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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:37am – 10:55am
 Date: 23 August 2017

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Josh Chadwick (JC)	Austar Coal Mine
Councillor Mark Lyons (ML)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Apologies	
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
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 & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome		
	<p>MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting 9:37am</p> <p>MMH noted that David Holmes provided an apology for this meeting at the last meeting, and had since been in contact with MMH to advise that he was in the process of selling his property in Quorrobolong and will be moving out of the area. MMH discussed process for new members is outlined in the CCC guidelines. MMH made acknowledgement of David Holmes contributions to the CCC at Austar which is very much appreciated. (Further notes on this matter in General Business).</p>		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	<p>MMH asked for changes to previous declarations of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to the declarations of interest as previously stated <p>Noted that ML had not completed Declaration of Interest or CCC Guidelines 2016 – Code of Conduct forms. Forms were completed at end of CCC meeting with originals to be supplied to MMH next meeting.</p>	JC to supply ML's signed Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct Forms as required by DPE CCC Guidelines 2016 – to MMH	15/11/17
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. PS moved, AS seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	None		
5	Correspondence		
	Chair's Report sent 28 June 2017 from MMH to Ms Carolyn McNally, Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment giving a brief summation of the Austar Coal Mine CCC activities for 2016/17. Acknowledgement of summation received from Pheona Twist, Director, Government Services, Department of Planning and Environment.	MMH to distribute Chair's report to CCC members	31/8/17
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	GM – provided an update on current and proposed underground		

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	<p>operations.</p> <p><u>CURRENT OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>UNDERGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area. ▪ Longwall mining bolt-up has commenced in B3 with less than 15m of retreat remaining. <p>GM explained what the bolt up process involves, and where this operation occurs in relation to the longwall and that it is a normal process undertaken prior to a longwall move to ensure mineworkers work beneath a supported roof.</p> <p>BELLBIRD SOUTH LWB4-B7 MODIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar lodged an application to DPE on 22 May 2017 to modify development consent DA29/95 to extend the development consent area to permit extraction of LWB4-B7. ▪ Conventional longwall mining method to be used in LWB4-B7 ▪ Depth of cover approx. 400-505m ▪ Approximately 3.65Mt of additional ROM coal may be recovered. GM explained 'ROM' (run of mine coal) as the mined coal and 'Yield' as the portion of product coal derived from the ROM. ▪ An Environmental Assessment to support the modification application was prepared. ▪ Specialist assessments include subsidence, flooding and drainage, groundwater, ecology, cultural heritage, greenhouse gas & energy. ▪ Predicted subsidence parameters less than approved Stage 2 or Stage 3 Mining Areas. <p>ML queried flooding and drainage changes over the mining area. GM indicated on flood model prediction and ponding diagrams that there is an area of Austar owned land where ponding may increase, and this will be monitored during mining. The extent of flooding is not predicted to increase significantly beyond the pre-mining flood extent. There will be some deepening within the existing flood extent for the 1%</p>		

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	<p>Annual Exceedance Probability storm event. As is currently the case, the floor level of all dwellings is not predicted to be inundated by the 1% AEP storm.</p> <p>Austar also modelled the Probably Maximum Flood for risk assessment purposes, finding that no dwelling floor levels would be affected, however the driveway for one property may be partly inundated in the PMF. There is an alternate access to the property that will not be affected and this will be discussed during development of the Built Features Management Plan for this property. In cases where an alternate access is not possible to use the access can be built up for access safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Environmental Assessment and detailed impact assessments undertaken for the LWB4-B7 Modification concluded that the proposed modification is likely to result in only minor environmental impacts. ▪ Public exhibition occurred 1-15 June 2017. ▪ Eight (8) Government authorities made submissions, and no submissions were received from individual members of the public or from special interest groups during the exhibition phase. ▪ The EPA, Division of Resources & Geoscience, Heritage Council of NSW and Hunter New England Health reviewed the relevant documentation and have advised DPE that their organisation has no objection to the proposed modification and/or have raised no specific issues or recommendations on conditions of approval; and ▪ Matters raised in submissions by the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Primary Industries, Subsidence Advisory NSW, and Cessnock City Council were addressed in a formal response to submissions to DPE. <p>BELLBIRD SOUTH LWB4-B7 EXTRACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A draft Extraction Plan for LWB4-LWB7 has been prepared and provided to DPE and DRG for consultation. ▪ Existing management measures implemented at Austar were extended to the LWB4-B7 mining area including additional monitoring. ▪ Longwall extraction of LWB4 is proposed to commence in 		

