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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:35am – 10:50am
 Date: 12 November 2014

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Councillor Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Jack Potter (JP)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
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. MMH welcomed Aустar’s new Environment and Community Coordinator, Jack Potter, to the committee.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board • Member of the Minister’s Arbitration Panel • 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. DH moved, AS seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	DH – Asked about the status of the incident investigation. GM – Stated that this would be covered in the presentation. DH – Asked about the status of the Premises Noise Assessment. GM – Stated that this would be covered in the presentation.		
5	Correspondence		
	Annual Environmental Management Report for 2013/14 has been provided to CCC members by mail.		
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints		
	GM – provided an update on current underground operations. <u>Current Operations</u> Underground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall A8 commenced on 16 June 2014. Approximately 736m of retreat to 11 November 2014. • An investigation by the Mine Safety Office of the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) to determine the cause of the April 2014 incident is ongoing. Development mining is on hold. GM – provided an update on current surface operations.		

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	<p>Kitchener SIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated pump stations from sediment basin and water storage dam to Kalingo Dam connected to power October 2014 during site wide power outage. • Rehab works to commence November 2014 to stabilise disturbed parts of site. <p>Exploration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Groundwater Monitoring and Modelling Plan was prepared in consultation with NSW Office of Water and approved by DRE ahead of exploration. This is a requirement of Austar's Exploration Licence (EL6598). • Exploration for 2014 has commenced with two boreholes after Surface Disturbance Notice Approval was granted by DRE. • 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 2014 to 2016. • Austar will be consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration. <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal operations occurring. • Austar has commenced a 10,000t coal road haulage consignment. Austar is approved to transport 60,000t of coal by road. Council was notified as a courtesy. • Replacement Bellbird pipeline underbore established beneath Wollombi Road to replace a blocked section after s138 Roads Act approval from Cessnock City Council. <p>Environmental Incidents 12 August 2014 to 12 November 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x noise exceedance • 1 x potential noise exceedance <p>20 October 2014 – Reportable noise exceedance CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured noise level at NMC1 was 2 dB below the noise limit. The noise classified as low frequency per NSW Industrial Noise Policy, which attracts a 5dB modifying factor. Assessable noise was then 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. This was reported to the EPA as a potential exceedance after receiving monitoring results, and confirmed to the EPA as an exceedance after weather data confirmed noise limit were applicable on 11 November 2014. 		

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	<p>10 November 2014 – Potential noise exceedance CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measured noise level at NMC1 and NMC3 were 1 dB below the respective noise limits. There was potential low frequency content identified during the measurement, which attracts a 5 dB modifying factor, therefore assessable noise may be 4 dB greater than noise limits at each site. EPA notified of potential exceedance to be confirmed after review of weather data to see if noise limits applied at the time of monitoring. <p>Follow up monitoring 11 November 2014 complied with noise limits.</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 September – November 2014. Graphs of subsidence measurement presented. Subsidence results are within predicted levels, currently at approximately 250-300mm for LWA7 and approximately 450mm for LWA8. 450mm maximum subsidence predicted at completion of LWA7 and 1160mm at completion of LWA8. <p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual average PM₁₀ is well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at all locations in 2014. Annual average deposited dust is tracking below Annual Maximum Criteria for all locations in 2014. 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. Slight rise in groundwater levels in alluvium and fractured rock since rainfall in August-September 2014. <p>Noise</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 August 2014 to 12 November 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measured noise was compliant with noise limits from 12 August, September, October and to 12 November 2014. On 20 October 2014, measured noise levels at location NMC1 		

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	<p>were 2 dB below the noise limit. However, noise classified as low frequency, which attracts a 5 dB modifying factor per Industrial Noise Policy, resulting in 3 dB greater than the EPL LA90 noise limit. Reported to the EPA and DPE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 10 November 2014, measured noise levels at location NMC1 and NMC3 were 1 dB below the noise limit. However, noise may classify as low frequency – there is potential for exceedance pending applicability of weather conditions. This was reported to EPA. • Follow-up monitoring 11 October 2014 measured noise levels at NMC1 and NMC3 complied with the noise limit. EPA and DPE advised of result. • Consultation with DPE and EPA on monitoring results and low frequency further investigations ongoing. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (1 August 2014 to 6 November 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24 events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 21 events <3mm/sec ▪ 3 events >3 & <6mm/sec • Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 108 events >1mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 74 events <3mm/sec ▪ 28 events >3 & <6mm/sec ▪ 5 events >6 & <10mm/sec ▪ 1 event >10mm/sec (12.6mm/sec) <p>Note: all events were below the level where cosmetic structural damage may occur of 15mm/sec.</p> <p>GM – Indicated that the frequency of vibration events has increased since the previous CCC meeting. Noted that Austar is currently in second longwall panel, and a similar trend of more frequent vibration events was recorded in Stage 2 Area. Graphs of Stage 3 and Stage 2 vibration monitoring were presented for comparison.</p> <p>PS – Stated that residents have been hearing rumbling noises, they are described as quite short duration rumbles</p> <p>GM – Stated that description is consistent with vibration events generating structure borne noise</p> <p>DH – Asked if the mine owned houses in the Stage 2 area have been inspected for vibration damage.</p>		

