MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
82nd MEETING Thursday 29th October 2026
ACOL Administration Office, Glennies Creek Road, CAMBERWELL

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
John McInerney	(JM) 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 12:00 nn.

2. Apologies

Michael Bestic	(MB) 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 24 August 2026 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
***Moved:** Debbie Richards* ***Seconded:** John McInerney*

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
a. Nil

6. Correspondence
a. 3/9/26 – email PB to CCC – hosting of Australian Underground Competition
b. 8 & 9/10/26 – email PB to CCC – Feral Animal notice

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update
Refer to presentation.
MMH queried why product coal production was well below budget. MBa explained that geological challenges and a reduction in workforce numbers following the mine-life announcement had contributed to the shortfall.

JM asked whether the production shortfall could extend the projected closure date beyond March/April 2028. MBa advised that the current timeframe already takes the lower-than-budgeted production into account.

MMH asked how the workforce was responding to the changes in mine life and staffing levels. MBa noted that reactions varied across the site, reflecting employees' individual circumstances and different stages of their careers.

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 where tailings were currently being deposited. PB explained that tailings are being placed in the former North East Open Cut (NEOC) pit.

8. Community Representative Questions/Comments

JM asked about the longer-term plan for filling and rehabilitating the NEOC void. PB explained that, once tailings and reject emplacement is complete, the deposited material will be covered using material from the surrounding rehabilitated area. This would involve reshaping the landform to cover the tailings and reject, with the final design guided by geomorphic design principles.

MBa noted that the NEOC void remains an operational area, with reject still being trucked into the pit. Physical works to rehabilitate the void are therefore not expected to commence until after March 2028.

9. General Business

MMH sought confirmation that the Committee's Terms of Reference would remain unchanged. Members agreed to retain the existing Terms of Reference.

10. Next meeting

Proposed meeting dates for 2027:

- ***25 February 2027***
- ***22 July 2027***
- ***21 October 2027***

Next CCC meeting: 12:00 pm, 25 February 2027.

MEETING CLOSED at 12:31 pm