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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:33am – 11:04am
 Date: 28 February 2018

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
Ashlee Baker (AB)	Community Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Josh Chadwick (JC)	Austar Coal Mine
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Councillor Mark Lyons (ML)	Cessnock City Council 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 – Opened the meeting 9:33am welcoming the Committee back for the year and introduced the two new Community Representative members John Rayner and Ashlee Baker.</p> <p>GM provided an ‘Introduction to Astar’ presentation that described the mine layout and operations.</p> <p>Apologies: ML</p>		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	<p>MMH asked for changes to previous declarations of interest and explained to new members that the Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct Agreement forms needed filling out and what was required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMH – Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • AB stated that she works for Programmed who are hosted by Yancoal owned Mount Thorley Warkworth Mine • JR has provided completed CCC forms to MMH. • No changes to other members declarations of interests 	<p>AB to complete CCC forms and provide to MMH.</p>	<p>Completed 3/3/18</p>
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. PS moved, AS seconded.</p>		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<p>JC confirmed depth of Monitoring Bore MB02 as 140m.</p>		
5	Correspondence		
	<p>Out 22/11/17 – MMH emailed CCC response to Chris Jones on Independent Environmental Audit stating that there were no issues of concern for the CCC after confirming with CCC members.</p>		
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"> ▪ Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Longwall B4 commenced on 5 October 2017. Approximately 785m of retreat completed by 27 February 2018 of total panel length 1125m. ▪ Longwall B4 expected completion is end of April 2018. <p>BW – Provided a brief summary on a small scale coal burst on 2 February 2018 in Bellbird South Longwall B4 which resulted in a hand injury. This caused Austar to consult with the Resource Regulator and review controls in relation to potential personnel injury; protective barriers; and exclusion zones.</p> <p>BW – Provided an update on the location of development and longwall operations on a plan. Development operations in Bellbird South are forecast to be completed in January 2019, with longwall operations being completed in Bellbird South mid-late 2019.</p> <p>BW – Provided an update on the Stage 3 area. Exploration works were conducted in 2017 and further studies are still continuing at present. Subject to the outcomes of the technical study on Stage 3, Austar’s forecast schedule is to recommence development operations in the Stage 3 area later in 2018 which would allow longwall operations to recommence in Stage 3 in later part of 2019.</p> <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operations have been occurring. <p>EXPLORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seven exploration boreholes were completed in 2017. ▪ Further exploration drilling is planned for later in 2018. ▪ A plan showing the location of the exploration licence area with 2017 drilling and potential 2018 exploration areas was presented. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</p> <p>Environmental Incidents (14 November 2017 – 27 February 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15 February 2018 - Water spill to land. At the 3 Shaft fan compound water condensation from the ventilation fan outlet is normally directed via a small concrete dish drain to a concrete sump before being pumped to Kalingo Dam. Sediment had built up in the dish drain which caused the water to flow outside the drain, then outside the fan compound onto the grassed area of the adjacent firebreak. ▪ ACTIONS: Clean out the sedimentation to permit condensation water to flow correctly to sump. Add inspection and maintenance 		

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	<p>of drains within the 3 Shaft fan compound to the pipeline system work order to ensure it is kept clear and flowing correctly.</p> <p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE</u></p> <p>Monitoring Results General</p> <p>Graphs showing results for the period on subsidence, air quality, water, groundwater, noise and vibration monitoring were presented.</p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidence surveys are ongoing along Sandy Creek Road monitoring line. ▪ Access is no longer available to private properties containing the B2 centreline and a portion of the Bellbird South crossline. Monitoring is undertaken subject to landholder access. There are no further updates for those lines. ▪ An updated monitoring plan has been submitted to DRG, indicating changed access position. ▪ Maximum recorded surface level movement is approx. 430 mm on Sandy Creek Road. <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All monitoring results were within air quality limits. ▪ One higher Particulate Matter <10µm (PM10) result was recorded at High Volume Air Sampler 2 (HVAS2) near Pelton Village 20 December 2017. The result did not exceed the daily criterion limit and was recorded on a windy 40°C day. HVAS1 and HVAS 3, located near the CHPP and near Kitchener respectively, also recorded relatively high readings on this day. <p>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alluvial groundwater monitors show no drawdown. ▪ GM discussed a decrease in the water level of groundwater bore NER1010 located over LWB5-B6 in sandstone and noted that the rate of decline had slowed further since the previous CCC meeting. It was also noted that this borehole is close to a fault, which is similar to the location of the observed decrease in another sandstone bore some distance away in the Stage 3 area (MB01) also reported previously to the CCC. MB01 increased temporarily 		

in June/July before returning to a decreasing trend, with the rate of decline reducing.

- GM noted that there has been no additional inflow noted into the underground mining area.

Noise Monitoring

Since last CCC meeting (14 November 2017 to 27 February 2018)

- No noise exceedances were recorded from 14 November 2017 to 27 February 2018.

Vibration

Since last CCC meeting (14 November 2017 to 27 February)

- **Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road**
 - No new events greater than 1mm/s
- **Monitor V9c – ~720m North of Sandy Creek Road - Austar**
 - Monitoring commenced 19 July 2017
 - 2 new events greater than 1mm/s (1.38mm/s, 1.09mm/s)
- **Monitor V10 – Sandy Creek Road - Austar**
 - Monitoring commenced 28 August 2017
 - 13 new events greater than 1mm/s (1.03mm/s to 2.14mm/s)

Community Complaints

Since last CCC meeting (14 November 2017 to 27 February 2018)

- Nil complaints.

Item	Issue	Action	Date
7	General Business		
	<p>New Austar CCC Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar advertised for new members in October and November 2017 ▪ Two new members were appointed by DPE on 8 December 2017 (John Rayner and Ashlee Baker). <p>Noise control works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A CHPP dozer has been fitted with sound attenuated dozer track assemblies and front idlers. A sound power test of the dozer has been completed to assess noise reduction. <p>Environment Protection Licence Variation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar applied to vary Environment Protection Licence 416 to increase the scale of activity to greater than 2Mt late in 2017. Austar’s development consent allows up to 3.6Mt of production. ▪ EPA variation was approved 15 December 2017. ▪ EPA also applied a Pollution Study to the licence regarding containment and investigations at a CHPP drainage line where orange residue was identified and reported to EPA in June 2017. ▪ A scope for a ground and groundwater investigation was submitted to EPA and approved 6 Feb 2018. Five investigation boreholes and five test pits are planned to investigate potential sources of water flowing into the CHPP Northern Drainage Line. Works are scheduled to begin March 2018. <p>Environment Protection Licence – Annual Return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Environmental Protection Licence 416 2017 Annual Return was submitted to EPA 27 February 2018. ▪ This report is submitted to NSW Environmental Protection Authority and details monitoring summary (quality and quantity), 		

	<p>pollution complaints, and details of any non-compliances reported during 2017.</p> <p>Independent Environmental Audit 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar submitted an Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) report to DPE on 27 February 2018. ▪ The IEA is required to occur every 3 years by Austar’s Development Consent DA29/95, and Project Approval DA29/95. ▪ 25 recommendations were made in the audit report in relation to non-compliances identified. Many of these are administrative reporting improvement or management plan update recommendations, and some operational improvement suggestions. ▪ A copy of the IEA and Austar’s response to the recommendations will be provided to CCC members, government agencies, Cessnock City Council. A copy will also be placed on Austar’s website. <p>Update on status of SANSW and MSC Act reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on 8 August and was assented on 14 August 2017. The Bill commenced on 1 January 2018 ▪ The changes will see claims for subsidence damage caused by active mining compensated by the mine operator responsible. ▪ All claims for compensation will continue to be lodged with SA NSW through a new claims portal. SA NSW will assign a case manager to each claim to support property owners and ensure they are treated fairly. ▪ All coal mine operators will pay a reduced annual levy which will provide for damage from non-active mines (historical/abandoned). ▪ A copy of the Subsidence Advisory NSW flowchart for the claims process was presented. <p>Community Sponsorships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kurri Coalface Pedal – Supporting Westpac Rescue Helicopter ▪ Cessnock High School – Sensory Garden ▪ Cessnock Netball – Water bottle refill station ▪ Kitchener Public School – Edible garden project irrigation upgrade ▪ Cessnock Rugby League 	<p>Austar to distribute copy of Independent Environmental Audit Report to CCC members.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kurri Kurri Rugby League <p>Other –</p> <p>PS – Suggested there may be opportunity for Austar to provide support at the Kitchener Poppet Head Park, noting that the area could benefit from additional shade. GM advised that Council have advertised an opportunity for the community to be involved with ideas for the Kitchener Poppet Head Park at the moment. GM advised that Austar had recently contributed to improved heritage interpretative signage at the Poppet Head Park through the Community Support Program in conjunction with Council and a Poppet Head Committee. GM stated that Austar is open to considering that type of project, and has done so previously for the Quorrobolong Rural Fire Station BBQ shelter jointly with Council.</p> <p>GM advised there may be a change to how community support across Yancoal operations are undertaken, with a view to longer term partnerships of support.</p>		
8	Next Meetings		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2018 meeting dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 May 2018 ○ 29 August 2018 ○ 28 November 2018 (please note change from 21 November 2018) 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	<p>MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 11:04am.</p> <p>Austar (GM) conducted a site tour for the new members and the Chair at the conclusion of the meeting.</p>		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 28/2/2018

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill