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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 1:00pm – 1:47pm
 Date: 18 November 2015

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Jack Potter (JP)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative (present for site tour that preceded the meeting)
Councillor Cordelia Troy (CT)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Bob Pynsent	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting. Welcomed BW (Mine Operations Manager) to the CCC meeting.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • Independent Chair of numerous Community Consultative Committee's 		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. PS moved, GM seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<p>A site tour of Austar's surface facilities and underground mining areas was arranged by GM. The tour occurred immediately prior to the CCC meeting with MMH, DH, AS, PS in company with GM.</p> <p>CCC members thanked Austar for the tour.</p> <p>PS enquired about the potential inclusion of landowners from the Bellbird South area on the Austar CCC. This was briefly discussed at the previous meeting.</p> <p>GM stated that Austar was open to that. General discussion was held with CCC members and Chairperson on the most appropriate manner. Austar to engage with landowners within the Bellbird South modification area (within predicted subsidence impact area) to gauge interest.</p>	Austar to engage with landowners over Bellbird South modification area to gauge interest in a representative joining the Austar CCC	
5	Correspondence		
	<p>Incoming</p> <p>30/9/15 – Letter from Austar enclosing 2014-15 AEMR</p> <p>6/11/15 – email from Austar advising of exhibition of Bellbird South Modification</p> <p>9/11/15 – email from Austar advising of Modification exhibition locations</p>		

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6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	<p>GM & BW – provided an update on current and proposed underground operations.</p> <p><u>Current Operations</u></p> <p>Underground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area after commencing in June 2015. • Longwall extraction in Bellbird South is proposed to commence in Q3 2016, this is dependent on approval of a modification application to an existing consent, and of an Extraction Plan for the proposed longwall panels. <p>Bellbird South Mining Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan of Bellbird South Longwalls was presented. • Mining leases currently held over area (CML2 and CCL728) • Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area after commencing in June 2015 • Longwall extraction in Bellbird South is proposed to commence in Q3 2016, this is dependent on approval of a modification application to an existing consent, and of an Extraction Plan for the proposed longwall panels • Extraction Plan approvals to be completed in parallel with modification process <p>Bellbird South LWB1-B3 Modification - Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed modification will modify development consent DA29/95 to include three longwall panels (LWB1-LWB3). The proposed modification seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ extend the development consent area to cover the three longwall panels to facilitate the recovery of an addition of approximately 4.5 million tonnes of ROM coal ○ include a new Extraction Plan condition to cover the LWB1, B2 and B3 workings, consistent with contemporary Extraction Plan requirements ○ extend the life of the Bellbird South Consent by a further 5 years to provide sufficient time for LWB1, B2 and B3 to be completed. • There is no proposed change to the existing, approved mining operations or associated surface facilities or to existing approved production rates. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conventional longwall mining method (not top coal caving) ○ Approx 3.5m extraction height in the Greta Seam ○ Approx 480-555m depth of cover ○ Longwall void width 237m ○ Approx lengths 1480m to 1880m • Extraction order is proposed to be LWB2, LWB3 with LWB1 last. <p>Bellbird South Modification - Environmental Assessment Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 925mm of subsidence is predicted over the 3 longwalls, which is less than predicted for the Stage 2 or Stage 3 mining areas. • Monitoring within the previously extracted areas has shown no significant impacts associated with underground mining, including no visible surface cracking and no significant impacts to built features. • The LWB1-B3 area is predicted to have similarly low impact on natural and built features and on existing land uses within the modification area in the EA. Existing subsidence management practices (Extraction Plan and subsidence monitoring) are proposed to be extended over the Bellbird South area. <p>Bellbird South LWB1-B3 Modification – EA Submission & Public Exhibition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessment to support the modification application to DA29/95 has been submitted to Department of Planning and Environment. • EA is on Public Exhibition from 10-24 November 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cessnock City Council Office ○ DPE Office ○ Nature Conservation Council Office ○ Austar Coal Mine Office ○ DPE website / Austar website • Landholders overlying the mining area and Council have been advised of exhibition of EA. <p>PS noted news reports that a report on the accident in Stage 3 had been released.</p> <p>BW noted the Department of Industry report on the Austar accident was released on 29 October 2015. Austar advised the</p>		

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	<p>workforce of the release of the report and continued to offer counselling services in that regard. The recommendations of the report are to be considered by all operators of mines in NSW. The report is under review, and many of the recommendations have already been adopted at Austar prior to its release.</p> <p>GM – provided an update on current surface operations.</p> <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal operations occurring, albeit at reduced levels since completion of Longwall A8. Operations will ramp up when longwall extraction recommences at Austar. <p>Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil additional boreholes commenced since last CCC meeting. Two exploration boreholes planned in coming months. • A seismic line in the Bellbird South area was undertaken in August 2015. • Exploration program is planned to continue in 2015 to 2016. Austar will be consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration. <p>GM presented diagrams of the seismic line area and equipment.</p> <p>Environmental Incidents 11 August 2015 to 18 November 2015</p> <p>GM gave summary of environmental incidents since previous meeting.</p> <p>11 August 2015 – 2 Shaft Pipeline – Potential Pipeline Leak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small area of ponded water was identified on the surface above the buried 2 Shaft pipeline and was investigated as a potential leak. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pipeline was excavated in the area of the ponded water to examine the pipeline joins for potential leaks. Nil leaks were identified. ○ Temporary monitoring wells were installed adjacent to the pipeline trench to monitor for possible leaks during pipeline operation. ○ Investigations determined that the ponded water was not the result of a leak in the 2 Shaft Pipeline. Area was reinstated, inspection program continues. 		

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	<p>20 August 2015 – CHPP 1ML Tank – Sodium Hydroxide spill to land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident was identified at a bunded area containing a sodium hydroxide dosing tank at the CHPP 1ML Tank. • A small leak from the dosing area caused a stain on adjacent soils. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The sodium hydroxide tank was pumped out ○ The area was treated with spill absorbent material ○ Stained soils were excavated and replaced with clean fill ○ The bunded area will be repaired and additional concrete sumps are being installed to reduce risk of spill occurrence. <p>GM – provided update on environmental monitoring</p> <p><u>Environmental Monitoring Update</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphs of subsidence measurement presented. Approx 0.75m of subsidence has been measured. • Measured subsidence for LWA7 and LWA8 has been less than predicted subsidence. <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual average PM₁₀ was well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at all locations to date in 2015. • Annual average deposited dust was below Annual Maximum Criteria for all locations to date in 2015. • Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented. <p>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>Groundwater Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater levels were presented on graphs. • Groundwater levels are stable in monitored piezometers. <p>Noise</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (28 April 2015 to 11 August 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise was compliant with noise limits from 12 August 2015 to 18 November 2015. 		

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	<p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (7 August 2015 to 13 November 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 events >1mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 event <3mm/sec • Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 events >1mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 events <3mm/sec <p><u>Community Complaints</u></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (11 August 2015 to 17 November 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no community complaints during this period. 		
7	General Business		
	<p>Annual Environmental Management Report 2014-2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AEMR was submitted to DPE, DRE and other relevant agencies. A copy was provided to CCC members and also placed on the Austar website. <p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westpac Helicopter – Belt Crew Donation • Central Coast Axemen – 2015 Miners Challenge Memorial Woodchop • Cessnock High School – 2015 End of Year Awards <p>Other</p> <p>PS asked about a guard rail on closest pole to the power line that feeds Kitchener. AS noted that in previous CCC discussions the road is constructed close to the edge of the road reserve.</p> <p>GM advised that follow up discussions will need to occur with Council.</p>	<p>Austar to follow up with Council on guard rail.</p>	

Item	Issue	Action	Date
8	Next Meetings		
	Next Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 February 2016 – 9:30am LTCC Office, Austar CHPP. Proposed other 2016 meeting dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 April 2016, 17 August 2016, 16 November 2016. 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 1:47pm and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Jack Potter 18/11/2015

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill