



Austar Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Boardroom, Austar Coal Mine Main Office

Time: 4:00pm

Date: 4 February 2010

Name	Representative
Hon Garry West (GW) Roger Lewis (RL) David Holmes (DH) Peter Sturrock (PS) Adrian Moodie (AM) Gary Mulhearn (GM) Frank Fulham (FF)	Independent Chair Community Representative Community Representative Community Representative Austar Coal Mine Austar Coal Mine Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM) Louise Dews (LD)	Cessnock City Council Representative Community Representative
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Alison Davey	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter and Defence Minister
The Hon Kerry Hickey	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Colin Phillips	NSW Department of Planning
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	GW welcomed the committee, and welcomed the new members of the CCC PS and DH. GW thanked GM and AM for the Austar project briefing and site tour of surface facilities undertaken prior to the CCC meeting. GW asked that a copy of the project briefing be provided to the new CCC members.	GM to provide briefing presentation to new CCC members	
2	Declaration of Interests		
	Nil.		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes as prepared by Austar, were		

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	considered representative of the meeting by GW. LD or JM were not present to confirm.		
4	Business Arising		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 		
5a	Current Operations Update		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall progressing to plan. Currently under Austar owned property and partly under adjacent private landholder. • Subsidence minimal and less than or equal to predicted • Development operations proceeding according to plan <p>DH queried the amount of subsidence measured against predicted. AM indicated predicted is <300mm, and we have measured 200-250mm at our subsidence monitoring points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaft Construction Environmental Management Plan (SCEMP) was approved in November 2009. This was required prior to works commencing as a condition of Stage 3 consent. • Kitchener SIS commenced clearing and earthworks November 2009. Earthworks and site preparation are ongoing (shaft dams, access road, shaft liner pad). • Shaft drilling pilot hole commenced December 2009. • Access road intersection approved by Council in December 2009 and was constructed and sealed in January 2009. Linemarking and signs were completed 3/2/10. • Reviewed photos of construction progress and erosion and sediment controls. 		

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5b	Environmental Monitoring Update / Complaints		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed dust monitoring data for 2009. Nil exceedances of criteria have been recorded. GM explained how the High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) and depositional dust gauges operate, and that on occasion, the dust gauges are contaminated with bird droppings causing an invalid result <p>DH queried higher levels in October 2009. GM indicated this was due to large dust storms which hit the Hunter at that time.</p> <p>GW queried high dust levels in December 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed water monitoring data for 2009. Nil exceedances of criteria have been recorded. Instances where Point 6 – Water Treatment Plant discharge monitoring point have no data was due to no discharge occurring on the day of water sampling by a contractor in March, April and May 2009. A procedural change has meant that no samples have been missed since that time. GM informed CCC that there is continuous in-line EC and pH monitoring which ceases discharge when outside limits. • Nil noise exceedances in Q4 for CHPP or KIA even though western wall of CHPP was still partially off. • Monthly noise monitoring commenced for Kitchener SIS in November 2009 per the SCEMP which manages noise via the DECCW 2009 Interim Construction Noise Guideline. • SCEMP noise management levels were explained for recommended standard hours (M-F 0700-1800, Sat 	<p>GM to investigate possible causes of Dec 09 dust levels.</p>	

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	<p>0800-1300) and outside the recommended hours (all other times, and public holidays). Monthly monitoring is undertaken at 3 nearest receptor locations during daytime and night (after 10pm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During recommended standard hours, SIS noise levels have been less than noise management levels in November 2009, December 2009 and January 2010 • During Outside Recommended Standard Hours (night). November 2009 - No night operations. December 2009 - Noise was less than noise management levels. January 2010 - monitoring occurred on the first night that a compressor on the drill rig operated. Exceedance measured at K1 with LAeq 47 dB (management level is LAeq 35 dB). Noise at K2, and K3 was less than LAeq 35 dB. Night operations with the drill rig / compressor ceased since the January monitoring event. • That rig / compressor has finished its work during daytime hours. • Noise control strategies being investigated for future night work (shipping container barriers) • Reviewed vibration monitoring results. The location of monitors was presented, and GM explained that the monitors record vibration continuously, providing a result every minute. • The “Preferred” criteria for vibration annoyance is <2.8mm/sec night, <8.6mm/sec day. “Maximum” criteria is <5.8mm/sec night, <17.0m/sec day. GM explained that the vibration criteria are non mandatory per the DECCW guideline. • Q4 monitoring 2 events of 6.6 and 7.6 		

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	<p>mm/sec at V4 (2 events). The 6.6 mm/sec was at night and exceeded the maximum criteria. The resident was informed. This is an Austar owned property so no issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V5 did not exceed at these times, even though the location is quite close. GM indicated this signifies that the vibration from the longwall strata does not travel far. All other times vibration was <2.8 mm/sec, and mainly less than 1 mm/s. • Slight chance of cosmetic damage >20-50mm/sec. GM indicated we are well below this level. • 6 noise complaints in November 2009 to January 2010 regarding CHPP site noise from 3 residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Residents were contacted with details of operations at the CHPP. Two complaints related to train noise rather than CHPP. – Two complaints also mentioned an external phone ringer – All complainants were informed of CHPP noise reduction program, and results of most recent monitoring. Phone ringer alternatives being investigated. • 6 noise complaints regarding the SIS in December 2009 and January 2010 from 2 residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One related to mulching, now complete. Noise results during mulching were OK. – 4 related to general noise levels during daytime hours, of which one was found to be a helicopter (no SIS operations 		

