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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:30am – 10:27am
 Date: 29 April 2015

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Jack Potter (JP)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Greg Pawley (GP)	Austar Coal Mine
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.		
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. AS moved, DH seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<p>At previous CCC meeting DH asked if the train operators could do anything to reduce train noise.</p> <p>GM stated that Pacific National was not willing to invest capital in noise mitigation for the locomotives leased to Austar at this stage, as the lease was due to expire in 2015 and a new lease had not yet been confirmed.</p> <p>GM stated that the report for the 2014 Independent Environmental Audit was currently under review and that it would be provided to the CCC members when it was finalised.</p> <p>At previous CCC meeting PS asked if Austar could investigate if Cessnock City Council was planning to take any action to address the dangerous location of a telegraph pole on Quorrobolong Road.</p> <p>GM stated that he had contacted council and that council was in the process of designing a guard rail for the site.</p>		
5	Correspondence		
	GM invited CCC members by email to attend the Cessnock City Council Mayoral Academic Awards.		
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	<p>GM – 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"> • Longwall A8 commenced on 16 June 2014. Approximately 		

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	<p>1200m of retreat to 28 April 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development mining continued in 400 mains area near finishing end of LWA8 in Jan-April 2015. <p>GM advised that development of additional longwall panels in Stage 3 has not occurred since the fatal accident at Austar in April 2014. Geotechnical investigations and management processes will need to be finalised prior to forming additional longwall panels in Stage 3. The delay has resulted in significant discontinuity to longwall operations. In response, Austar has identified the Bellbird South / Ellalong Coal Mine Area where development mining operations are already approved, and will commence development mining in June 2015. An overview of the Bellbird South mining area was shown on plans to the CCC.</p> <p>GM indicated Austar has had held preliminary discussions with Department of Planning and Environment and gave an overview of the modification process to CCC members.</p> <p>Bellbird South Mining Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining leases currently held over area (CML2 and CCL728). Development first workings permissible under existing consent (DA29/95 and DA74/75/79). Modification to DA29/95 will be sought prior Longwall extraction LWB1 & LWB2. Subsidence Management Plan / Extraction Plan approvals to be completed in parallel with consent modification. <p>GM – provided an update on current surface operations.</p> <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal operations occurring. <p>Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehab works completed to stabilise disturbed parts of site. Grass is establishing across the site. <p>Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three boreholes have been completed in 2015. Adjacent landholders were notified of exploration program. Some temporary noise barriers have been incorporated into drill site to reduce noise impacts. Exploration program is planned to continue in 2015 to 2016. Austar will be consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration. <p>Environmental Incidents 12 November 2014 to 11 February 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x oil spill near workshop 5 x water discharges (3 x to land, 1 x Licenced Discharge Point, 1 x Kitchener sediment basins) <p>28 February 2015 – Pit Top – Eimco Transmission Oil Leak</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident involved an Eimco (underground loader) spilling transmission oil due to a drain plug on the transmission not being properly tightened after a recent service. • Spill occurred at a Austar Pit Top loading ramp. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spilled oil was cleaned up using spill sorb ○ The drain plug was securely replaced <p>5 March 2014 – Kalingo Infrastructure Area – 0.5ML Tank Overflow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident involved the 0.5ML tank at Kalingo Infrastructure Area overflowing due to a failure in the inlet valve to fully close. The valve is designed to automatically shut off when a high level switch is triggered. • The 0.5ML tank supplies clean water to the underground and contains a mixture of RO permeate and town water, depending upon RO plant operations. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported to EPA ○ A monthly work order has been created for the inspection and maintenance of the inlet valve <p>21 March 2015 – 2 Shaft Pipeline Q14 – Pipeline Leak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The No. 2 Shaft Pipeline is used to transfer mine water from No. 2 Shaft to Austar’s mine water treatment system. The 2 shaft pipeline is buried along the majority of its length. • The incident involved a leak from the 2 Shaft Pipeline due to a failure in a weld. • The leak occurred along a section of the Q14 Private Access Road and affected a portion of an adjacent grazing paddock. • Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 Shaft Pipeline isolated to prevent further leak ○ Reported to the EPA and landowner ○ A containment drain and bund was constructed within hours ○ Pipeline leak located and repaired ○ Wet soil area excavated and removed from the site and replaced with clean fill, earthworks are ongoing due to delays from recent wet weather ○ Pasture will be re-established in the grazing paddock upon completion of earthworks <p>8 April 2015 – 2 Shaft Pipeline – Pipeline Leak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incident involved a minor leak from the 2 Shaft Pipeline due to a failure in a weld within the 2 Shaft compound identified as a wet area of ground. • Actions taken: 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 Shaft Pipeline isolated to prevent further leak ○ Pipeline leak located and repaired ○ Wet soil excavated and removed from the site and replaced with clean fill <p>21 April 2015 – Kitchener SIS – Sediment Basin and Lower Water Storage Dam Discharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The incident involved the Eastern Sediment Basin and the Lower Water Storage Dam discharging over their lowest points during an east coast low storm event. ● A total of 231mm fell over the period 20 to 22 April 2015 prior to and during the incident. ● The approved 90th percentile, 5 day rainfall design for the Eastern Sediment Basin is 42.8mm. The lower water storage dam design runoff capacity is greater than the 90th percentile, 5 day rainfall depth. ● Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported to EPA ○ Water pumping of sediment basin and storage dams to make ready for future rain events <p>21 April 2015 – CHPP– Emergency Overflow Dam Licenced Discharge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The incident involved the Emergency Overflow Dam discharging over Environment Protection Licence - Licenced Discharge Point 1 during an east coast low storm event. ● Austar may only discharge from LDP 1 when rainfall is greater than 168mm in 5 days, or greater than 48mm in any 12 hour period (i.e. wet weather discharge only) ● The discharge was the result of the high volume of rainfall received at the CHPP, 178mm from the 19/04/15 to 23/04/15, including over 74mm in a 12 hour period. Therefore discharge is permitted by the EPL. ● The discharge occurred from 5:30pm 21/04/15 to 2:30pm 22/04/15. ● Approximately 1975kL was discharged from LDP 1 over 2 days (EPL licenced discharge is 2000kL/day). ● Actions taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported to EPA ○ Sampling was conducted on the morning of 22/04/15 ○ Black Creek water users notified by express post mail ○ Sampling water quality results measured were within concentration limits for total dissolved solids, and total suspended solids, but outside required EPL concentration limits for pH and iron. At Austar’s boundary, the water quality for iron and pH was equivalent to other local creek 		

