

# Austar Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes



Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office

Time: 4:00pm

Date: 26 July 2007

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Independent Chair
Councillor Jeff Maybury	Cessnock City Council Representative
Louise Dews	Community Representative
Harry Snaith	Community Representative
Matthew Fellowes	Austar Coal Mine
Keren Halliday	Austar Coal Mine
<b>Apologies</b>	
Roger Lewis	Community Representative
Paul McGreevy	Community Representative
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
Councillor John Clarence	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter and Shadow Defence Minister
The Hon Kerry Hickey	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Colin Phillips	NSW Department of Planning

<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>		
	MMH stated that she had been appointed as the Independent Chair of the Austar Coal Mine CCC.	N/A	
<b>2</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
	MMH – requested two minor changes Page 3 It is not the role of the CCC ... and remove the word ‘not’ Page 6 JM East of Bellbird ..... insert ‘not’ after washery The minutes were ratified as amended. Moved by JM and seconded by HS	Minutes to be amended to reflect	
<b>3</b>	<b>Presentation by Greg Cole-Clark Chief Executive Officer of the Mine Subsidence Board</b>		
	Refer to copy of presentation (attached)	N/A	

	<b>Questions and Answers</b>		
	<p><i>HS –How do you determine the effects on footings and obscured parts of structures?</i></p> <p>GC - If structure built to current building code then footings are unlikely to be impacted. If the MSB found damage at a particular location and it was of a classification that could affect the foundations then we would inspect the foundation at that site.</p> <p><i>HS - Who measures what happens?</i></p> <p>MF – DPI requires monitoring of subsidence and if building identified as critical then it could be targeted for specific monitoring.</p> <p><i>LD- What happens if MSB has any concerns during the pre-mining inspections?</i></p> <p>GC- Would refer any issues back to DPI. It might trigger further engineering studies, monitoring or installation of mitigatory measures.</p> <p><i>LD- what about the environment?</i></p> <p>GC – MSB deals with surface improvements only. Other agencies such as DWE/DECC are responsible for the environment.</p> <p><i>LD – What happens if a stream is lost underground?</i></p> <p>MF- rehabilitation works are possible. Risks are taken into account on case by case basis and plan to prevent.</p> <p><i>JM – does MSB provide advice for the design of house footings?</i></p> <p>GC – If a house is larger than average or more complex then greater attention needs to be given to design. Generally, construction in accordance with the BCA is sufficient. MSB can provide free information to assist in designing for mine subsidence even though the area is not currently in a MS district.</p> <p>MF noted that the tilts and strains predicted are quite low and the impact on flooding is also an important issue in the area.</p>	N/A	

	<p><i>LD – has the draft Site Water Management Plan been submitted yet?</i></p> <p>KH – the draft has been submitted to Department of Energy and Water and the Department of Planning. It is expected that the plan will be finalised soon following further consultation with DWE.</p> <p>MF –PSMP are created for individual properties. In stage 2 there are 11 landholders and in Stage 3 there are approximately 60 with 35 that are more significantly impacted. A PSMP will be prepared even if a landholder does not allow access, however, it will not be as detailed as one where access is provided.</p> <p><i>LD – how do you approach landholders?</i></p> <p>MF – Initially landholders are approached individually with general information about the project. Stakeholder groups are then approached, presentations given and the opportunity given to provide feedback and record any key or critical issues.</p> <p><i>HS – do you believe a landholder has the right to stop mining under their land? Are you required to have their consent? Some people believe the Mining Act has some grey areas?</i></p> <p>MF – you need a number of approvals in place prior to mining. They include Development Approval, Subsidence approval, a valid Mining lease and safety approval.</p> <p>MMH – landholders consent makes it easier. The Mining Warden court applies if a dispute cannot be resolved.</p> <p>HS- suggested that the Act is unclear to a lay person</p> <p>MMH - Offered to follow up the issue with DPI</p>		
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	<p>MF- believes under the Mining Act there are differences between open cut and underground mines (for the granting of surface leases and underground leases) and the need for land holders consent. MF suggested that there is a level of impact to a landholder (one main measure being that a house remains Safe Serviceable and Repairable during mining) above which both the community and the government considers is beyond reasonable without landholders consent.</p> <p>GCC highlighted the benefits achieved through Property subsidence Management Plans (PSMP). MF described the PSMP process.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Business arising</b>		
	<p>Copies of the following documents were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Austar’s response to correspondence from C Warren-Davey and Quorrobolong Community Council tabled at last CCC meeting provided to all members;</li> <li>▪ Complaints log from Jan 2007; and</li> <li>▪ NSW Industrial Noise Policy.</li> </ul> <p>A detailed aerial plan of the washery and a map showing the location of the dust gauge at Ellalong was shown by KH.</p> <p>Follow up information from questions raised at previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Draft safety audit at level crossings has been submitted to RTA and waiting on feedback;</li> <li>▪ Dam at old Bellbird mines site is no longer a dam and is not used by Austar;</li> <li>▪ Slower production rate due to restrictions at Port of Newcastle will not change the timetable for Stage 2; and</li> <li>▪ It is proposed to monitor the shallow alluvial aquifer system (which includes Quorrobolong Creek) against water loss to the underground workings by monitoring against the drawdown of the surface water table in the Stage 2 area.</li> </ul>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>		
	No correspondence	N/A	

