



Austar Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office

Time: 4:00pm

Date: 8 August 2011

Name	Representative
Hon Garry West (GW)	Independent Chair
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Louise Dews (LD)	Community Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
David McLean (DM)	Austar Coal Mine
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Apologies	
Adrian Moodie (AM)	Austar Coal Mine
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Alison Davey	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	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 David McLean – Acting General Manager of Austar. GW noted the committee's appreciation that top level management at Austar participates in the meetings.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	JM has a standing declaration that he is a member of the Mines Subsidence Board, and a member of the CCC for Bloomfield Colliery.		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes as prepared by Austar, were considered representative of the meeting by PS confirmed by AS.		

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4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austar provided a copy of subsidence parameters from the Environmental Assessment for each affected house within the Stage 3 Modification area to all CCC members. Also provided were Australian Standards damage classification information and subsidence specialists Classification based on Extent of repairs. • Austar has no use for a marquee in it's own operations, and will not purchase one purely to make available for community use. • Prior to this meeting Austar provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact details of Quorrobolong Community Committee to CCC members. • a copy of the Subsidence Management Plan Approval for LW A5a to CCC members. 		
5	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	<p>UNDERGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall A4 completed 18 May 2011 • Longwall A5 commenced 11 July 2011 • Development operations progressing to plan. • Longwall A5a drivage to be completed by end of 2011. Development will then focus operations in Stage 3. • Road header has completed the initial fault driveage in Stage 3. <p>KITCHENER SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaft rig (5.5m diameter) at 329m of 460m. 72% of depth complete. Difficulties encountered caused 		

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	<p>slower progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaft contractor has reduced size of shaft to 4m and will ream out to 5.5m upon reaching full depth. Better progress now occurring. <p>REHABILITATION ABERDARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main detention basin constructed of coarse reject between May to July 2011. To be lined with capping and commissioned prior to connecting surface water drainage to outlet. • Northern end and Southern end of Aberdare has been part capped during the CHPP shutdown. • Both ends to be checked for final levels before having ameliorants (lime, gypsum) and topsoil then seeding. <p>SEDIMENT BASIN TURBID WATER DISCHARGE, KITCHENER SIS (31 MAY 2011, 12 JUNE 2011, 22 JULY 2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater than design rainfall caused sediment basins at the SIS to overtop during storm events. • Basins are designed for the 90th percentile 5 day rainfall event per the Landcom "Blue Book" (42.8mm rainfall) over the area of disturbance. Diversion channels are also in place to divert upslope run-off. • Rainfall recorded was 120mm, 169mm, and 57mm for each incident respectively. • Each incident was reported to the Office of Environment & Heritage at the time of the incident, and a written report also provided. • Maps of the incident were shown. 		

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	<p>Noise exceedance Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During monitoring noise levels from the SIS at location NM K1 exceeded the night time construction noise management level by 4 dB in June 2011 monitoring. Noise at the time was observed as the normal fixed plant. • The exceedance was reported to both the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and also the Office of Environment and Heritage. • The shaft contractor was instructed to undertake noise control to reduce noise levels. • The contractor immediately installed a secondary exhaust to the genset and arranged a lined duct for the generator. Photos shown. • A noise control expert was engaged by the contractor to recommend further controls. • Follow up monitoring for July 2011 did not exceed noise management levels. <p>MONITORING - SUBSIDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidence monitoring of A3 completed in June 2011. Subsidence <0.42m. • Subsidence monitoring for Longwall A4 completed in June 2011. Subsidence <0.8m • Graphs of subsidence were presented showing subsidence measurements were within maximum predicted range. <p>MONITORING – AIR QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exceedance of 24 hour PM10 criteria (50ug/m3) at either monitoring location (HVAS1 and HVAS2). • Annual average PM10 is less than 		

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	<p>criteria at both locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All depositional dust gauge results were less than criteria. • Graphs of air quality monitoring were presented <p>MONITORING – WATER QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH and EC graphs were presented • pH and EC monitoring within Environment Protection Licence limits. • General trends in Bellbird Creek, Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek presented <p>MONITORING – GROUNDWATER LEVEL NEAR STAGE 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of three new alluvium monitoring bores in the Stage 2 area were presented intended to monitor for any impacts to alluvial aquifer. <p>MONITORING – NOISE CHPP/KIA/SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil noise exceedances in Q2 2011 for KIA, or CHPP. • At SIS During Recommended Standard Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than noise management levels May 2011 to July 2011. • At SIS During Outside Recommended Standard Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than noise management levels May 2011 and July 2011. • Exceeded noise management levels June 2011 by 4 dB. LAeq 39 dB measured. Reported to regulators and noise controls implemented. 		

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	<p>MONITORING – VIBRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphs of vibration data were presented for Stage 2 mining. • Frequency of events dropped off after completion of LWA4. • 6 events >1mm/sec recorded since 27 April 2011 • All are <3 mm/sec, which is much less than minimal risk of cosmetic structural damage (15mm/sec). <p>GM noted that at the alluvial monitoring location the vibration monitor had been flooded by the heavy rains in June, then again in July 2011, requiring repair on each occasion. The monitoring location has therefore had interrupted data collection and will be moved as a result.</p> <p>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (9 May 2011 to 8 August 2011) 11 complaints received. 6 complainants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 relate to noise from CHPP, also noted dozers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dozers are noise suppressed. Limited scope for additional management, other than operating in first gear as is site practice. – Walls of CHPP building have been off during period for PRP upgrade. – Currently meeting noise limits. • 1 related to vibration from the underground mining area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitoring data showed small monitoring event. Resident informed of results at the time of his complaint, and also of general trends in monitoring data. • 6 relate to noise from Kitchener SIS 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring indicated an exceedance of noise levels. Noise control being implemented at the SIS. Resident is being kept informed. • 1 was from a distant resident off Whiting's Lane indicating that continuous vibrations were generating noise within her house. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident informed of the distance to the underground mining operation (5.7km) and results of vibration monitoring which are event based rather than continuous. 		
6	General Business		
	<p>CHPP NOISE REDUCTION PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress continued since last CCC meeting • Southern wall complete. Eastern and northern wall to be completed. • Off site reduction has not been observed to date. • An extension to the upgrade program has been approved by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to 31 December 2011 • Photos of progress were presented. <p>33KV TRANSMISSION SUPPLY TO SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ausgrid verified the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared by Austar on 14 April 2011. • Construction works may commence by an Ausgrid Accredited Service Provider, implementing environmental controls proposed in the REF. • Ausgrid will own and maintain the infrastructure on completion of construction. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ausgrid are exercising Compulsory Acquisition powers for an easement over Crown Land at the north end. <p>STAGE 3 PROJECT APPROVAL MODIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessment submitted to Department of Planning and Infrastructure and other agencies in July 2011 for adequacy review. • EA will go on public exhibition once deemed adequate, perhaps end of August / early September 2011. • Landholders in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 mining area will be informed of the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment. • A meeting has been scheduled with the Quorrobolong Community Committee on 18 August 2011 to provide further information and answer questions about the modification. <p>COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellalong woodchop event • Bellbird BMX bike event • Cessnock Rugby League • Cessnock High School Presentation <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIL 		
8	Next Meeting		
	Future meeting date: 14 November 2011.		
	Meeting closed 5:15pm		

Recorded: G Mulhearn 8/8/2011
Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting
Chairperson – Garry West