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	<p>GM – Unsure whether pre mining inspections were conducted as the houses were mine owned, likely not inspected. Stated that he would investigate if inspections had occurred.</p> <p>GM – Noted that vibration monitoring data is regularly provided to landholders over the current Longwall A7 to A10 Extraction Plan area in a regular update report, and this is intended to be sent further to Stage 3 landholders.</p> <p>GM – Gave update on community complaints</p> <p><u>Community Complaints</u></p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (12 August 2014 to 12 November 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/8/14 – Complaint – UG vibration events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complainant was provided with recent vibration results and MSB contact details in the case that the resident considered that damage had occurred. • 20/8/14 – Complaint – Resident on Truro St encountered a truck undertaking works on overhead power line with insufficient traffic warning signs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediate traffic control implemented. Resident advised of measures implemented. • 14/10/14 - EPA complaint – Noise at 3am in the mornings from Pit Top or vent fans area on Monday 28 July, Tuesday 29 July and today Wednesday 30 July all starting at 3am and caller said this will go for hours. EPA officer acknowledged a July complaint is quite old however, requested investigation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given the age of enquiry, no specific activities could be related to the complaint by production or engineering. EPA advised of investigation outcome on 28/10/14. • 17/10/14 – Complaint – Near miss from a car leaving Aустar's access road. Aустar personnel identified the driver of the vehicle as a contractor undertaking works at Aустar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The driver's behaviour was addressed by Aустar contract holder and contracting company. ○ Aустar contacted complainant to advise of follow up in relation to the complaint, who appreciated the follow up. • 21/10/14 – Complaint – Resident near Aberdare Emplacement Area called regarding dust and noise impacts (tailgate banging, reverse alarms) from 24 hour operations. 	<p>GM to investigate if Aустar owned houses were subject to pre-mining inspection</p>	<p>11/02/15</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The contractors which transport reject were advised of the complaint and agreed to improve their operation to minimise potential for tailgate banging. ○ Trucks were also directed to tip in deeper parts of the emplacement area during the night period. ○ A review of water truck usage was also undertaken to optimise dust suppression with operations. ○ Complainant was advised and appreciated the call back and that actions had been taken. 		
7	General Business		
	<p>Annual Environmental Management Report 2013-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed 30 September 2014 • Submitted to agencies (DPE, DRE, EPA, NOW, Council) and community representatives (state and federal members, CCC members, Cessnock library) and is on Austar website. <p>Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reporting 2013-2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Pollutant Inventory report submitted 30 September 2014. • National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting submitted by Yancoal 31 October 2014 <p>Premises Noise Assessment – EPL Pollution Reduction Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPL Pollution Reduction Program was updated Feb 2014 to require a Premises Noise Assessment (PNA) for all operations and activities. Currently the EPL only specifies noise limits for the CHPP. • PNA was prepared in accordance with Section 10 of the Industrial Noise Policy and submitted to EPA on 29 August 2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifies Project Specific Noise Levels (PSNLs) ○ Predicts noise impact from existing operations will exceed PSNLs in certain operational areas. ○ Noise limits have been proposed for the No. 1 Shaft. In addition, Austar have development consent limits for the Kitchener SIS and Kalingo IA; it is proposed these limits can be applied to the EPL. ○ On the basis that noise predictions exceed the PSNLs, 		

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	<p>noise limits are not specifically proposed in the PNA for the Pelton CHPP, Aустar Pit Top or the Aberdare EEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As an interim measure for Aустar Pit Top and the Aberdare EEA, which do not currently have noise limits, noise predictions presented in the Premises Noise Assessment could be considered for adoption. ○ The PNA recommends current EPL noise limits for Pelton CHPP be retained in the interim, as Aустar have been operating with these limits for many years, and noise complaints have been minimal in recent times. Alternatively, should the EPA wish to contemporise noise limits at the CHPP immediately, noise predictions presented in the PNA could be considered for adoption. ○ Aустar seeking consultation with EPA on predictions and recommendations of PNA. <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 team led by Trevor Brown of Trevor Brown and Associates has been endorsed by Secretary of DPE. ● 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. <p>Community Sponsorships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mt View High School – end of year presentation ● Paxton Women's Bowling Club – women's triples carnival ● Hunter Domestic Violence – Reclaim the night fundraiser ● Cessnock High School - end of year presentation <p>Other</p> <p>AS – Asked if PSMPs can be completed earlier than planned, as he and other landholders are keen to this to occur sooner than later</p>		

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	<p>GM – Stated that PSMPs or Built Features Management Plans are normally conducted closer to when Mining is planned to occur, but can be completed earlier for properties within the extraction plan area.</p> <p>AS – Asked when the next extraction plan would be completed.</p> <p>GM – Stated that work would likely commence on the extraction plan next year.</p> <p>AS – Asked how many employees had been made redundant.</p> <p>GM – Stated that approximately thirty employees had been made redundant after the Abel mine changed their roster to reduce costs. Austar could not absorb the returning numbers so had to go through a redundancy process.</p> <p>JM – Asked if there had been more train movements, as residents had noticed increased train noise.</p> <p>GM – Stated that there had not been an increase in train movements and that Austar had discussed locomotive noise with the train provider Pacific National. They were receptive to the enquiry about noise, which was positive.</p>		
8	Next Meetings		
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 February 2015 – 9:30am LTCC Office, Austar CHPP • Other meeting dates were proposed for 2015. 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	<p>MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:50am and thanked all for attending and wished all a happy and safe Christmas and new year.</p>		

Recorded: Jack Potter 12/08/2014

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill