

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC) Meeting #49
9th September 2024
Abel Underground Mine Administration Building
DRAFT

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared the meeting opened at 3.03pm.

2. PRESENT

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill (Chairperson), Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr William Farnworth (Donaldson Operations, Mining Engineering Manager), Mr Phillip Brown (Abel Mine Environment & Community Relations Superintendent) and Mr James Benson (Abel Mine Environment & Community Coordinator) (minutes).

3. APOLOGIES

Mr Brad Ure, Mr Greg Lamb (Bloomfield Group)

4. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no changes to the previously declared pecuniary interests.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Abel CCC on 11 September 2023 were confirmed by Mr Allan Jennings and seconded by Mr Alan Brown.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

As per agenda.

6/10/23 – email PB to CCC dog baiting notices
23/02/24 – MMH to DPHI – Chairs Annual Report
26/02/24 – MMH to CCC Chairs Annual Report

8. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

8.1 Abel Mine Update – William Farnworth

Refer to presentation.

The mine continues in care and maintenance with seal repairs, general maintenance and water management being the primary activities in the past twelve months.

APA continue to use infrastructure at Abel (offices for administration works and storing pipes) to carry out the construction of a gas pipeline between Seahampton and Kurri Kurri. It is expected that APA will remain onsite until the end of the year. The section of pipeline through Donaldson land has been completed.

8.2 Environmental Update – Phillip Brown

Refer to presentation.

No Complaints during the reporting period.

Abel Environmental Protection Licence was submitted this month with three administrative non-conformances reported.

- Dust monitor losing power for three hours in the twelve month period;
- Surface water samples were not taken as the sites were dry; and
- Ground water samples were not taken as access to site was restricted due to road works on John Renshaw Drive.

A review of historical boreholes over the last twelve months has resulted in a number of boreholes being signed off by the Resources Regulator as rehabilitation is complete.

Some recent cable theft has occurred onsite.

9. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr Lewin spoke about the industrial developments on John Renshaw Drive opposite Abel and noted that a signalised intersection was proposed for the Donaldson access road. Mr Lewin asked if this development was going to impact on Abel operations or the Donaldson Bushland Conservation Area (BCA).

Mr Phillip Brown stated that Yancoal had provided comment on the development. The plans are to retain the access into Donaldson as there is still approval for coal to be transported from Tasman Extension to Donaldson. There

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1	0	Draft Minutes	J Benson	13/09/2024	

would be no impact on the Donaldson BCA and the requirement to retain the BCA for 36 years remains since commencement of operations.

Mr Lewin provided an update on the Richmond Vale Rail Trail and how it fits into a larger rail trail, the 'Shiraz to Shore' project. Mr Lewin advised that this project has been gaining momentum in recent times including greater press coverage increasing the likelihood of further funding and implementation.

Mr Lewin thanked Donaldson Coal for their contribution towards the Richmond Vale Rail Trail as the Donaldson Conservation Fund contributed towards the project.

Mr Alan Brown asked if Donaldson were conducting any dog and fox baiting as foxes are becoming an issue in the area with more sightings. Rabbits are also becoming more prevalent in the area.

Mr Benson noted that Donaldson conduct a baiting program annually that is coordinated by the Local Land Services which planned for October/November this year.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Ms MacDonald Hill explained that a requirement of the CCC guideline is for the Committee to review the Terms of Reference annually.

All members agreed that the current Terms of Reference were to remain unchanged.

Ms MacDonald Hill noted that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure has had a change of name to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

11. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date is scheduled for 13/10/2025 at 3pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.39pm by the Chairperson.