

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
80th MEETING Thursday 26th February 2026
ACOL Administration Office, Glennies Creek Road, CAMBERWELL**

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
John McInerney	(JM) Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB) Community Representative
Michael Bartlett	(MBa) Company Rep (Operations Manager)
Phillip Brown	(PB) Company Rep (Environment & Community Superintendent)
Karl Norman	(KN) Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator)

1. Opening and Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 12:05 pm.

2. Apologies

Debbie Richards (DR) Community Representative
Clr. Godfrey Adamthwaite (GA) Singleton Council (SC)

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Community Representatives

No change to Committee Members' pecuniary interests previously declared.

4. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the meeting held 30 October 2025, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: John McInerney **Seconded:** Michael Bestic

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. *Weed Control*

6. Correspondence

- a. *5/11/2025 – email MMH updated CCC Terms of Reference*
- b. *23/12/2025 – emails CK (Bloomfield)/MMH to CCC lease transfer/acquisition finalized*
- c. *14/01/2026 – emails Onward Consulting/MMH to CCC on Triennial IEA*
- d. *22/01/2026 – email MMH response to Onward Consulting*
- e. *18/02/2026 – email MMH to DPHI Chair's Annual Report*

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation.

JM queried the variance between budget and actual ROM tonnes. MBa advised that elevated water levels in the Narama void delayed the longwall start, significantly impacting production in January 2026.

JM asked whether 2031 remains the current mine life. MBa confirmed there are potential extension options.

PB noted that while Development Consent allows beyond this date, however Yancoal Board approval is currently in place to 2031 only.

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Refer to environmental monitoring handout.

7.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Refer to presentation.

7.4 Environmental Update

Refer to presentation.

JM asked who undertakes attended noise monitoring. PB confirmed this is conducted by EMM Consulting on behalf of Ashton. JM noted that, anecdotally, he has not experienced mine-related noise in the area.

PB presented completed works under the 2025 weed control program.

JM raised concerns regarding blue heliotrope along creek flats and cestrum within the Camberwell TSR and along Glennies Creek, noting previous treatment was limited due to wet weather access. PB advised these areas are included in the 2026 targeted program.

8. Community Representative questions/comments

No comments.

9. General Business

MMH noted that the Department had emailed committee chairs regarding CCC operations, including terms of reference and guidelines, as a general reminder of member obligations. No issues were identified with this committee.

JM asked whether the CCC continues for the duration of Ashton's operations. PB advised the CCC is linked to the mine's operation and exists to discuss operational matters.

10. Next meeting

Next CCC meeting: 12:00 pm, 30 July 2026.

MEETING CLOSED at 12:40 pm