

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #17**

Monday 27th February 2012 at 5.00 pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

MINUTES

1. OPENING & WELCOME: Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO

PRESENT: Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Charlie Spence, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Adam Heeney, Miss Tara Markham (mins) and Mr Phillip Brown.

2. APOLOGIES: Mr A Brown Mr A Pace

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

3.1 Previous Minutes 7th November 2011 were confirmed by those members present including the amendments from Alan Brown

The Chairman introduced the new Manager, Mining Engineering Mr Charlie Spence and welcomed him to the meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

4.1 Business Arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1 Nil

6. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:

6.1 Development update

6.1.1 Abel Program 2011 – C Spence

- Refer to presentation enclosed.
- Discussion: Panel 6 is complete. The Duncan partial extraction mining method (that has been used at Tasman Mine) will be used for Panels 20, 21 and 22. Abel is no longer extracting Panels 16, 17, 18 or 19 as they are located underneath the Catholic Diocese Land. No extraction will now take place under the Catholic Diocese proposed school site and a SMPS variation will be sought from the Department.

There are 200+ roles to be filled in the future as the mine expands Did Charlie say this Phil??

6.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance – P Brown

- Refer to presentation enclosed
- Abel has had no Environmental incidents or complaints since the last meeting.
- Quarterly noise monitoring taken place, no issues with the performance. An independent Environmental audit was undertaken Nov 2011. Next audit will be held June 2014.
- Abel rainforest monitoring, there has been an increase in animals and the rainforest is growing.
- Dam monitoring undertaken– handouts provided. During the monitoring they looked for a specific type of frog, they were unable to find it although there was an increase in frog activity and diversity. They also found an increase in birds and no noxious weeds.

6.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints – P Brown

No environmental incidents since last meeting and no Complaints received.

6.4 Website Information – P Brown

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	15 February 2012	
		Approved Minutes		28 May 2012	M Morris

6.5 Information provided to the community and any feedback

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6.6 Subsidence Management Plan Update

6.6.1 Subsidence management status report– T Sutherland

- Refer to presentation enclosed
- The Transgrid 330kV Transmission Management Plan has been approved by the Department Tilt monitors have been purchased and installed on the tower above Panel 7 and will be monitored as Panel 7 extracts underneath it.
- Panel 15 was variation to area – no development under the creek. Has been modified to partial, will not do secondary extraction under proposed school site. At the end of the year there will be a status report for the last quarter.
- Optus Fibre Optic Cable relocation works have been completed. .

6.6.2 Ventilation shaft update – T Sutherland

- Work is proceeding on the installation of the main fans on top of the recently excavated upcast shaft. The shaft is approx 30m deep. 2 centrifugal Fans will be installed with the discharge from the fans facing away from residential receivers and parallel to the ground as per the Project Approval statements of commitments. No noise impacts are predicted. **6.7 Abel 75 W update.**
 - Refer to presentation enclosed
 - Sessions held on 6-7 December at Black Hill School. 3 Sessions were held over 2 days. There were 25 community attendees, 110 houses affected. 9 supported the format of the sessions, 2 did not. **More will be held once** an environmental study has been completed.
 - Mr Morris stated that he was impressed by the positive attitude from the public format. Concerns regarding those with issues that may not be confident enough to ask the questions. Look into a newsletter format to be included in the next sessions.
 - Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been lodged 21/12/11 – Available from the DPI's website.
 - Director General Requirements provided to Donaldson on 21/2/12.
 - Lodgement of 75W modification Environmental Assessment is planned for August 2012. Currently at Stage 2 (Stage 2 June community information sessions), finalised stage 1. Stages 4,5,6 to go.

7. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Terry Lewin stated that there were Issues regarding the church land, rumours there is an application into Cessnock council for it to be rezoned as industrial. Possibly not going ahead with the school. The community wants to know.

Employment lands. Feb 2013 the Open cut will stop production; all rehabilitation will be done by the end of the year. When will that land be available for development? Mr Sutherland advised that Abel Underground Mine still has 20+ years left.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

- 10.1** The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 28th May 2012 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 6.13 pm by the Chairman.