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	<p>at the time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents were informed that daytime monitoring has been OK. - Night operations with a particularly noisy plant item ceased after monitoring event on the first night of operation - Regular contact and feedback has been encouraged to allow modifications if required. - Austar will continue monthly monitoring and undertake complaint response monitoring when necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One complaint about explosions at the mine from a new resident in Whittings Lane, Quorrobolong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Austar provided a letter response indicating we do not use explosives, and that we monitor vibration levels constantly in our longwall area which is 6km away • Another complaint 29/1/10 about explosion style noise, or perhaps underground vibration generated noise from Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explained that Austar does not use explosives - Environmental Coordinator to provide feedback to resident once vibration results are downloaded. <p>GW suggested that Austar investigate with Army base regarding explosion activities.</p>	<p>GM to investigate explosive activities from Army base in Singleton.</p>	

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6	Environmental Incident – Bellbird Creek, Complete		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailings breakout from underground discharge area into onsite portion of Bellbird Creek via a tributary on 28/9/09. • No offsite discharge – all intercepted in Doyle St Dam and returned to site • DECCW notified on day of occurrence – inspections were undertaken • Cleanup was completed November 2009 using hose down in upper regions, and small excavators in reed bed sections in consultation with DECCW. Regrowth of reed beds was very quick. • DECCW inspected in December 2009 and were very happy with standard achieved. • Photos of incident and cleanup were presented. <p>GW queried whether Austar had been fined. GM indicated that we had for polluting a watercourse.</p>	Complete	
7	CHPP Noise Reduction Program		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHPP Noise Reduction Program progressing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – OL3 trial with Hushclad completed December 2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-5 dB reduction on walls • 5-7 dB reduction on walls with conveyors – Western wall mainly reclad with Hushclad – Alternate roof upgrade by fitting sheeting on top of existing with an air gap filled with Rockwool being considered to give thermal and 		

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	<p>acoustic improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise bund continues • Status report submitted to DECCW 1 Feb 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No off-site reduction can yet be determined • Photos of progress were presented. 		
8	General Business		
	<p>Austar general business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area 12 Rehabilitation (planned during longwall move March 2010) • Aberdare Extended Reject Emplacement commenced December 2009. GM indicated a letter drop was undertaken prior to emplacement commencing. Nil adverse comment received. • Monitoring well has been installed to monitor changes in sandstone aquifer from Stage 2 mining January 2010 • Stage 3 community information day was undertaken November 2009. This was considered a successful day. • New CCC members approved by DoP • Annual Return due to DECCW 1 March 2010 <p>CCC General Business:</p> <p>DH queried subsidence predictions versus measured, and why 2 properties from the Stage 2 area were acquired by Austar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM indicated that measured subsidence has been 200-250mm, which is less than “predicted” of approximately 300mm. • FF/AM indicated that Department of Planning specified 2 properties that must be acquired upon request by the landowner based on predicted 		

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	<p>subsidence effects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 subsidence conditions were modelled (predicted, and upper bound). The 2 properties which have been acquired in Stage 2 were predicted to go beyond the criteria for “safe, serviceable and repairable” (SSR) based on “upper bound” subsidence indicators (strain, tilt, subsidence etc), but would be within SSR under “predicted” subsidence conditions. • Actual monitored subsidence has been within the “predicted” value, so the properties would not actually go beyond SSR, however, as the landholders requested to be acquired under Schedule 3 of the Stage 2 Development Consent (DA29/95 – Mod 2), Austar was obliged to do so. <p>DH and PS queried the timing of a copy of landholder agreements being available for review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF indicated the reason for the delay is to get legal advice for Austar on the Mine Subsidence Board’s involvement in the landholder agreements. • DH queried whether the MSB part can be isolated and residents can receive a draft copy. • FF is conscious of not releasing a document until there is a more clearer understanding of obligations that have legal certainty in relation to Schedule 3 of the current Stage 3 planning approval. The document is subject to change and only a draft document will be released for comment. FF does not want to mislead people or create the wrong community expectation. FF also indicated that residents should not access the use of Austar legal fees grant (approx \$3000) before the 		

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	<p>landholder agreement has been finalised for resident review from a common sense point of view.</p> <p>PS queried the “first right of refusal” being granted to Austar and how this might affect property value should a property be subject to a landholder agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF indicated that Austar as a general policy does not want to purchase property in Quorrobolong. • PS queried the timeframe and content is an issue so that potential heirs or executors can have it crystal clear on how the landholder agreement will work. <p>DH queried commitment to do straightening by road re-alignment for Quorrobolong Rd near the Kitchener SIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FF indicated that the residents of Kitchener did not want the road to be straightened as the current bends slow traffic down going over the hill. • FF noted other community projects Austar is committed to by Development Consent or other commitments including: Upgrade West Ave, Cessnock; Vincent St, Kitchener level crossing; level crossings in consultation with South Maitland Railways at Kearsley, Neath, and Weston – which are problematic as SMR are not easy to deal with; contributions to upkeep of Poppet Head Reserve; road maintenance contributions for coal from the Stage 3 project; and support for Kitchener Public School. 	<p>Austar to put Community projects and commitments on the next CCC meeting Agenda</p>	

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9	Actions from Previous Meeting		
	Nil		
10	Next Meeting		
	<p>DH and PS queried scheduling of meetings on Thursdays, and asked if meeting could be moved to Mondays.</p> <p>Austar representatives indicated that any day is fine. RL indicated he is busy every day so any day is as suitable as another also.</p> <p>GW will consult with LD and JM regarding a day change.</p> <p>Next meeting date to be advised after consulting with LD and JM.</p>		
	Meeting closed 6:00pm		

Recorded: G Mulhearn 4/2/2010

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Garry West