> <li>▪ The opportunity for Stage 3 landholders to take up STBA will remain available for 6 months after recommencement of mining in the Stage 3 area.</li> <li>▪ The STBA is not offered in other mining areas where conventional longwall mining occurs.</li> </ul> <p>PS stated that it is good that the STB offer has been held open for those offered it previously (Stage 3 landholders) and that confirmation of the timing and schedule give clarity to landholders and the company.</p> <p><b>Community Sponsorships –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Austar’s Community Support Program 2017 was advertised in the Cessnock Advertiser during May 2017. Closing date for applications was 19 May 2017. 11 applications were received. Austar to review applications and advise successful/unsuccessful applicants during June 2017.</li> <li>▪ Cessnock Mayoral Academic Scholarships 2017. Austar has supported the Mayoral Academic Scholarships with a Mining Technical/Engineering scholarship. 2017 was</li> </ul>		



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	awarded to Bradley Cairns - BE (Electrical and Electronic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hunter Valley Steamfest 2017 – continued to support the event with coal sponsorship.</li> </ul>		
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next Meeting <b>23 August 2017</b></li> </ul> DH – gave apology as will be unable to make next meeting		
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:50am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 31/05/2017

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill