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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office
 Time: 9:37am – 10:45am
 Date: 12 February 2014

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Dave McLean (DM) – (9:37am-10:09am)	Austar Coal Mine
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
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 & Infrastructure
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting. GM – Welcomed MMH to the Committee as our new Chairperson.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • Member of the Minister’s Arbitration Panel JM - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board 		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. PS moved, JM seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<p>PS – still an outstanding matter regarding the Sharing the Benefits Agreement. Meeting held with DM and others in August 2013, and further discussions in November 2013. Now February 2014 and there is still outstanding issues to be discussed.</p> <p>GM – Ran through the background of the agreement for the benefit of MMH, indicating that the detail of the Agreement is a private matter between Austar and individual landowners which is dealt with outside the CCC meeting.</p> <p>DH – This is an issue of the community we represent so it should be discussed.</p> <p>GM – Agreed that progress should be discussed in CCC meeting in general terms, but individual details will not.</p> <p>DM – Further discussions on the matter to be held in a separate meeting. Austar will arrange meeting with relevant landowners.</p>	Austar to arrange meeting re Sharing the Benefits Agreement outside of CCC meeting with relevant landowners	30 March 2014
5	Introduction and Overview of Austar Coal Mine		
	<p>GM & DM – Provided a presentation introducing Austar’s operations (underground and surface), approvals, environmental management, community relations, and access to information for the benefit of MMH and as a refresher for others.</p> <p>DM – excused himself from the meeting.</p>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
6	<p>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</p>		
	<p>GM – provided an update on current operations.</p> <p>Current Operations</p> <p>Stage 3 Approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine plan amendments to LWA7 to LWA10 start and finish lines were approved by DP&I under s75W of EP&A Act on 17 December 2013. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The modification extends LWA7 to LWA10 by 100, 300, 200, and 170m. • Modified first workings approved by DP&I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retraction of commencing end of A8 by approximately 190m short of dyke structure and variation to mains (20 November 2013) ○ Retraction of commencing end of A9 by approximately 400-440m short of dyke structure (23 December 2013) • Modified Extraction Plan / Subsidence Management Plan LWA7 to LWA10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extraction Plan update approved by DP&I on 6 January 2014 ○ SMP variation approved by DRE on 7 January 2014 with additional condition for Quorrobolong Road Management Plan ○ Built Features Management Plan – Endorsed by Council on 21 November 2013 and approved by DRE on 16 January 2014 as Quorrobolong Rd Management Plan ○ Subsidence Monitoring Program approved by DRE on 20 January 2014 <p>GM – presented plans showing the area of change, and area of subsidence monitoring extensions. GM distributed copies of approval documents to CCC members for the modification, Extraction Plan and SMP variation.</p> <p>Subsidence Monitoring Program Extension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S138 Roads Act Approval from Council for Quorrobolong Rd monitoring and signage installation received 19 December 2013 • Extension of lines in Werakata SCA (Licence amendment received from NPWS on 31 January 2014) 		

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	<p>Underground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall A7 has retreated 880m of an approved 1023m • Development continued in Stage 3 • Longwall move to A8 planned to commence mid March 2014. • LWA8 to commence early May 2014 <p>Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage improvement to western sediment basin to overflow into water storage dam November 2013 • Permanent noise wall around No.5 Shaft fans completed December 2013 • Installation of pipelines and communications for automated pump stations from sediment basin and water storage dam to Kalingo Dam in progress Jan-Feb 2014 • Site rehabilitation of construction areas no longer required for site operation commenced 7 February 2014 <p>Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area 12 – 4.5 ha treated and seeded early December 2013 • Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area – 1 ha treated and seeded early December 2013 <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHPP normal operations <p>Environmental Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 14 November 2013 to 11 February 2014 – there was 1 reportable incident • 18 Nov 2013 - Sediment basin overflow at Kitchener SIS due to greater than design rainfall • Eastern sediment basin at the SIS discharged over the outlet weir into Black Creek due to greater than approved design rainfall (42.8mm) • 158mm rainfall <24hrs • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported to EPA ○ Water samples collected and sent to the laboratory for analysis ○ Water pumped from eastern sediment basin to water storage dams ○ Water storage dams pumped to Kalingo Dam ○ Drainage improvement to western basin in November 		