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	<p>Q3 2017, this is dependent on approval of the modification application, and of an Extraction Plan for the proposed longwall panels.</p> <p>CHPP</p> <p>Normal operations have been occurring.</p> <p>EXPLORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exploration drilling has continued over the Stage 3 area. Six boreholes have been completed so far in 2017. Currently drilling the seventh borehole. ▪ Landholders have been contacted regarding potential access for drilling within the Exploration Licence area south of the Stage 3 mining area (south of Sandy Creek Road). This is ongoing at present. ▪ Extensive consultation and land access discussions were undertaken between April-July 2017 to support geological surveys (ground magnetic survey and seismic surveys) over the Stage 3 mining area. ▪ A ground based magnetometer survey was completed in July 2017 to investigate locations of geological structures over the Stage 3 mining area. ▪ Preparation works for the seismic survey in part of the Stage 3 mining area commenced 21 August 2017. The lines are being located by surveyors and slashing of the lines being undertaken (if required). Seismic machinery and monitoring apparatus are scheduled to arrive 4 September 2017, with data acquisition to take approximately two weeks. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</p> <p>Environmental Incidents (1 June 2017 – 22 August 2017)</p> <p>6 June 2017 – Potential Incident – CHPP Clean Water Drainage Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orange staining/residue was observed in a clean water drainage line at the CHPP site. The drainage line is ephemeral and was mainly dry with some pool areas. It was unclear whether the water/staining in the drainage line originated from a source on site, or some other source unrelated to the mine. Despite not yet understanding how 		

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	<p>the staining has entered the drainage line, the appearance of the water/staining was treated as it could potentially be from Austar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immediate Actions: Containment established at Doyle Street Dam as a contingency on 6/6/17. Costs of containment and clean were assessed further on the morning of 7/7/17 and believe these costs could exceed \$10,000. On that basis and the definition of Material Harm in the POEO Act, the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan was triggered and notified agencies required by that plan. Further containment activities were implemented with an earthen bund installed. ▪ Water sampling and further field investigation undertaken with results provided to EPA, DPE and DRG. Written report provided to EPA, DPE, DRG on 21/6/17. ▪ Follow up Actions: Austar advised the regulators we propose to undertake a monitoring program to investigate the source of the orange staining / residue. This is in progress. Containment locations will continue at the installed earthen bund and at Doyle Street Dam during monitoring; ▪ A flushing approach has been implemented to the drainage line where the orange staining/residue was mainly observed (upslope of the earthen containment bund) with the intent to wash away the staining/residue to the containment bund and pump the collected water to Austar’s mine water system; ▪ Monitoring after completion of the flushing approach for possible location of a source of the orange staining / residue. The source remains under investigation at present. ▪ A status report was provided to regulators on 26 July 2017, and further status report to be provided 25 August 2017. <p>14 June 2017 – Noise Exceedance Monitored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise levels measured from Austar’s CHPP on 13/6/17 were below noise limits at all locations. The nature of measured noise, per the Industrial Noise Policy methods, indicated that noise at NMC2, NMC3, NMC4 and NMC5 		

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	<p>classified as low frequency noise and attracted a 5 dB modifying factor. This cause assessable noise levels to be 1-5 dB above the relevant noise limits at these monitoring locations. No atypical operations were occurring at the CHPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immediate Actions: EPA & DPE notified once exceedance was confirmed on 14/6/17. ▪ Follow up Actions: Follow up monitoring occurred on 22/6/17, further follow up monitoring to occur in July 2017. Incident report provided to EPA & DPE on 21/6/17. <p>11 July 2017 – Noise Exceedance Monitored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise levels measured from Austar’s CHPP during routine monitoring on 10/7/17 did not exceed noise limits at any location. The nature of measured noise, per the Industrial Noise Policy methods, indicated that noise at NMC2 classified as low frequency noise and attracted a 5 dB modifying factor. This caused the assessable noise level to be 5 dB above EPL noise limit at this monitoring location. ▪ No atypical operations were occurring at the CHPP. ▪ Immediate Actions: EPA & DPE notified after exceedance was confirmed on 14/7/17. ▪ Follow up Actions: Follow up monitoring occurred on 17/7/17 with nil exceedances recorded. Incident report was provided to the EPA and DPE on 19/7/17. Further noise measurement works (night time noise source identification monitoring) to support the pollution reduction program has been conducted in August 2017. <p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidence surveys have occurred over the centerline of LWB2, LWB1-B3 crossline, Sandy Creek Road and Barraba Lane. ▪ Max. recorded surface level movement is ~320mm. 170mm on Sandy Ck Rd. <p>Monitoring Results General</p> <p>Graphs showing results for the period on subsidence, air quality,</p>		

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	<p>water, groundwater, noise and vibration monitoring were presented.</p> <p>Groundwater Monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring Bores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarterly monitoring, completed during July 2017 shows the water level in sandstone overburden bore MB01 (located over longwall panel A9) has been increasing, possibly in response to rainfall in this period. ▪ MB02 water level has now fully recovered after being purged for sampling in November/December 2016, and slowly recovering since that time. ▪ New alluvium water level monitoring bore planned over longwall panel B6 <p>Noise Monitoring</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (30 May 2017 to 22 August 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise exceedances recorded during two monitoring events; on 13 June 2017 and on 10 July 2017. Follow up monitoring on 17/7/17 was within limits. Details were provided in Incidents section of the presentation. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (30 May 2017 to 22 August 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new events greater than 1mm/s ▪ Monitor V9 – Barraba Lane - Thompson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No new events greater than 1mm/s ▪ Monitoring equipment retrieved 19 July 2017, as monitoring agreement expired. Further monitoring at this location dependent on negotiations for access (which are currently ongoing). <p>Monitor V9c – Sandy Creek Road - Austar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring commenced 19 July 2017 ▪ 1 new event greater than 1mm/s <p>Community Complaints</p>		

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	<p>Since last CCC meeting (30 May 2017 to 22 August 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nil complaints. 		
7	General Business		
	<p>CCC Members</p> <p>General discussion on DH's recent sale of property which occurred prior to the meeting, and that he is moving out of the area. MMH acknowledged DH's valuable service and contribution to the Austar CCC over the years. General agreement by committee members on this. MMH to send acknowledgement of service letter to DH.</p> <p>GM noted the intention for Austar to communicate determination of the current modification application to affected Bellbird South residents (if approved), and to provide information on the CCC and the intention to advertise for new members.</p> <p>AS noted that there are some community members in the Stage 3 area that may be interested in the Austar CCC also.</p> <p>MMH noted next meeting is November 2017, so it will likely be possible to advertise and put forward candidates to DPE in that time.</p> <p>Stage 3</p> <p>AS queried the status on recommencement of mining in Stage 3. GM advised that the technical studies and assessment of the Stage 3 area is ongoing, which includes the current exploration program. GM noted that business planning is ongoing for a continuous miner to move into the Stage 3 area May 2018, subject to the technical studies and assessments.</p> <p>Council</p> <p>ML asked who owned the rail line at the Pinch Bridge as there are plans for Council to improve the road safety in this area and consultation would occur. GM noted that Austar owns the rail from the CHPP to South Cessnock, so it is likely Austar.</p> <p>ML stated that a fellow councillor advised that a resident has raised concern regarding private road maintenance and interactions with Austar with Council, and queried who is the appropriate contact at Austar for this matter. GM stated that if there are any issues in this area that he is the point of contact for the mine.</p>	<p>MMH to send acknowledgement of service letter to DH</p> <p>15/11/17</p> <p>MMH / GM to advertise CCC position and progress</p> <p>15/11/17</p>	<p>15/11/17</p> <p>15/11/17</p>

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	<p>Sharing the Benefits</p> <p>AS asked if there is likely to be a need to update the Sharing the Benefits Agreement with the recent change of the Subsidence Act. GM noted his understanding that the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act will continue to operate to ensure built features are repaired or compensation paid for damage, however the mine operator will be responsible for those costs. The Sharing the Benefits Agreement provides compensation for matters not dealt with in the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act. There will likely be no change required to the Sharing the Benefits Agreement, but this is being monitored.</p> <p>Community Sponsorships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Community Support Program 2017 ▪ The CSP was advertised in the Cessnock Advertiser during Q2 2017. 11 applications were received. Successful applicants yet to be determined. ▪ Ellalong woodchop ▪ Paxton Womens Bowling Club Triples Carnival ▪ Mount View High School – end of year presentation sponsorship ▪ Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Knockout Competition 2017 – team sponsorship 		
8	Next Meetings		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next Meeting 15 November 2017 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:55am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 23/08/2017

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill