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## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room, Austar Coal Mine Main Office  
 Time: 9:30am  
 Date: 14 August 2013

| Name                                  | Representative                              |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Hon Garry West (GW)                   | Independent Chair                           |
| Alan Smith (AS)                       | Community Representative                    |
| Peter Sturrock (PS)                   | 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                             |   |
| David Holmes (DH)                     | Community 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 & 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 of the previous meeting amended with DH's comments were considered representative of that meeting. AS proposed, JM seconded.<br>JM advised an updated Cessnock City Council email address for correspondence going forward.   | Update JM contact email details |      |
| 4    | <b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>   |                                 |      |
|      | No actions from previous minutes.   |                                 |      |
| 5    | <b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b>  |                                 |      |
|      | GM provided an update on current operations.<br><br><b>UNDERGROUND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraction Plan / Subsidence Management Plan approved by DP&amp;I and DRE</li> <li>• Longwall A7 commenced 14 June 2013 – 290m retreat of 909m</li> <li>• Development continued in Stage 3</li> </ul> PS – asked if Austar will put in a services shaft at property recently purchased on Quorrobolong Road<br>DM – that it is a possibility in the future for services. Also indicated that Austar moving the pit top to Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site (SIS) is on hold. There is potential we may install a man rider at SIS or 4 shaft for emergency egress.<br>PS – enquired as to how many staff employed<br>DM – Approximately 343 employees. Next year exploration will continue in the approved Stage 3 area.<br>GW – Are we still running 7 day shifts?<br>DM – Yes for both development and longwall mining. We have issues with float for development, which is the time between longwall start and finish.<br>GM – We may submit an application to extend LWA7 to assist with the float |                                 |      |

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|      | <p>DM – Asked group if there has been any feedback to CCC members from the community</p> <p>PS – Was contacted for bigger plans that are more easily readable, which has since been provided by Austar.</p> <p><b>KITCHENER SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No.5 Shaft fan construction completed and commissioned in 10 June 2013.</li> <li>• Services borehole fully lined is being prepared to use as a ballast drop hole.</li> <li>• No. 6 shaft raise bore completed June 2013 (3m diameter, 478m depth).</li> <li>• Site power construction completed in May 2013.</li> <li>• Power line construction completed in May 2013.</li> <li>• Permanent water and communications line completed in May 2013.</li> </ul> <p>PS – Now power line is complete along Quorrobolong Road, enquired after guard rails for poles in close proximity to road</p> <p>GM – Met with Cessnock City Council and one pole is to be protected</p> <p>JM – suggested Council may not accept guard rail and may want the pole moved</p> <p>GM – will continue liaising with Council</p> <p><b>REHABILITATION</b></p> <p><b>ABERDARE EMPLACEMENT AREA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lime, gypsum and compost ripped into completed capped areas prior to seeding – last quarter</li> <li>• Grass seeding - 15 May 2013</li> <li>• Seed mix - Japanese millet / coolabah oats (cover crop), couch, kikuyu, Lucerne, clover, rye, green panic &amp; phalaris.</li> <li>• All legumes (clovers and Lucerne) inoculated with Rhizobia and Lime pelleted to promote nodulation, facilitating subsequent nitrogen fixation</li> <li>• Seed mixed with fertiliser prior to spreading</li> <li>• Aberdare North – 1 ha seeded</li> <li>• Aberdare South – 3.3 ha seeded</li> </ul> <p><b>CHPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHPP recommenced washing with LW start-up in June 2013.</li> <li>• Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area now used as the</li> </ul> | <p>GM to continue liaising with Council on protection of power pole in close proximity to Quorrobolong Road</p> |      |

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|      | <p>primary emplacement area (night and day). Near residents informed via letter mailout.</p> <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 incidents not reportable</li> </ul> <p><b>28 June 2013 – Turbid Runoff at CHPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During a heavy rain storm event turbid runoff was observed flowing down CHPP main access road and towards Bellbird Creek</li> <li>• Immediately contained using bund to divert water back into dirty water system</li> <li>• System upgraded with installation of permanent diversion drains into the dirty water system</li> </ul> <p><b>30 June 2013 – Fine Tailings Spill at Borehole</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borehole used for disposal of fine tailings to old underground workings. Borehole area is contained in bunded area.</li> <li>• Borehole became blocked and bund filled with tailings. Tailings leaked from bund around a pipeline in the bund wall and onto ground in the clean water catchment.</li> <li>• Regular routine inspections observed incident and tailings spill to land was cleaned up.</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – SUBSIDENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring survey undertaken in July 2013. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented.</li> <li>• Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at slightly less than 25mm in Stage 3 area.</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 except location D2 (Pelton Village). At D2 Jan-Apr 2013 data has all been greater than 4 g/m<sup>2</sup>. Prevailing wind direction during these months has not supported Austar as the source. In May 2013 the gauge was stolen. Jun/Jul results were again below 4 g/m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• Results from new Stage 3 dust gauges D7-D9 presented. Results show very little dust.</li> <li>• Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented</li> </ul> |        |      |

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|      | <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 – NOISE CHPP &amp; KIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2 2013 – Nil Exceedances</li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – NOISE KITCHENER SIS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One noise exceedance during May to July 2013 – 12 June 2013 during commissioning of new ventilation fans at Kitchener SIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fans are designed and constructed with outlets pointed to the west (away from residents), silencers are fitted to the outlets, and temporary 3.5m barrier wall erected prior to commissioning</li> <li>○ Monitored noise levels at the nearest resident were LAeq 33 dB. Noise was classified as low frequency noise – which attracted a 5 dB modifying factor penalty meaning the assessable noise level is LAeq 38dB.</li> <li>○ With the modifying factor, this represents a 3dB exceedance of our Project Approval limits (LAeq 35dB).</li> <li>○ An issue was immediately identified with assembly of the fans which was rectified, with noise levels greatly reduced to less than limits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>MONITORING – VIBRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No vibration events from 4 May to 18 June 2013 in Stage 2 Area. LWA5a finished in February 2013. No events since LW completed.</li> <li>• Vibration monitors moved to Stage 3 Area on 18 June 2013.</li> <li>• 8 vibration events from 18 June to 5 August 2013 in Stage 3 Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All events at V8, no triggers at V7</li> <li>○ All events &lt;2.0mm/sec</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</b></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (15 May to 14 August 2013) Austar has</p> |        |      |

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|      | <p>received 18 complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 May 2013 – 16 odour complaints regarding compost spread at Aberdare Emplacement Area. Ripping of compost and seeding occurred during the week. Significant reduction in odour as a result. Review alternate organic materials for future rehabilitation activities.</li> <li>• 21 May 2013 – Resident in Francis St, Bellbird raised issue of fine dust in pool generating from Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area. Austar met with resident to discuss rehabilitation activities.</li> <li>• 5 June 2013 – Resident reported noise and vibration impacts from 3 shaft fan area to EPA who notified Austar. Anonymous complaint. Austar advised EPA of operations at 3 shaft and result of recent monitoring.</li> </ul>   |        |      |
| 6    | <b>General Business</b>   |        |      |
|      | <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extraction Plan / Subsidence Management Plan LWA7 to LWA10</b> - approved by Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Division of Resources and Energy in 30 May 2013 and 3 June 2013 prior to extraction of LWA7.</li> <li>• <b>Site Water Management Plan</b> - approved 17 May 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Landscape Management Plan</b> - Kitchener SIS approved 22 July 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan</b> - approved 26 June 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan</b> - update approved with Extraction Plan 30 May 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Noise and Vibration Management Plan</b> - approved 2 August 2013.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Management Strategy</b> - submitted 30 May 2013.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNITY PROJECTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancer Council NSW – Biggest morning tea fundraiser</li> <li>• Kitchener Public School - assist with purchase of sporting team jerseys</li> <li>• Paxton Womens Bowling Club – sponsorship of Wombat Triple Carnival</li> <li>• Bellbird Public School – sponsorship to assist with new playground equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>JM – Suggested from discussions at Council that power poles</p> |        |      |

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|          | <p>on Quorrobolong Road may need to be moved.</p> <p>PS – May be easier to put up barriers on pole close to road.</p> <p>GM – will follow up with Council contact as discussed previously.</p> <p>PS – Would like to record that landholder agreements are being progressed.</p> <p>No other general business.</p> |        |      |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Next Meetings</b>   |        |      |
|          | <p>Next meeting:</p> <p>13 November 2013 – 9:30am</p>  |        |      |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Meeting Closed</b>  |        |      |
|          | <p>GW – Declared the meeting closed and thanked all for attending.</p> <p>Meeting closed 10:30am</p>   |        |      |

Recorded: C McCormack 14/08/2013

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Garry West