

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 February 2013

Name	Representative
Hon Garry West (GW)	Independent Chair
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
David McLean (DM)	Austar Coal Mine
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly Ellis (CE)	Austar Coal Mine
<b>Apologies</b>	
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
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	<b>Welcome</b>		
	GW welcomed the committee and opened the meeting.		
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>		
	No additional declarations of interest to those standing.		
3	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
	The minutes as prepared by Austar, were considered representative of the meeting. PS proposed, DH seconded.		
4	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>		
	GM provided explanation of disturbed survey marks and detail on tensile strain subsidence. Extract from MSEC A5 end of panel subsidence report presented and distributed.  GW suggested committee members review information and direct any additional questions to GM.		
	DM provided update on longwall mining schedule. Schedule of timing for the next 5 years was presented and distributed.		
5	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b>		
	<p><b>UNDERGROUND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longwall A5a rear conveyor removal occurred in late November (no caving for remainder of panel)</li> <li>• Longwall A5a ( &amp; Stage 2) completion due February 2013</li> <li>• Development focusing on operations in Stage 3</li> <li>• LWA7 (Stage 3) planned commencement June 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>KITCHENER SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No.5 Shaft (5.5m diameter) fully completed. Fan construction to commence February 2013.</li> <li>• Services borehole fully lined. Will be used to remove cuttings from No. 6 shaft.</li> <li>• No. 6 shaft raise bore. Currently reaming the 3.0m shaft. 60m of 478m complete.</li> <li>• Site power construction commenced in October and is ongoing.</li> <li>• Power line construction commenced in November and is ongoing.</li> <li>• Permanent water and communications line to commence Q1-Q2 2013.</li> </ul>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p><b>CHPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal operation throughout Q4</li> <li>• Shutdown/maintenance planned during longwall move</li> </ul> <p><b>ABERDARE EMPLACEMENT AREA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing of reject emplacement area completed in December 2012</li> <li>• Shaping, ripping, liming and mulching of bare areas adjacent to emplacement area completed in December 2012</li> </ul> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</b></p> <p><b>3 January 2013 – Kitchener SIS Drilling Production Dam Spill to Land</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitting on pump from production dam to drill rig disconnected</li> <li>• Production water spilled outside the dam area to land</li> <li>• Environmental improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bund installed around production dams to catch such events</li> <li>○ Regular inspection program of production dams implemented</li> <li>○ Hose type was changed to eliminate the need for the type of fitting</li> <li>○ Tool box talk was distributed by contractor on identifying and reporting incidents</li> <li>○ Spill was cleaned up</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>11 January 2013 – CHPP Noise Exceedance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine quarterly noise compliance monitoring during the night of Thursday 10 January 2013 recorded a 5 dB exceedance at the O’Hearn Residence</li> <li>• EPA notified of the exceedance on Friday 11 January 2013</li> <li>• The affected resident was notified of the exceedance and indicated they were not concerned by noise from the CHPP</li> </ul> <p><b>28 January 2013 – Kitchener SIS Sediment Basins Discharge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self report of incident to EPA</li> <li>• The incident involved both the eastern and western sediment basins at the SIS discharging over their respective outlet weirs into Black Creek, due to greater than design rainfall</li> <li>• Additionally, tunnelling erosion occurred in the eastern sediment basin dam wall surrounding a dewatering pipe (installed in the basin wall</li> </ul>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>approximately 2 ½ years prior) allowing sediment laden water and soil/sediment to discharge into Black Creek at a level lower than the outlet weir of the basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions taken in response to incident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sediment fence was erected around dam wall tunnelling erosion hole in Black Creek to contain any further sediment discharge into creek</li> <li>○ Both eastern and western sediment basins pumped to empty, in preparation for next rainfall event</li> <li>○ Eastern sediment basin dam wall repaired by plugging of hole in inner dam wall with mass of concrete and backfilling with soil and compacting to outer dam wall</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>30 January 2013 – CHPP Water Pollution Control Dam (WPCD) Discharge to Bellbird Creek</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self report of incident to EPA</li> <li>• Incident involved site stormwater runoff caused by heavy rainfall between 27 – 29 January 2013 to fill the WPCD and flow down emergency overflow channel</li> <li>• Evidence that a discharge from the WPCD over the dam wall had entered Bellbird Creek was discovered on 30 January 2013 and reported to the EPA</li> <li>• Dam wall was surveyed at a higher level than an emergency overflow channel – flow should have only gone down overflow channel.</li> <li>• Environmental improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Construct a bund between WPCD and Bellbird Creek to divert water to the Emergency Overflow Dam via existing catch drain</li> <li>○ Install additional channel connection the dividing wall between the upstream and downstream cells of the WPCD</li> <li>○ Emergency overflow channel inlet level (WPCD outlet level) reduced further below the lowest point on the WPCD wall</li> <li>○ Review of the operation of the pumping system at the WPCD</li> <li>○ Austar also committed to conducting a full engineering review of the stormwater management system at the CHPP site</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p><b>MONITORING – SUBSIDENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring survey undertaken in November 2012. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented.</li> <li>Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at slightly less than 1.2m in Stage 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – AIR QUALITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual average PM<sub>10</sub> is well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at both locations.