
**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Wednesday 6 July 2016
1:00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

Minutes confirmed as true and correct at the 29 November 2016 CCC Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Debbie Richards	(DR)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
Steve Ernst	(SE)	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)

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:09pm.

2. APOLOGIES

William Farnworth (WF) Company Rep (Operations Manager)

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Nil

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the meeting held on 15th March 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Debbie Richards **Seconded:** Steve Ernst

5. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Provide hard copies of the AEMR to CCC Members when finalized	DS	Complete
Tree Screen at New England Hwy requires maintenance	DS	
Poor housekeeping at two privately tenanted, Ashton owned residences, in Camberwell requires addressing	DS	

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.

6.3 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS / PROJECTS / EXPLORATION

JB updated the CCC on production progress of the mine. ACOL is currently mid-way through extraction of Longwall 105 with development progressing in the Upper Lower Liddell (ULLD) seam.

South East Open Cut (SEOC): JB provided an update on the SEOC project. There has been no movement with this project since the previous meeting.

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:

- DA Mod 5
- Mining Operations Plan Amendment
- Ausgrid Asset Management Plan
- Bore Licence for the South East Open Cut for dewatering hardrock aquifers

JB gave an update on the preparation of the LW201-204 Extraction Plan Application. It was noted that this was due for lodgment in October 2016. No comments or questions were raised regarding the EP.

DS gave an update on DA309-11-2001-i Modification 5 which was approved by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) on 20 June 2016. It was noted that DA Mod 5 relates to the approval of Ashton Coal Project and not the South East Open Cut Project despite being lodged concurrently.

JM noted that he had received a letter from the Department of Planning and Environment regarding the approval of the DA Mod 5.

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 June and a recent increasing trend of total suspended dust measured through the site HVAS air quality monitoring network. It is noted that Ashton Coal has not changed any operations during the reporting period.

Water Monitoring

JB presented the annual trends for the water monitoring sites. The Glennies Creek upstream monitoring point presented some unusually high salinity results during 2015. Continued monitoring of these sites has not detected any unusual results.

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 installation of some additional groundwater monitoring bores. The bores have now been completed and are part of the groundwater monitoring network.

JB gave an update on the installation of gas wells GW5A and GW5B. These gas wells are drilled progressively to assist with the drainage of gas from the mine.

JM asked about gas utilisation and if it was feasible to generate electricity from the gas. JB replied that we had considered gas power generation internally however it was not currently deemed feasible due to the relatively low volumes and intermittent nature of the supply.

DS gave an update on the archaeological salvage and artefact analysis works that are currently being conducted.

DS advised that the Bowman's Creek Diversion had been entered into the NSW Minerals Council Environment awards and had been accepted as a finalist.

DS gave an update on the 2016 Community Support Program including the support of Singleton Public School, Witmore Enterprises and the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship. It was noted that the next round of the Community Support Program would close on the 30 September 2016.

DS provided an update on Camberwell Property Matters. Currently 32 homes are tenanted with 1 vacant. Additionally an audit of electrical installations is being completed on all properties and upgrades to pool fencing have been completed. It was also noted that a grass fire occurred on one of the properties south of the New England Highway.

DS advised that he had recently had enquiries from a community member regarding the SEOC. This community member had expressed an interest to join the CCC. The community member would be required to follow appropriate nomination processes in order to join the CCC.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

JM raised the issue of a number of derelict houses present in Camberwell Village. DS advised that ACOL was planning to tidy up a number of these properties this year. Some of the properties are awaiting asbestos inspections to allow for the demolition.

JM advised that housekeeping issues had again become an issue at an ACOL owned, privately tenanted property in Camberwell. JM and DR advised that there was also another property whose standards were not adequate. DS advised that he would follow up with the Real Estate Property Manager to address the issues.

JM raised the issue of the tree screen that was planted along the New England Highway. A number of the tree's had died recently. DS advised that maintenance work would need to be carried out including replanting the failed trees.

SE advised of his intentions to resign from the CCC due to moving away from the area. SE has been a valuable member of the CCC for the past seven years. DS and JB thanked SE for his contribution and commitment.

MB asked if ACOL had considered opening up Bowman's Creek Diversion to the public. DS advised that we had not considered doing this due to the complications of mining tenements and risk management.

GA advised that the Singleton Council elections are being run on 10 September. GA advised that it was his intention to continue to sit on the ACOL CCC but this was pending re-election to the Council and successfully nominating for the CCC again.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th October 2016
Meeting to commence at 1pm

MEETING CLOSED 2:30pm