<b>6</b>	<b>General business</b>		
	<p>General discussion of storm event experienced 8/9<sup>th</sup> June. KH reported that due to total power failure across the site and heavy rainfall (approx 1 in 60 year event) the site had discharged outside of the conditions of the EPL. The events were reported to the EPA in accordance with the requirements of the EPL.</p> <p>KH reported that Roger Lewis was asked by the Ellalong Tidy Town committee to pass on their concern about the number of trees on the road between Middle Road and Ellalong. KH advised that a significant number of trees had been lost across the site.</p> <p>LD asked how deep is the coal seam in the context of impacts known at Bow Wow Gorge. MF indicated the seam at Austar is approximately 450m and greater and that no large gorge exists at Quorrobolong.</p> <p>HS asked if the rail line could be used by a group of stream train enthusiasts perhaps on a Sunday afternoon. MF advised that railway is owned and operated by South Maitland Railway and HS should consult further with them.</p>	N/A	
<b>7</b>	<b>Project Update by Matthew Fellowes</b>		
	<p><i>Longwall Mining and New Pit Top Facilities (Stage 3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mine plan using LTCC up to 7m extraction;</li> <li>▪ Production levels up to 3Mtpa – no change;</li> <li>▪ Coal haulage via existing infrastructure – no change;</li> <li>▪ Coal beneficiation at Pelton CHPP – no change;</li> <li>▪ Coal transport via rail to Port of Newcastle – no change; and</li> <li>▪ Mine schedule to approx. 2023.</li> </ul> <p><i>New pit top to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New upcast ventilation shaft and relocation of surface fans;</li> <li>▪ New bath-house and administration facilities;</li> <li>▪ New M &amp; M shaft;</li> <li>▪ Associated surface infrastructure; and</li> <li>▪ No coal to the surface at this site.</li> </ul>	N/A	

	<p><i>Preliminary subsidence predictions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicate all houses are predicted to remain Safe, Serviceable and Repairable as a result of the full mining proposal – even if upper bound subsidence levels are reached;</li> <li>▪ No significant changes to hydrology; and</li> <li>▪ Negligible impact on flora and fauna.</li> </ul> <p><i>Stage 3 –Update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preliminary Environmental Assessment and Major Project Application lodged in June;</li> <li>▪ Information pack sent to all landholders in the subsidence affected area;</li> <li>▪ Waiting on further advice DoP regarding next steps and Director Generals requirements for what key issues and assessments are required to be undertaken;</li> <li>▪ Continuing to collect baseline information on flora and fauna, subsidence assessments and flood modeling;</li> <li>▪ Commenced individual consultation with Stage 3 landholders;</li> <li>▪ Heritage studies (European and Aboriginal) next 3 months; and</li> <li>▪ Consultation with individual stakeholder groups next 3 months.</li> </ul>		
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8	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>		
	<p><b>Tentatively scheduled for 15 November 2007</b></p> <p>KH suggested that the next visit could involve a visit underground and a short meeting be held at the start. Due to induction requirements and travel time underground, the meeting would need to start earlier than normal.</p> <p>The meeting was tentatively scheduled for 15 November at 12.00 noon (lunch to be provided).</p> <p>KH to follow up members not present to discuss their availability and time requirements for the meeting and underground visit.</p> <p>Time: 12.00 – 1.30pm (Short meeting)  Induction – 1.30 – 2.30pm  Underground visit 2.30pm to 5.30pm</p>	KH to follow up all members	
	Meeting closed 6.45pm		

Recorded: K Halliday 26 July, 2007

Confirmed:

Chairperson – Austar Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee