



## Austar Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office

Time: 4:00pm

Date: 14 November 2011

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representative</b>
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
Adrian Moodie (AM)	Austar Coal Mine
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
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 & Infrastructure
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>		
	GW welcomed the committee and opened the meeting.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>		
	JM has a standing declaration that he is a member of the Mines Subsidence Board, and a member of the CCC for Bloomfield Colliery.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
	The minutes as prepared by Austar, were considered representative of the meeting by LD and confirmed by PS.		

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<b>4</b>	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>		
	<p>DH requested additional information regarding a quantification of why the two properties in the Stage 2 area were subject to acquisition and others were not.</p> <p>DH also queried how to relate subsidence predictions from Stage 2 &amp; Stage 3 in relation to acquisition.</p> <p>DH also provided a details of a recent Quorrobolong Community Council meeting where Austar provided a briefing on the Stage 3 Modification Project, prior to QCC conducting their own meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QCC appreciated the Austar briefing.</li> <li>• AS informed the QCC about the role of the Austar CCC and information discussed at CCC meetings.</li> <li>• DH has been invited to join the QCC.</li> </ul> <p>The QCC raised several queries to be raised at the Austar CCC meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QCC is concerned about flood modelling calibration. Specifically whether a June 2007 flood water level from inside a pump shed at the Muxlow property was used by Umwelt when calibrating the flood model.</li> <li>• A resident has required medical treatment twice due to breathing/respiratory issues and is concerned that the illness may have been caused by 'fumes' from ventilation fans (3 shaft). The resident is some kilometres from the ventilation fans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM indicated that the Austar workforce work in that environment every day.</li> <li>• DM indicated that Tahmoor has a ventilation shaft in close proximity to suburbia.</li> <li>• DM requested dates and times of medical treatment so that</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Austar to provide details regarding acquisition of properties in the Stage 2 area and how this relates to Stage 3.</p> <p>Austar to investigate whether internal level of pump shed used for the Stage 3 flood model.</p> <p>DH to request details of dates and times of medical treatment complaints.</p>	

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	<p>Austar may note the complaint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The QCC would like to see more sponsorship within the Quorrobolong area. PS and DH noted that the RFS area is effectively the “community centre” for Quorrobolong residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar has contacted Council and is supportive of a bus shelter on cnr Quorrobolong Rd and Sandy Creek Rd. However Council indicated to Austar that the cost of such a standard Council shelter may be \$25,000, which seems excessive. JM indicated he would check the details of cost of Council’s bus shelter.</li> <li>• GM indicated Austar has been discussing with Cessnock City Council maintenance and projects for the Kitchener Poppet Head Reserve. Austar will be contributing to the Kitchener Poppet Head public space.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>JM to check details of cost and type of bus shelter at Council</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b>		
	<p><b>UNDERGROUND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longwall A5 commenced 11 July 2011 and has now completed 480m of 950m retreat</li> <li>• Development operations progressing to plan.</li> <li>• Longwall A5a drivage to be completed by end of 2011. Development will then focus operations in Stage 3.</li> <li>• Road header has completed the first section of drift drivage and is now commencing further fault drivage</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>KITCHENER SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaft rig (5.5m diameter) at 336m of 460m. 73% of depth complete to finished diameter.</li> <li>• Shaft contractor bored a reduced size of shaft (4m diameter) from 325m to 446m to overcome difficulties with equipment and ground conditions.</li> <li>• Planning to continue reaming out at 5.5m diameter to full depth.</li> </ul> <p><b>REHABILITATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil rehabilitation activities in reject emplacement areas since Q3 Meeting</li> <li>• Coarse reject has been placed in northern end of Aberdare</li> <li>• 3 Houses fronting Wollombi Road have been demolished and the area rehabilitated. Photos shown.</li> </ul> <p><b>EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor site rehabilitation and erosion and sediment control undertaken Q3 - Q4 2011 at CHPP and Mine</li> <li>• Photographs of works shown</li> </ul> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</b></p> <p><b>Pipeline leak</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar owns and maintains a private water supply pipeline within the Sandy Creek Road reserve between Ellalong township and Dry Creek Road, Ellalong. This pipeline carries Hunter Water to the Austar No. 2 shaft site. A leak in the pipeline was identified during August which was repaired immediately. The location of the pipeline is shown below. There</li> </ul>		

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	<p>was no material harm to the environmental, only the loss of potable (drinking) water.</p> <p><b>Sediment Basin discharge at SIS Kitchener Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During intense rainfall event on Sunday 30 October 2011</li> <li>• Water discharge from the eastern sediment basin at the SIS over the sediment basin's weir and into Black Creek.</li> <li>• First observed at 4:30pm, and continued for a short period during the intense rainfall as a trickle from the weir (approximately one hour).</li> <li>• The incident was reported to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) via the reporting hotline with a full report provided to the OEH on the 7 November 2011</li> <li>• An investigation into the incident was undertaken which revealed rainfall measured was less than design storm event.</li> <li>• Actions recommended for the shaft contractor included rainfall measurement, maintenance of sediment basins, and regarding potential increase in size of the detention basins to minimise risk of reoccurrence.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING - SUBSIDENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidence monitoring of A3 completed in September 2011. Subsidence &lt;0.45m.</li> <li>• Subsidence monitoring for Longwall A4 completed in September 2011. Subsidence &lt;0.85m</li> <li>• Subsidence monitoring line A5 not installed due to landowner access issues. Stage 3 cross line will be used.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graphs of subsidence monitoring presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – AIR QUALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No exceedance of 24 hour PM10 criteria (50ug/m3) at either monitoring location (HVAS1 and HVAS2).</li> <li>• Annual average PM10 is less than criteria at both locations.</li> <li>• All depositional dust gauge results were less than criteria.</li> <li>• Graphs of air quality monitoring were presented</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – WATER QUALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pH and EC graphs were presented</li> <li>• pH and EC monitoring within Environment Protection Licence limits.</li> <li>• General trends in Bellbird Creek, Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek presented</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – GROUNDWATER LEVEL NEAR STAGE 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial and fractured rock aquifer monitoring shows no depressurisation in either aquifer in the Stage 2 area.</li> <li>• No effect of mining observed.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – NOISE CHPP/KIA/SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil noise exceedance in Q3 2011 for KIA.</li> <li>• CHPP nil exceedance in Q3 2011.</li> <li>• SIS less than noise management levels July 2011 to October 2011</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – VIBRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency of events dropped off after completion of LWA4.</li> <li>• Longwall mining in LWA5</li> </ul>		

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	<p>commenced during mid July 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 vibration events &gt;1mm/sec were recorded since 8 August 2011 to 4 November 2011*:</li> <li>• 7 events were below &lt;3 mm/sec,</li> <li>• 3 events &lt;4.2 mm/sec,</li> <li>• 1 event at 7.67mm/sec; and</li> <li>• 1 event at 11.6mm/sec</li> <li>• Note: all events were below the cosmetic structural damage limit of 15mm/sec)</li> <li>• Vibration monitoring graphs presented</li> </ul> <p>GM noted that due to intermittent power supply problems after monitors swamped during heavy rainfall, both vibration monitors failed to continuously monitor during October 2011. Austar have implemented several remedial measures to address the issue, including replacement of auxiliary batteries and increasing the frequency of inspections to ensure vibration monitors are functioning correctly. Data during this period to be sourced from MSB Stage 2 monitors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</b></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting ((8 August 2011 to November 2011) , Austar have received 4 complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar received a noise complaint in August regarding the SIS project. Sound pressure levels from the SIS was calculated to be LAeq 29 dB with measured sound pressure levels varying from LA 26 – 33 dB during the measurement. The complainant met with Austar’s EC towards the end of monitoring, and indicated that noise levels lower than previous. Austar informed the complainant that the construction is audible and noticeable at those levels, but less than construction noise management</li> </ul>		

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	<p>levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In September Austar received a complaint regarding a vibration event. Austar's EC downloaded the data for the period and provided the complaint with the results.</li> <li>• In October Austar received a complaint about reverse beepers from the SIS during night time. The contractor was instructed not to use beepers before 7am.</li> <li>• Austar received a noise complaint in November regarding the SIS project. Attended monitoring was undertaken the following morning and the following night. Both attended monitoring results were less than construction noise management levels.</li> </ul>		
<b>6</b>	<b>General Business</b>		
	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY MANAGER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Mulhearn appointed as Austar Environment &amp; Community Manager</li> <li>• Full time Environment &amp; Community Coordinator will be appointed</li> <li>• Austar devoting more resources to Environment &amp; Community management at the mine</li> </ul> <p><b>CHPP NOISE REDUCTION PROGRAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress continued since last CCC meeting</li> <li>• Majority of walls completed, some minor wall works remain.</li> <li>• Off site reduction has not been observed to date with walls open, but should be measureable from this point.</li> <li>• Upgrade program to be completed by 31 December 2011</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photos of progress presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>STAGE 3 PROJECT APPROVAL MODIFICATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Assessment was on public exhibition from 9 to 30 September 2011.</li> <li>• Ten submissions received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5 comment from Agencies (DRE, OEH, NPWS, CCC, NOW)</li> <li>– 1 supporting submission from CFMEU</li> <li>– 4 objections from 2 residences</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response to submissions addressing agency comment and objections being prepared.</li> <li>• Department of Planning and Infrastructure determination to follow.</li> <li>• Landholders in the Stage 2 and Stage 3 mining area will be informed of the determination of the Environmental Assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cessnock High School - end of year awards</li> <li>• Cessnock Scouts – Jamboree</li> <li>• Bellbird Pre School – upgrade of children's bathroom/toilets</li> <li>• Quorrobolong Community Council – requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bus shelter shed cnr Quorrobolong Road</li> <li>• additional shelter shed tables and seating funding for Quorrobolong Fire Station. Funds have already been secured from Council for a small shelter shed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar has verbally responded to QCC regarding these matters, and discussed previously at CCC meetings.</li> <li>• Austar is happy to contribute to a bus shelter at Quorrobolong Road of more modest construction than the standard Cessnock City Council design</li> <li>• Austar will be contributing to maintenance of the Kitchener Poppet Head Reserve per the commitment made in our Stage 3 Environmental Assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LD indicated she is resigning from the Austar CCC with this meeting being her last. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LD indicated that she was pleased with how the CCC was operating with members of the mining area now sitting on the committee. LD also indicated she had not been contacted about the mining operation by members of the community for a very long time.</li> <li>• GW acknowledged LD's contribution to the CCC, having been a member since the Austar CCC was formed.</li> <li>• Thank you extended to LD from Austar and other CCC members.</li> <li>• GM indicated that with LD's resignation, the CCC still included 3 community members, which meets the requirements of the DP&amp;I CCC guidelines. GM to inform DP&amp;I of LD resignation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• JM provided some information on the</li> </ul>	<p>GM to inform DP&amp;I of LD resignation from CCC</p>	

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	<p>Mine Subsidence Board claims received in the Tahmoor area as general information on MSB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1500 claims in the Tahmoor area</li> <li>• 1200 claims have been certified</li> <li>• 20-24 claims over \$100,000</li> <li>• JM passed on a query regarding trains from the community in Weston. The community asked why coal trains stop at Weston for some time and idle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GM indicated that Pacific National operate the trains according to their own procedures outside of the control of Austar. Austar to query why the trains are stopping at Weston.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Austar to query why trains are stopping at Weston</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>		
	Future meeting date: 17 February 2012 1pm.		
	Meeting closed 5:15pm		

Recorded: G Mulhearn 14/11/2011  
Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting  
Chairperson – Garry West