

SITE: Middle Road, Paxton NSW 2325 Australia
 POSTAL: PO Box 806 Cessnock NSW 2325 Australia
 PHONE: +61 2 4993 7200
 FAX: +61 2 4993 7326
 EMAIL: info@austarcoalmine.com.au
 WEBSITE: www.austarcoalmine.com.au
 ABN 67 111 910 822

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office
 Time: 9:30am
 Date: 13 November 2013

Name	Representative
Hon Garry West (GW)	Independent Chair
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) – Partial Attendance	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		
	GW welcomed the committee and opened the meeting.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	No additional declarations of interest to those standing.		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. PS proposed, AS seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	GM continued liaising with Council on protection of power pole in close proximity to Quorrobolong Road. Survey of the area complete and guard rail design in progress.		
5	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	<p>DM/GM provided an update on current operations.</p> <p>UNDERGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Longwall A7 has retreated 640m of an approved 908m ▪ Development continued in Stage 3 ▪ Mine plan amendments to LWA7 to LWA10 start and finish lines have been submitted to DP&I and DRE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modified first workings plan submitted to DP&I for approval to retract commencing end of A8 by approximately 190m short of dyke structure. ▪ Environmental Assessment to modify LWA7-A10 submitted to DP&I for approval to extend LWA7 to LWA10 by 100, 300, 200, and 170m. ▪ Modified Extraction Plan / Subsidence Management Plan submitted to DP&I and DRE for assessment concurrently with modification application. <p>KITCHENER SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing site for rehabilitation of construction areas no longer required for site operation ▪ Permanent noise wall planned to be constructed Q4 2013 to replace temporary wall 		

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	<p>REHABILITATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area 12 – 4.5 ha capping and earthworks almost complete ▪ Aberdare Emplacement Area – 1 ha capped and complete ▪ Above areas to be ameliorated and seeded Q4 2013 <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CHPP normal operations <p>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 reportable incidents ▪ 3 non-reportable incidents <p><u>19 August 2013 – Seepage from effluent dam wall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effluent dam holds treated effluent from AWTS prior to irrigation to land ▪ Southern end of effluent dam wall observed to be seeping ▪ Austar installed a bund downslope of dam to ensure any seepage is directed into dirty water system ▪ Sought geotechnical advice for repair/rectification options ▪ Dam pumped down to operate at low level – no further seepage observed ▪ Management option – continue to operate dam at low level <p><u>4 September 2013 – Oil water separator corrosion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During routine maintenance activities, corrosion holes were identified located at the base of separating panels inside oil water separator potential for ineffective operation ▪ Oil booms installed in washdown bay and below separator outlet ▪ Water level within separator maintained via hose ensuring effective operation ▪ Replacement unit currently being manufactured <p><u>26 September 2013 – Low frequency noise exceedance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During routine noise monitoring measured noise levels recorded at location NMC3 (O’Hearn residence) were right at the noise limit (LA90, 15 minute 37dB) ▪ The nature of noise classified as low frequency in 		

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	<p>accordance with the INP methods, resulting in a 5 dB modifying factor applying to the measured noise level. The assessable noise level therefore exceeded the EPL noise limit by 5 dB at the O’Hearn Residence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No atypical site activities were being undertaken at this time. ▪ The resident and regulators were informed of the exceedance. ▪ Austar is continuing progress with the PRP in consultation with the EPA <p><u>11 October 2013 – Leak in 2 shaft borehole pipeline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During routine inspections a small leak to land was detected in the 2 shaft borehole pipeline causing a wet spot ▪ This pipeline carries water from 2 shaft to Kalingo Dam ▪ The pipeline was immediately shut off until repaired ▪ During the repair water within the pipeline was removed to Kalingo Dam via pump out truck <p><u>16 October 2013 – noise exceedance due to modifying factor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s contribution to measured noise levels at all locations during monitoring on 16 October 2013 were within relevant noise limits, however due to the applicability of the 5dB low frequency modifying factor noise exceedances were recorded at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMC1 (3 dB) and NMC3 (3 dB) surrounding the CHPP, and • NMK1 (4 dB) adjacent to Kitchener SIS ▪ No atypical site activities were being undertaken at this time ▪ Follow-up monitoring undertaken on 22/10 indicated noise levels were within limits ▪ Discussions in progress with DP&I and EPA on low frequency policy and reporting of exceedances <p>MONITORING – SUBSIDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring survey undertaken in September 2013. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented. ▪ Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at slightly less than 75mm in Stage 3 area. 		