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	<p>○ 2013 prior to rainfall resulted in zero discharge from this western basin.</p> <p>DH – 43mm seems like small dam sizing, we sometimes get more than that during rainfall</p> <p>GM – Agreed that we sometimes get more than that amount of rainfall in an event. Dam sizing is as per Blue Book design for a 90th percentile five day rainfall depth of 42.8mm. The design is approved by the DP&I. The Blue Book indicates that rainfall will cause this dam sizing [90th percentile 5 day] to be exceeded 5-6 times per year. We have observed such rainfall, which causes the basin to overtop and subsequently report this to the authorities.</p> <p>Environmental Monitoring Update</p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring survey undertaken in December 2013. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented • Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at approximately 200mm for Stage 3 (LWA7) • 450mm maximum subsidence predicted at completion of LWA7 <p>DH – Subsidence graphs normally have predicted subsidence line shown</p> <p>GM – Seeking to have that information added to the graphs for next meeting.</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual average PM₁₀ is well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at both locations in 2013 • Annual average insoluble solids (g/m².month) recorded from dust deposition gauges below Annual Maximum Criteria of 4 g/m² at all gauges for 2013 • Results from Stage 3 dust gauges D7-D9 presented. Results continue to show very little dust. • 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>Predicted subsidence line to be added to graphs</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p>

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>Noise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since last CCC meeting (14 November 2013 to 12 February 2014) measured noise was compliant with noise limits. • Exceedance of 1dB, due to 5 dB low frequency modifying factor, on 5 February 2014 at NMC1 (Pyne Residence) near CHPP. • Not a significant exceedance as Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy deems a development to be in non-compliance only when “the monitored noise level is more than 2 dB above the statutory noise limit specified in the consent or licence condition.” <p>Vibration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since last CCC meeting - nil vibration events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road - Last vibration event 25 October 2013 ○ Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane - Last vibration event 23 November 2013 • Graph of vibration events recorded during Stage 3 mining presented <p>Community Complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since last CCC Meeting (14 November 2013 to 12 February 2014) – No complaints 		
7	General Business		
	<p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starlight Foundation Australia sponsorship of Christmas in the Courtyard to raise funds for Starlight foundation • Abermain-West Hawks Rugby leagues sponsorship of Hawks for 2014 • Cessnock Mayoral Academic Scholarship - Austar Mining / Technical Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applications close 24 Feb 2014, Presentation Night 8 April 2014 <p>DH – Are there many applicants for scholarship?</p> <p>GM – In the past there have been few applicants. This year’s application period is not yet closed.</p> <p>DH – Would you consider broadening the category?</p> <p>GM – Austar is interested in developing Mining/Technical students. Perhaps if numbers are low we would consider</p>		

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	<p>broadening the category in future.</p> <p>JM – Council have received complaints about the Hardie Holdings Bellbird rezoning adjoining the Aberdare Emplacement Area.</p> <p>GM – There are new owners of the land Winton Partners who are progressing the rezoning. GM has spoken with the new owners of the land and Council about the timing for completion of the Aberdare Extended Reject Emplacement Area. Our agreement with the landowner allows Austar access until rehabilitation is complete.</p>		
8	Next Meetings		
	<p>Meeting dates for 2014 agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 May 2014 – 9:30am (AS sends apologies for this meeting as he will be overseas) • 13 August 2014 – 9:30am • 12 November 2014 – 9:30am <p>Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 May 2014 – 9:30am Austar Coal Mine Boardroom 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	<p>MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:45am and thanked all for attending.</p>		

Recorded: Carly McCormack 12/02/2014

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill