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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:35am – 10:35am
 Date: 15 November 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
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 9:35am Apologies: BW provided an apology for this meeting.		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH asked for changes to previous declarations of interest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to the declarations of interest as previously stated 		
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, PS seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	MMH relayed that David Holmes had emailed a reply to the acknowledgement and thanks letter saying he had enjoyed his time on the committee. JC provided ML’s signed and completed Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct forms to MMH which were completed at the end of the Q3 CCC Meeting. At the request of MMH, GM provided an update on the “Orange Drainage Line” reported in the previous meeting. Austar has continued to monitor and contain the area and provide regular status reports to EPA, DPE and DRG, and a ground and groundwater study including desktop assessment has been engaged to investigate the possible source. Seeking applications for new CCC member: GM stated that one application had been received and an update is included in the presentation for this meeting. MMH stated that she is aware of one other landholder from the Stage 3 area that plans to submit an application.		
5	Correspondence		
	Out 24/8/17 – email copy of the Chairpersons letter sent to Secretary DP&E regarding the Austar Coal Mine CCC operation to CCC members 31/8/17 – email to DH acknowledgement and appreciation of his contribution on CCC 10/11/17 – email SANSW letter to CCC members In		

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	<p>30/8/17 - email from GM on approval of modification for LWB4-7 with copy of approval and Consolidated Consent after Mod 7)</p> <p>21/9/17 - email response from DH</p> <p>29/9/17 - letter & 2016-17 AEMR from GM</p> <p>24/10/17 - email from GM on advertising process for CCC members</p> <p>9/11/17 - email/letter from SANSW on mine subsidence compensation process</p> <p>14/11/2017 – MMH was contacted by SLR who are conducting an independent environmental audit on Austar for the period 15 November 2014 to 23 November 2017 requesting any specific comments about the site and whether CCC members thought any specific aspects required investigation in further detail. MMH forwarded this on to all members 15/11/2017</p>		
6	<p>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</p>		
	<p>GM – provided an update on current and proposed underground operations.</p> <p><u>CURRENT OPERATIONS</u></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. ▪ Approval was granted on 25 August 2017. ▪ 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. ▪ Longwall panels are approx. 1100m or less in length and approx. 237m wide. ▪ Predicted subsidence parameters 1.35m and tilts up to 5.5mm/m are less than the approved Stage 2 or Stage 3 Mining Areas. <p>BELLBIRD SOUTH LWB4-B7 EXTRACTION PLAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Extraction Plan for LWB4-LWB7 was prepared and provided to DPE and DRG for consultation. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing management measures implemented at Austar were extended to the LWB4-B7 mining area including additional monitoring. ▪ The Extraction Plan for LWB4-B7 was approved on 20 September 2017. <p>UNDERGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area. ▪ Longwall B3 was completed 31 August 2017. ▪ Longwall B4 commenced on 5 October 2017. Approximately 260m of retreat of 1125m length completed to 14/11/17. <p>CHPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Normal operations have been occurring. <p>EXPLORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exploration drilling has continued over the Stage 3 area. Eight boreholes have been completed so far in 2017. Recently completed the eighth borehole. ▪ A ground based magnetometer survey was completed in July 2017 to investigate locations of geological structures over the Stage 3 mining area. ▪ A 3D seismic survey in part of the Stage 3 mining area was completed August-September 2017. ▪ Plans showing the exploration areas were presented. <p>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</p> <p>Environmental Incidents (22 August-14 November 2017)</p> <p>30 October 2017 and 1 November 2017 – CHPP Noise Exceedance due to Low Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise exceedance confirmed from monitoring on the night of 25-26/10/17 near the CHPP at location NMC3 after a review of meteorological data. Measured site only noise levels were compliant with noise limits, however the 		

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	<p>nature of noise classed as low frequency which resulted in a 2dB modifying factor being applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actions: EPA and DPE notified. Follow up monitoring occurred which also was confirmed to exceed due to low frequency penalty at NMC3 on 1/11/17 (recorded as an environmental incident for November). Report provided to EPA and DPE on Monday 6/11/17. ▪ Further noise monitoring on 6 November 2017 complied with noise limits. EPA and DPE notified. ▪ Austar has completed further noise source identification testing during October prior to these exceedances. Different elements of the CHPP were operated in isolation to assist this investigation for the ongoing Noise Pollution Reduction Program. <p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidence surveys have occurred over Sandy Creek Road. Access negotiations are ongoing for access to private property for B2 centreline and the crossline. ▪ Approx. 250mm subsidence has been recorded on Sandy Creek Road. <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>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new alluvial monitoring bore (MB04) has been installed over the B4-B7 mining area and monitoring has commenced. <p>GM discussed an observed decrease in the water level of groundwater bore NER1010 located over LWB5-B6 set in sandstone and noted that the rate of decline was slowing and that monitoring had increased from quarterly to monthly for this and surrounding bores. GM noted that longwall mining from Bellbird South is some distance away and noted the location is also near the Stage 2 mining area. It was also noted that this borehole is close to a fault, which is similar to observed decrease in another sandstone bore some distance away in the Stage 3 area (MB01) reported previously to the CCC. MB01 increased temporarily in June/July before</p>	<p>JC to report depth below ground level for MB02 next meeting</p>	<p>28/2/2018</p>

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	<p>returning to a decreasing trend. GM noted there has been no additional inflow noted into the underground mining area.</p> <p>Noise Monitoring</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (22 August 2017 to 14 November 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise exceedances recorded during one monitoring event; on 25 October 2017 and during follow up monitoring at the same location on 31 October 2017. on 10 July 2017. Follow up monitoring on 6/11/17 was within limits. Details were provided in Incidents section of the presentation. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (22 August 2017 to 13 November 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 V9c – Sandy Creek Road - Astar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring commenced 19 July 2017 ▪ 1 new event greater than 1mm/s ▪ Monitor V10 – Sandy Creek Road - Astar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring commenced 28 August 2017 ▪ 1 new event greater than 1mm/s <p>Community Complaints</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (22 August 2017 to 13 November 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nil complaints. 		
7	General Business		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>New Austar CCC recruiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar commenced advertising for a new Austar CCC member on 25 October 2017. Advertisements have been placed in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cessnock Advertiser (25/10, 1/11, 8/11) • Cessnock City Council website and social media • Information has been placed on Austar’s website • Landowners in the Bellbird South B1-B7 area were notified of the advertising for a new CCC member directly by letter • Applications close 30 November 2017. • One application received to date. <p>Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Annual Environmental Management Report / Annual Review Report was completed end of September 2017 and submitted to regulators (DPE, EPA, DRG, DPI-Water, Cessnock City Council, Austar CCC, State and Federal Members of Parliament, Cessnock Library). A copy is also located on the Austar website. ▪ Austar completed annual National Pollutant Inventory by end September and National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting by end October 2017. ▪ An Independent Environmental Audit has been engaged. This is required to be undertaken every 3 years by Austar’s 		

development consents. The audit team has been endorsed by DPE.

Subsidence Advisory NSW (former Mine Subsidence Board)

- The Bellbird-Millfield Mine Subsidence District was gazetted 1 July 2017.
- Community have advised they received notification from Subsidence Advisory where they are now within the Bellbird-Millfield Mine Subsidence District.
- Some Austar property / infrastructure sites also now within the Mine Subsidence District.

Update on status of Subsidence Advisory NSW and Mine Subsidence Compensation Act reforms

- The Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on 8 August and was assented on 14 August 2017. The Bill will commence 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).

MMH stated that the new system is fairer as it has moved to a user pays style where the mines that cause the damage pay for that damage. MMH noted she had distributed information provided to her as Chairperson to Austar's CCC regarding the changes to Subsidence Advisory NSW to Austar's CCC members.

New Noise Policy for Industry –

- EPA has released a new *Noise Policy for Industry* in October 2017, replacing the *Industrial Noise Policy* (2000).
- There are updated methods for assessing low frequency noise.

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	<p>GM noted that the new method for assessing low frequency noise meant that for the noise exceedance identified in October 2017 that the new method caused exceedance of noise limits at one location. The previous method may have caused exceedance at 3 locations. Regardless, Austar will review the Noise Policy for Industry further for noise issues and how that may affect the Noise Pollution Reduction Program at the CHPP site.</p> <p>Community Sponsorships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Community Support Program 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP was advertised in the Cessnock Advertiser during Q2 2017. Successful applicants recently determined. ▪ Cessnock High School - end of year presentation ▪ Cessnock Minor Rugby League – end of year presentation fair <p>Other –</p> <p>AS asked about Austar’s plans to return to Stage 3. GM stated that the decision to mine longwall B7 meant that there was more time to complete further assessment of Stage 3 including the recent ground magnetic and seismic exploration data. GM noted that development mining was scheduled to be completed in B6 in December 2017. Mining longwall B7 will mean development mining will now be completed in Bellbird South in Q2/Q3 2018. The further assessment of data in Stage 3 is planned to be completed during that period.</p>		
8	Next Meetings		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2018 Meeting Schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 28 February ○ 23 May ○ 29 August ○ 21 November 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:35am and thanked CCC members for the year’s efforts and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy and prosperous new year.		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 15/11/2017

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill