

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting #33

Monday 29th February 2016
Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

DRAFT

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Chairman, Ms. Margaret MacDonald-Hill declared the meeting open at 5:00 pm.

2. PRESENT

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Ian Turnbull, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Aaron McGuigan, Mr Matthew Wright, Mr Phillip Brown and Mr Ben Tockuss (minutes).

2.1 APOLOGIES

Mr Greg Lamb and Mr Andrew Pace.

3. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Ms. MacDonald-Hill declared her position as the Independent Chair appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment. Ms. MacDonald-Hill also advised that she is a Board member on the Mine Subsidence Board.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Previous Minutes 7th of December 2015 with minor amendments.

Confirmed by Mr Turnbull and seconded by Mr Jennings with corrections as discussed.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 Declaration of Mine Subsidence District

Ms MacDonald-Hill advised that she had raised the issue at the December meeting of the Mine Subsidence Board on behalf of the Committee and again at the Board Meeting held last week. She was informed that the matter was being dealt with as “expeditiously as possible”.

Mr A Brown questioned the term “expeditiously as possible”. He did not believe it was a suitable answer and commented that the company has made so many approaches to the board and that 7 years is too long.

Ms MacDonald-Hill mentioned that Mr P Brown had given her information of the Company’s requests and believed that the point “had been made”.

Ms MacDonald-Hill mentioned that even if it is not declared a district that the properties are still covered under the Act..

Mr McGuigan and Mr Lewin agreed with Ms MacDonald-Hill’s statement.

Ms MacDonald-Hill advised that she would continue to follow the matter up on behalf of the Committee.

5.2 Repairs to Blackhill Road

Mr Wright advised that Blackhill Road repairs above Panel 28 were completed end of January.

He mentioned that final remediation to Blackhill Road was at the tender process with engineering designs complete.

Mr Jennings asked if it was a bigger job than first thought.

Mr Wright confirmed that it was and that there were also line of sight safety issues with that particular section of road. He commented that there was a stop sign and speed reduction to 60km/hr for the time being on Blackhill Road.

Revision History

Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	B Tockuss	01/03/16	P. Brown
		Approved Minutes			

5.3 Auditor Comments on Compliance Ongoing

Mr P Brown advised that he had spoken to the Auditor of the Report who explained that as the Company had prepared the Mine Subsidence Management Plan then it was compliant with the Consent Condition. However as an Extraction Plan was to be prepared, then he classed it as 'ongoing'. Future reports will be clearer.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms MacDonald-Hill raised the recently released Department of Planning draft Guidelines for Community Consultative Committees for comment.

Ms MacDonald-Hill mentioned that she did not think that there were any major changes and that perhaps the guidelines were more prescriptive and encouraged any general comments from the Committee that could be passed to the Department.

Mr A Brown made a personal comment that the Guidelines were more instructive; that he liked the proformas; that there were clear responsibilities within the committee; and suggested that the new guidelines were 75-80% better than the previous ones.

Ms M MacDonald-Hill agreed with the comments and mentioned that they added transparency.

7. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 Abel Mine Update

Presented by Mr McGuigan. Refer to Presentation.

Ms MacDonald-Hill questioned the large difference between the actual and budgeted production figures. Mr A McGuigan mentioned that the mine plan had changed since the budgeted numbers were calculated.

7.2 Environmental Update

Presentation by Mr P Brown. Refer to Presentation.

Mr A Brown requested a copy of the Abel Dam report.

Mr P Brown advised that he would remove landholder details from the report and provide the report.

7.3 Donaldson Coal Community Support Program update

Presented by Mr P Brown. Refer to Presentation

7.4 SMP/Extraction Plan Area 4 – Matthew Wright

Presented by Mr Wright. Refer to presentation.

Mr Ure asked for clarification on where the current active mining areas were in the presentation.

Mr Wright pointed out the current mining areas.

Mr Ure mentioned that one of the mining areas was off the map

Mr Lewin sought clarification that the South Mains development was in a different seam

Mr McGuigan confirmed that the South Mains development was in the lower Donaldson seam.

Mr P Brown mentioned that Mr Wright continued to monitor the affected section of road on a daily basis.

Mr Ure mentioned that the daily inspections were a good thing as there are some "unhappy campers out there".

7.5 Blackhill Road Undermining update

Mr Wright provided an update. Refer to Presentation

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr Lewin asked if the Committee could get an explanation of the recent Company Restructure.

Mr McGuigan provided a summary of the restructure.

Mr Lewin asked if everyone had signed up.

Mr McGuigan replied yes.

Mr Jennings sought clarification if it was just staff who had to sign the new contracts.

Mr McGuigan advised that it was.

Mr Jennings asked if the matter was all resolved.

Mr McGuigan advised that it was and that everyone had signed up.

Mr Lewin provided a status of the Donaldson Conservation Trust including the financial contributions to the Environmental Impact Statement for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVTR) and that the Trust has requested details on a future project that could be a legacy for the Trust with the RVTR.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr McGuigan provided an update regarding site progress and decisions which included that the company is looking for ways to make the operation as robust as possible including the upcoming drilling program, and varying the mine plan and possible modification to the Consent.

10. NEXT MEETING

30th May

The meeting was declared closed at 5:39 pm by the Chairman.