
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 28 July 2015
2:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

Minutes confirmed as true and correct at the 24 November 2015 CCC Meeting

ATTENDEES:

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| John McInerney | (JM) | Community Representative |
| Michael Bestic | (MB) | Community Representative |
| Godfrey Adamthwaite | (GA) | Singleton Shire Council (SSC) |
| Digby Short | (DS) | Company Rep (Environment & Community Manager) |
| James Barben | (JB) | Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator) |

A site inspection was conducted pre and post the CCC Meeting of the North East Open Cut Rehabilitation area.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 2:15pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Brian Wesley (Company Rep), Debbie Richards (Community Rep) and Steve Ernst (Community Rep).

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 24th March 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: James Barben **Seconded:** Godfrey Adamthwaite

5. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

| ITEM | RESPONSIBILITY | PROGRESS COMMENTS |
|---|----------------|---|
| Tree Screen at New England Hwy | DS | Engaged WMRS to source seedlings. Ecologist inspecting site during week commencing 27 July. Advised to that planting will be completed by the end of October. |
| Newsletter to be drafted, published and distributed to community – including donations summary, SEOC appeal, UG infrastructure projects and rehabilitation photos | DS | Community newsletter postponed. Focus on Community Support Program. |
| Notify the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority of the Green Cestrum issues upstream of ACOL land holdings | JB | Complete – notified Upper Hunter Weeds Authority of Green Cestrum issue. |
| Land management contractors to conduct an inspection of the ACOL owned property adjoining JM's land and conduct appropriate weed management works. | JB | Inspection scheduled for week commencing 3-8-15 |

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 ASHTON STATISTICS

JB and DS provided a summary of the statistics since the last CCC meeting. This included community donations, production, and safety statistics.

6.2 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

DS presented an overview of the new Community Support program including a summary of support provided this year.

6.3 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS / PROJECTS / EXPLORATION

JB updated the CCC on production progress for the previous quarter. A delayed longwall move will cause ACOL to be below budget for production.

South East Open Cut (SEOC): Yancoal had provided a notice of appeal, with the hearing set for August. It is noted that site representatives are not directly involved in this process and are unaware the status of this appeal (DS).

JB provided update on Upper Lower Liddell (ULLD) Drifts. The actual drifts are complete with work continuing on the pit bottom first workings.

JB advised that there had been no surface exploration conducted on EL5860 or EL4918 in the period since the previous CCC meeting.

6.4 APPROVALS UPDATE

JB gave an update on the approvals determined since the previous meeting including:

- LW104 Subsidence Monitoring Program (DRE)

JB also gave an update on the development of the LW105-107 Extraction Plan.

6.5 ENVIRONMENT MONITORING

Dust Monitoring

JB provided an overview of the dust monitoring sites and results for depositional dust gauges, High Volume Air Samplers and real time TEOM PM₁₀ monitors, showing the Rolling Readings for the past 12 months. Of note was the elevated rainfall for February and a regional dust event on 6th May 2015.

Water Monitoring

JB presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. The Glennies Creek upstream and midstream monitoring point for May presented an unusually high salinity. The point will continue to be monitored but is not of significant concern. The point returned to typical readings in June.

Noise Monitoring

Attended monthly noise monitoring did not detect any exceedences for the reporting period.

Complaints

There have been no complaints since the previous CCC Meeting.

Other Matters

JB discussed the current weed management program including box thorn mulching. JM mentioned that he had noted some weeds on a neighboring property owned by Ashton Coal. JB committed to having the land management contractors conduct an inspection of the property with John and conduct appropriate weed management works.

JB discussed the current feral animal management program which includes trapping and shooting. JM expressed concerns about shooting near the highway and Camberwell. JB outlined the controls and offsets put in place to manage the risks.

JB gave an update on the construction of the interseam staple shafts. Currently drilling has been completed on the first shaft with the second shaft to be constructed later this year. These shafts facilitate ventilation to the Upper Lower Liddell Seam.

DS discussed the Wonnaruah Mining Rehabilitation (WMR) Nursery which is establishing operations in Camberwell. WMR have experienced some theft and security issues and as such wish to install a sea container to securely store their goods. JM expressed concern that this may be unsightly and requested that should this proceed the installation is made in a proper manner and maintained in a tidy condition. GA mentioned that Singleton Council may also have a policy for sea containers that may be relevant.

DS gave an update on changes to personnel within Ashton Coal as a result of restructuring.

DS gave an overview of our support for the Adopt-a-Road campaign in conjunction with the Singleton Junior Rugby Club.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

MB sought an update on the SEOC project

DS gave an update on the outcomes of the AEMR inspection that was recently conducted with the Department of Planning and Environment and the Department of Resources and Energy. DS noted that some die back had been observed in Casurinas along the excised section of Bowmans Creek. JM also noted that he had observed similar die back on his property.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th November 2015
Meeting to commence at 1pm

MEETING CLOSED 3:15pm