</li> <li>Annual average insoluble solids (g/m<sup>2</sup>.month) recorded from dust deposition gauges remains below Annual Maximum Criteria of 4 g/m<sup>2</sup> at all gauges.</li> <li>Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented</li> </ul> <p>DH enquired into the need to monitor PM<sub>2.5</sub></p> <p>GW responded not mandated</p> <p>GM indicated Aустar are not required to monitor for PM<sub>2.5</sub> by our development consent. We monitor for PM<sub>10</sub> using high volume air samplers and dust levels are within limits at Aустar.</p> <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> <li>Graphs of groundwater level and quality presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – NOISE CHPP &amp; KIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q4 2012 – 13 December 1 dB exceedance at O’Hearn Residence during night period</li> <li>Q1 2013 – 10 January 5 dB exceedance at O’Hearn Residence during night period</li> </ul> <p>GM indicated 1 dB exceedance is not considered to be a non-compliance with a noise limit under the terms of the Industrial Noise Policy.</p> <p>GM indicated the 5dB exceedance was reported to the EPA and the resident. The resident was not aware of the exceedance, and appreciated the notification.</p>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p><b>MONITORING – NOISE KITCHENER SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil noise exceedance – November 2012 to January 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – VIBRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 vibration events from 16 November 2012 to 1 February 2013</li> <li>• No events above daytime preferred criteria of 8.6mm/sec</li> <li>• 2 events &gt;3.0mm/sec (3.05 &amp; 5.16mm/sec)</li> <li>• Remaining 4 events were &lt;2.0mm/sec</li> <li>• Note: all events were below the cosmetic structural damage limit of 15mm/sec).</li> <li>• Graph of vibration results presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</b></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (24 November 2012 to 13 February 2013) Austar has received 2 complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 December 2012 and 31 January 2013 – Complaint on two occasions by anonymous caller regarding installation of power poles closer to road than existing poles along Cessnock Street/Quorrobolong Road. Resident advised the design has been designed by Ausgrid and will be owned by Ausgrid on completion of construction.</li> </ul> <p>PS agreed one pole on a ‘dog-leg’ in the road is very close to the road.</p> <p>GM indicated that Ausgrid designed the pole locations to reside within the road reserve. The road is constructed very near to the road reserve boundary at that location.</p> <p>DM committed to Austar investigating the location of the pole and potential to for delineation / barrier around this pole.</p>	<p>Austar to investigate the location of the pole with Ausgrid and the potential for delineation/barriers around this pole.</p>	
6	<p><b>General Business</b></p>		
	<p><b>ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Trade and Investment – Division of Resources and Energy conducted inspection on 9 January 2013 after reviewing the AEMR. The AEMR was considered satisfactory. Main issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation is not meeting schedule of the MOP (open cut pits and built structures). Austar to provide updated rehabilitation schedule to DRE including any variances.</li> <li>• Progressive rehabilitation at SIS construction area in completed areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General housekeeping matters with hydrocarbon storage, laydown areas, and stockpiles.</li> </ul> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site Water Management Plan currently being updated.</li> <li>Update to Bushfire Management Plan draft completed.</li> <li>Stage 3 Environmental Management Plans preparation commencing ahead of Stage 3 extraction</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY PROJECTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedens Ronald McDonald Fundraiser - fund raiser for the Ronald McDonalds house Newcastle</li> <li>West Cessnock Public School - Christmas Carols by Candlelight</li> <li>2013 Cessnock City Council Mayoral Academic Scholarship Scheme – Closing date for applications 22 Feb 2013. To be awarded 9 April 2013.</li> <li>Sponsorship of Cessnock Annual Show 2013</li> <li>Truro St, Ellalong – remedial roadworks to poor condition gravel/sealed road at Austar Pit Top rear gate. Benefits to two residents which share the road for legal access. Council to maintain road after completion of remedial works.</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Landholder Agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PS acknowledged a deal of good will between Austar and landholders to discuss details of the agreement. PS/AS/DH requested a meeting to discuss certain details of the agreement.</li> <li>DM agreed to a meeting to discuss these issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Flood Maps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Consultative Committee members passed on general community feedback enquiring about flood maps</li> <li>GM noted that flood maps are available on the Austar website and have been presented at previous CCC meetings</li> <li>GM agreed to print out flood maps for presentation at next CCC meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting MSB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents of Quorrobolong met with Greg Cole-Clark of MSB</li> <li>Greg gave rundown on responsibilities of Austar and MSB</li> <li>Greg advised he would be happy to attend a CCC meeting as an observer if requested</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Community Interaction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS enquired about noise complaints from resident near</li> </ul>	<p>GM to supply flood maps at next meeting</p>	

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>the Kitchener SIS. GM indicated that nil complaints from that area, and that a landholder agreement had been reached with one resident in that area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GW enquired about contact by Alison Dunne. GM indicated we had not heard from her recently. GW said we had followed protocol and provided her previous opportunity.</li> <li>• DH advised Quorrobolong Community Committee (QCC) had been wrapped up as they had achieved their objectives.</li> </ul>		
<b>7</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>		
	<p>Next meeting: 15 May 2013 – 9:30am</p> <p>Following Meetings: 14 August 2013 – 9:30am 13 November 2013 – 9:30am</p>		
<b>8</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>		
	<p>GW – Declared the meeting closed and thanked all for attending. GW especially thanked DM for attending as General Manager of Austar.</p> <p>Meeting closed 10:55am</p>		

Recorded: C Ellis 20/02/2013

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Garry West