

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting #27

Monday 15 September 2014 at 5.00 pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Chairman, Mr Milton Morris.

Mr Morris welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- *Mrs Alarna Bristow new Environment and Community Co-ordinator Donaldson Coal*
- *Mr Greg Lamb, Environmental Officer at Bloomfield*
- *Mr Andrew Pace, representative of the Ashtonfield area*
- *Mr Ian Turnbull, Environmental Planner with Cessnock Council*

Mr Morris advised that he had spoken to the Mayor of Maitland Council who has advised that the Council's presence was not required and declined offer to attend meeting. Mr P Brown has deleted name from the website list of members.

2. PRESENT

Mr Alan Brown, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Andrew Pace, Mr Ian Turnbull, Mr David Gibson, Mr Greg Lamb, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Phillip Brown and Mrs Alarna Bristow (minutes).

2.1 APOLOGIES

Nil

3. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

3.1 *Nil*

3.2 *Mr Lewin clarified reason for inclusion being to provide an opportunity to declare conflicts of interest or perceived interest rather than dollar figures.*

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 *Previous Minutes 30th June 2014. Minutes confirmed.*

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 *Business Arising.*

5.1.1 *Report on Blackhill School Trust – Mr B Ure*

Mr Ure provided a brief update on the School Trust - shares in various interests e.g Woollies

Mr Lewin clarified reason for inclusion being to get an over view of what the Trust used the donation for and provide an opportunity for the trust to give thanks.

Mr Ure committed to providing such details

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 *Email from Mr Alan Brown (copy included on website)*

6.2 *Email from Mr Terry Lewin (copy included on website)*

Revision History

Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	A. Bristow	16 September 2014	P. Brown
		Approved Minutes	P Brown	15 December 2014	M Morris

7. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 Abel Mine Update

Mr T Sutherland provided the Abel Mine Update. Refer enclosed presentation.

Mr A. Brown questioned why it seemed that the Mine was ahead of budget in previous reports (but not now). T. Sutherland didn't think this was the case but could check, thought it was ahead in extraction tonnes earlier in the year?

Mr A. Brown asked how the job losses would affect production figures. Mr Sutherland explained that by going to the 5 day operation with maintenance done on weekends Abel was hoping to achieve a minor reduction in overall ROM tonnes for 2015.

Mr Jennings asked in regards to the job losses what does this mean for the Austar employees on site. Mr Sutherland advised that Austar employees would return to Austar in conjunction with the 48 job retrenchments.

Mr Jennings asked what the morale was like within the crews and are the retrenchments going to be based on seniority. Mr Sutherland advised that morale was as could be expected with a noted recent decrease in absenteeism and that the redundancies would not be based on seniority.

Mr Jennings asked if the metres decreased with the new mining layout. Mr Sutherland advised that no - in fact Abel had recently achieved some record shifts in the 'run outs' associated with the new Panel design.

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Mr P Brown provided an update on monitoring and environmental performance.

Refer enclosed presentation.

A hard copy of the 2014 AEMR provided to each member at the end of the meeting.

Mr A. Brown asked why the management plans need to be revised for an underground operation. Mr P. Brown explained that with the recent Modification approval with change of mining methods there are possible impacts which is relevant to these Management Plans e.g. Subsidence, groundwater and Cultural Heritage.

Mr A. Pace asked to be provided with a copy of the noise monitoring locations. Mr P. Brown advised that it will be provided.

7.3 Community Complaints and Response to Complaints

No complaints received.

7.4 Website Information

No comments.

7.5 Information provided to the Community and any Feedback

No comments.

7.6 Donaldson Coal Community Support Program Update

Mr Phillip Brown provided an update on the Donaldson Coal Community Support Program.

7.7 SMP Update

Mr Tony Sutherland provided the SMP update. Refer enclosed presentation.

7.8 Black Hill Road Undermining Update

Mr Tony Sutherland provided an update on the undermining of Black Hill Road. Refer enclosed presentation.

Mr A. Brown asked if the speed bumps created by previous undermining were a temporary fix. Mr Sutherland advised that the final road repairs would be undertaken once mining was completed beneath Blackhill Road in the adjacent panels.

Mr A. Brown asked what were the subsidence cracks widths/ levels recorded so far. Mr Sutherland advised that in one particular area on top of the ridge a crack outside of expected levels occurred approximately 300mm wide but most had fallen within expected ranges of approximately 50-150mm.

7.9 SMP / Extraction Plan Area 4 Update

Mr Tony Sutherland provided an update on EP/SMP Area 4.

Mr A. Brown asked what is the concept of fissuring/ cracking in regards to the Talley Dam. Mr Sutherland advised that this is to be determined from a risk assessment yet to be completed which may result in partial extraction, a modified layout or no secondary extraction under the actual dam.

Mr B. Ure asked if the Rural Fire Service use of the dams could be considered as part of the proposed risk assessment. Mr Sutherland advised that this will be included in this risk assessment.

7.10 MOD4 – Lower Donaldson/ Big Ben and Viney Creek mining

Mr Sutherland provided an update on MOD4. See presentation.

Mr Lewin asked if changing seams affect the need for air shafts. Mr Sutherland advised that there are no new shafts required. The existing ventilation system would extend into the two seams.

Mr T. Lewin asked if the MOD4 would be for bord and pillar mining. Mr Sutherland advised that it was a continuation of bord and pillar mining.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

No comments.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Chairman's Comment

Mr M. Morris declares in consequence of the hardship being felt by miners on site he would like to continue to offer his services on a pro-bono basis.

9.2 Exploration Drilling

Mr Sutherland provided update on the exploration drilling currently being undertaken.

9.3 Mine Subsidence District

Mr Sutherland provided update on a meeting held recently with Mine Subsidence Board concerning the boundaries for the proposed new Subsidence District.

Mr Ure asked if the District would include areas currently operating. Mr Sutherland advised that it would likely include the existing Mining Lease and Exploration Licences.

9.4 Mr A. Brown raised the question regarding outstanding issues from the last meeting in the document that was tabled. Mr P. Brown committed to providing these by this Friday.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday the 8th December 2014 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 5:50 pm by the Chairman.