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	<p>MONITORING – AIR QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual average PM₁₀ is well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at both locations. ▪ Annual average insoluble solids (g/m².month) recorded from dust deposition gauges remains below Annual Maximum Criteria of 4 g/m² at all gauges except location D2 (Pelton Village). Results for Pelton Village have remained below 4 g/m² for the past 4 months. ▪ Results from Stage 3 dust gauges D7-D9 presented. Results show very little dust. ▪ Graphs of air quality monitoring data 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 – NOISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring at each location undertaken three nights per quarter, nominally once per month ▪ Q3 – Measured noise was compliant with noise limits. Reported exceedance due to 5 dB low frequency modifying factor at one location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 September 2013 - NMC3 near CHPP ▪ Q4 (in progress) - Measured noise has been compliant with noise limits. Reported exceedance due to 5 dB low frequency modifying factor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 October 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NMC1, NMC3 near CHPP ▪ NMC1 adjacent to Kitchener SIS ▪ Austar is in discussion with DP&I and EPA in relation to low frequency as defined in Industrial Noise Policy 		

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	<p>MONITORING – VIBRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 24 vibration events from 6 Aug to 1 Nov 2013 in Stage 3 Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 triggers V8 (159 Coney Creek Lane) • 5 triggers V7 (345 Quorrobolong Road) • Majority <3mm/sec • 3 triggers 3-5mm/sec • 2 larger events 10-11.7mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16/08/2013 4:12pm – 10.10mm/sec (V8) ▪ 25/10/2013 2:58am – 11.70mm/sec (V8) ▪ Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec <p>General discussion held on vibration events felt.</p> <p>AS - Event on 16/08 of 10.10mm/sec was felt by and house shuddered. GM indicated the result was one of the higher readings for Stage 3, and was significantly less at V7 than V8.</p> <p>GM - indicated results short duration, typically about 1 second, and are similar to what has been experienced previously in Stage 2 and will be felt by residents in the mining area and heard as rattling windows and noise from the structure.</p> <p>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (15 August to 13 November 2013) Austar has received 4 complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 September 2013 – Complaint regarding dozer noise at CHPP. Investigation found dozers being operated outside site procedures. Dozers are routinely serviced weekly with track tension checked on each occasion. ▪ 4 September 2013 – EPA complaint regarding dozer noise at CHPP. As above. ▪ 24 September 2013 – EPA complaint regarding noise from Pit Top. Investigation found the surface coal bin may be the source. Noise source controls for bin being investigated. Follow-up complaint response monitoring undertaken was OK. ▪ 4 November 2013 – EPA complaint regarding noise from Pit Top bin. Noise controls investigated since the previous 		

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	complaint were installed as a trial on 12 November 2013 to attempt to reduce coal impact noise in bin.		
6	General Business		
	<p>Stage 3 First Workings Variation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submitted to DP&I for Approval to retract commencing end of LWA8 by approx 185m due to presence of dyke structure. Also some change to main headings in same application. ▪ Change to environmental impacts assessed in EA for LWA7 to LWA10 <p>Environmental Assessment – Modification LWA7-A10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submitted to DP&I for Approval 16 October 2013 ▪ EA was on Public Exhibition until 1 November 2013 <p>Extraction Plan Update / Subsidence Management Plan Variation Modification LWA7-LWA10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current Extraction Plan / SMP was approved on 30 May 2013 and 3 June 2013 ▪ The EP/SMP was updated to reflect subsidence parameters the proposed MOD3, and submitted to DP&I and DRE for Approval on 31 October 2013 ▪ Management strategies remain the same as already approved. ▪ Additional subsidence monitoring proposed for Quorrobolong Road <p>DH – Enquired into potential subsidence of Quorrobolong Road resulting from extension of longwalls to west.</p> <p>GM – Additional monitoring line along Quorrobolong Road will be installed to monitor subsidence. Built Features Management Plan prepared in consultation with Cessnock City Council.</p> <p>GW – Enquired at what stage in the approval process was the Environmental Assessment (EA).</p> <p>GM – EA public exhibition period finished. Now in the assessment period. Expecting draft conditions soon. Extraction Plan/Subsidence Management Plan being assessed concurrently.</p> <p>GM - LWA7 and A8 pulled up short on east end due to dyke structure too hard to mine through. A feasibility study is currently underway for LWA9 considering a number of options including mining up to the dyke structure and then re-establishing the longwall on the other side of the dyke.</p>		

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	<p>DH – Could leaving the dyke structure act like an additional pillar and change subsidence?</p> <p>GM – Impacts will be assessed when modifications proposed.</p> <p>GW – Could the dyke structure attract larger vibrations? Act as a conduit?</p> <p>GM – Difficult to say. We have vibration monitor V7 located further away in Stage 3 to record vibration levels at a further distance over the longer term.</p> <p>Other</p> <p>DH – Noted there is an outstanding item on the Sharing the Benefits Agreement still to be addressed.</p> <p>DM – Austar looking to finalise that matter on the Agreement before Christmas, which will be addressed outside the CCC forum.</p> <p>GW – Announced he is standing down as CCC Chairperson due to commitments with the Planning Assessment Commission and the potential for conflict. Garry thanked Austar and members of the CCC for their support. This is Garry’s last meeting.</p> <p>DM/GM – Thanked Garry for his involvement at Austar and with successful operation of the Austar CCC.</p> <p>GM – With GW standing down, Austar will seek a new chairperson prior to next meeting for approval by DP&I.</p>		
7	Next Meetings		
	<p>Next meeting: 12 February 2014 – 9:30am</p>		
8	Meeting Closed		
	<p>GW – Declared the meeting closed and thanked all for attending. Meeting closed 10:30am</p>		

Recorded: C McCormack 19/11/2013

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Garry West