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	<p style="text-align: center;">samples. Further report provided to EPA.</p> <p>GM – provided update on environmental monitoring</p> <p><u>Environmental Monitoring Update</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent monitoring survey undertaken in October 2014 and March 2015. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented. Approx 0.55m 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 a graph. • Groundwater levels in alluvium and fractured rock have remained stable to date in 2015. <p>Noise</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 February 2015 to 28 April 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise was compliant with noise limits from 12 February 2015, March 2015 and to 28 April 2015. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 February 2015 to 9 April 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 events >1mm/sec ○ 2 events <3mm/sec • Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6 events >1mm/sec ○ 6 events <3mm/sec <p>Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec.</p>		

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	<p><u>Community Complaints</u></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 February 2015 to 28 April 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No community complaints 		
7	<p>General Business</p>		
	<p>Independent Environmental Audit 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit is required by Project Approval 08_0111, and Development consent DA29/95. • Audit commenced on 10 November 2014 for compliance with conditions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project Approval 08_0111 ○ Development Consent DA29/95 ○ Environment Protection Licence 416 ○ Mining Lease. • Draft audit report received and comments provided to auditor. Audit report being finalised. <p>Environmental Instrumentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrating wire piezometer installed to monitor six aquifers of varying depths (280m, 400m, 500m, 580m, 607m and 617.80m) per the Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan. • 2 x monitoring wells installed in fractured rock aquifer in Stage 3 mining area per the Site Water Management Plan. <p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter Valley Steamfest Maitland • Cessnock Mayoral Scholarship • Ronald McDonald House Newcastle -A Crew donation • Charlie Teo Cure Brain Cancer Foundation - B Crew donation • Cessnock District Rescue Squad - E Crew donation • Millfield Rural Fire Service - E Crew donation • Black Dog Institute - Belt crew donation • Diabetes Australia - D Crew donation • Cessnock Rugby Leagues Football Club • Kurri Kurri Bulldogs <p>Other</p> <p>JM stated that a rezoning application for James St, near the Aberdare Emplacement Area had been voted against by Council.</p> <p>GM stated that Austar had submitted an objection to the proposed development during exhibition due to it conflicting with Austar's approved activities.</p>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
8	Next Meetings		
	Next Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 August 2015 – 9:30am LTCC Office, Austar CHPP 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:27am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Jack Potter 29/04/2014

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill