

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
81st MEETING Monday 24th August 2026
ACOL Administration Office, Glennies Creek Road, CAMBERWELL**

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
Clr. Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA) Singleton Council (SC)
John McInerney	(JM) Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB) Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR) 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 12:06 pm.

2. Apologies

Nil

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 26 Feb 2026, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: John McInerney

Seconded: Michael Bestic

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Nil

6. Correspondence

- a. 1/03/2026 – email PB to CCC – RFS Controlled burn*
- b. 15/04/2026 – email PB to CCC – Controlled burn*
- c. 15/05/2026 – email PB to CCC – Feral Animal Baiting Notice*
- d. 3/07/2026 – email MMH to CCC – proposed meeting date change*
- e. 10/07/2026 – email PB to CCC – Night Spotting*

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation.

PB and MBa provided an update on Ashton's current mine plan. JM asked when operations were expected to finish, with MBa advising that the current schedule indicates Q1 2028, noting this remains subject to change.

GA asked about the rationale for changes to the mine plan, including LW406. MBa advised that the mine plan remains under review and discussed recent operational issues and their potential impact on Ashton's future.

JM asked about the NEOC void and plans for the washery. MBa advised that closure planning is underway, including transition to care and maintenance, mine sealing, infrastructure removal and rehabilitation. PB noted that the proposed final land use is rural and that relevant approvals will be required before closure works commence.

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.

DR raised concerns regarding feral pig numbers. PB advised that pig trapping has been undertaken on site this year and that a night shoot is planned in the coming weeks.

JM and DR asked about the extent of the recent hazard reduction burn. PB advised that the RFS had identified constraints due to the proximity to the highway and the size of the area.

PB provided an update on CSP applications and the new online system. MMH asked whether the CSP would continue as Ashton transitions toward care and maintenance, with PB confirming that the program will continue.

JM asked about future maintenance of the church and current maintenance of the cemetery. PB advised that Ashton will continue to maintain the land surrounding the church for the time being and clarified the current cemetery maintenance arrangements.

8. Community Representative Questions/Comments

GA asked whether Ashton plans to relinquish any leases. MBa advised that it is too early to comment at this stage.

9. General Business

Nil

10. Next meeting

Next CCC meeting: 12:00 pm, 29 October 2026.

MEETING CLOSED at 12:46 pm