

## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP  
 Time: 9:35am – 10:40am  
 Date: 17 February 2016

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
<b>Apologies</b>	
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Councillor Cordelia Troy (CT)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
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	<b>Welcome</b>		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting.		
2	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>		
	MMH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Mine Subsidence Board</li> <li>• Independent Chair of numerous Community Consultative Committee's</li> </ul>		
3	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>		
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, GM seconded.		
4	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>		
	<p><b>Bellbird South landowners interest in the Austar CCC</b></p> <p>GM advised that Austar had been in contact with some of the larger landholders over the Bellbird South mining area to gauge interest in a representative joining the Austar CCC. There was positive response. GM noted that Austar will be advising all landowners within the Bellbird South modification area (within predicted subsidence impact area) of the approved modification and upcoming Extraction Plan preparation for Bellbird South and will also invite landholders to indicate their interest in joining Austar's CCC. GM noted that likely one community representative from the Bellbird South area may be appropriate.</p> <p>MMH noted that draft Community Consultative Committee guidelines have been advertised for public exhibition and comment by the Department of Planning and Environment in newspapers, but are not yet available on the DPE website. GM confirmed that the guidelines were not available on the morning of the CCC meeting.</p> <p>MMH noted that the approach to invite interest from the Bellbird South mining area seems appropriate and suggested that if there were multiple interested landowners, that all applications be forwarded to DPE to allow endorsement of an appropriate candidate by DPE.</p> <p><b>Progress Power Pole Guard Rail on Quorrobolong Road with Council</b></p> <p>GM advised that recent attempts have been made in 2016 to contact Council regarding a guard rail that has previously been discussed with Council. Austar will continue liaising with our Council contacts for this matter.</p>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
5	<b>Correspondence</b>		
	<p>Incoming</p> <p>3/2/16 – email from Austar advising of approval of the Bellbird South LWB1-B3 modification by DPE on 29 January 2016 in addition to the Austar CCC agenda.</p>		
6	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b>		
	<p>GM &amp; BW – provided an update on current and proposed underground operations.</p> <p><b><u>Current Operations</u></b></p> <p><b>Bellbird South Mining Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modification to Development Consent DA29/95 was approved under delegation of the Minister for Planning on 29 January 2016.</li> <li>• The modification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ extends the development consent area to cover the three longwall panels to facilitate the recovery of an addition of approximately 4.5 million tonnes of ROM coal</li> <li>○ includes a new Extraction Plan condition to cover the LWB1, B2 and B3 workings, consistent with contemporary Extraction Plan requirements</li> <li>○ extend the life of the Bellbird South Consent by a further 5 years to provide sufficient time for LWB1, B2 and B3 to be completed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is no change to the existing, approved mining operations or associated surface facilities or to existing approved production rates.</li> <li>• Longwall details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conventional longwall mining method (not top coal caving)</li> <li>○ Approx 3.5m extraction height in the Greta Seam</li> <li>○ Approx 480-555m depth of cover</li> <li>○ Longwall void width 237m</li> <li>○ Approx lengths 1480m to 1880m</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Extraction Plan approval will be required prior to extraction.</li> <li>• DPE endorsed the Extraction Plan team on 8 Feb 2016.</li> <li>• Extraction order is proposed to be LWB2, LWB3 with LWB1 last.</li> <li>• Propose to commenced LWB2 extraction July 2016.</li> </ul>		

<p>GM presented plans of the approved longwall panels LWB1-B3.</p> <p>GM provided a copy of the Notice of Modification from the Department of Planning and Environment dated 29 January 2016, and a copy of the consolidated consent for DA29/95 with modifications highlighted by different coloured text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar is working on the mine plan for the coal resource to the northwest of the LWB1-B3 panels.</li> <li>• Austar will need to lodge a further modification application prior to extracting any additional panels.</li> <li>• Environmental Assessment to support additional panels will be undertaken in 2016</li> </ul> <p>GM identified the area of coal resource which Austar are planning to undertake environmental assessment for future Bellbird South panels in 2016.</p> <p>DH queried whether the type of landholder agreement that had been offered in the Stage 3 mining area would be offered in the Bellbird South mining area.</p> <p>GM noted that Austar has not offered the style of agreement previously offered in the Stage 3 area. Austar had discussed access agreements with Bellbird South landowners during preparation of the Environmental Assessment. Access arrangements had been agreed for the Environmental Assessment, with payment for access for monitoring/access occasions. Austar will continue discussing access arrangements with landholders over Bellbird South during the Extraction Plan process.</p> <p>GM &amp; BW provided an overview of underground operations.</p> <p><b>Underground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area.</li> <li>• Longwall extraction in Bellbird South is proposed to commence in July 2016</li> <li>• Plans of Bellbird South Longwalls was presented including current development mining operations.</li> </ul> <p>AS queried operations in the Stage 3 mining Area.</p> <p>BW advised that current mine planning involves extracting longwalls in the Bellbird South area before moving back to the Stage 3 area. Development mining operations may need to commence in Stage 3 in 2017 to allow longwall continuity (based on current mining forecast with Bellbird South and Stage 3). Austar would require additional mining equipment and personnel to allow commencement of development operations in 2017.</p> <p>BW noted that mining forecast may be subject to change depending on how learnings from our current area affect planning for Stage3.</p> <p>GM provided an overview of other mine operations</p>		
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**CHPP**

- Normal operations occurring, albeit at reduced levels with only development coal being produced. Operations will return to normal production levels when longwall extraction recommences at Astar.

**Exploration**

- Two exploration boreholes undertaken since previous meeting.
- Exploration program is planned to continue in 2016. Astar will be consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration.

GM presented photos of the current exploration site and exploration licence plan and indicated possible locations of additional exploration in 2016 and beyond.

BW noted that several seismic lines may be undertaken within the exploration area, and also noted that Astar is preparing for renewal application for the exploration licence.

**Environmental Incidents 19 November 2015 – 16 February 2016**

GM gave summary of environmental incidents since previous meeting.

**6 Jan 2016 – Kitchener SIS – Sediment Basin and Lower Water Storage Dam Discharge**

- The incident involved the Eastern Sediment Basin and the Lower Water Storage Dam discharging over their lowest points during greater than design rainfall.
- A total of 103mm fell over the period 3 to 6 January 2016 prior to and during the incident.
- The approved 90th percentile, 5 day rainfall design for the Eastern Sediment Basin is 42.8mm. The lower water storage dam design runoff capacity is greater than the 90th percentile, 5 day rainfall depth.
- Actions taken:
  - Reported to EPA
  - Water pumping of sediment basin and storage dams to make ready for future rain events

GM noted that the EPA had sent a message of thanks for Astar's prompt reporting of this incident for the January rainfall.

DH noted that it is not unusual to receive more than 43mm of rainfall during a large rainfall event, so the sediment basins will overtop. Queried why basins are not larger.

GM indicated that the Blue Book states that a basin designed for a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, 5 day rainfall will be overtopped on 5 occasions per year. GM noted that the Environmental Assessment for the Stage 3 project sized sediment basins for an 80<sup>th</sup> percentile 5 day rainfall which is about 18mm. It was during the Management Plan approval that DPE asked for the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile 5 day rainfall design size and approved the management plan at that level. GM noted that is above and beyond what was approved in the Stage 3 Environmental Assessment.

BW noted that the sediment basins may be akin to farm dams, they do not hold mine water from the operations.

MMH noted that the community may not be aware of the distinction between the types of dams for sediment basins and mine water dams.

GM noted sediment basins are used for construction purposes, similar to a construction site.

BW noted that Austar is considering asking for the sediment basins to be a licenced discharge point such that reporting to EPA for a discharge would not be required. This is because the sediment basins are approved by DPE at that design size, and approved to be operated in the manner they are.

GM noted that we would need to discuss licencing of the sediment basins with the EPA.

#### **15 Feb 2016 – 2 Shaft Pipeline – Pipeline Leak**

- The incident involved a minor leak identified from the 2 Shaft Pipeline identified as a wet area of ground in road edge of Dry Creek Road.
- Actions taken:
  - 2 Shaft Pipeline isolated to prevent further leak
  - Cessnock City Council notified of intended pipeline maintenance works
  - Pipeline repair planned (ongoing at time of Q1 2016 CCC meeting)

GM – provided update on environmental monitoring

#### **Environmental Monitoring Update**

##### **Subsidence**

- No subsidence surveys completed since last meeting.

##### **Air Quality**

- Annual average PM<sub>10</sub> was well below Annual Average Maximum Criteria at all locations in 2015.
- Annual average deposited dust was below Annual Maximum Criteria for all locations in 2015.
- Graphs of air quality monitoring data were presented.

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p><b>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 for all 2015.</li> <li>• General trends in Bellbird Creek, Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek presented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater levels were presented on graphs.</li> <li>• Groundwater levels are stable in monitored piezometers slight decrease over the year towards the level before April 2015 heavy rainfall.</li> </ul> <p><b>Noise</b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (18 November 2015 to 16 February 2016)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measured noise was compliant with noise limits from 18 November 2015 to 16 February 2016.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vibration</b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (13 Nov 2015 to 1 Feb 2016)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 events &gt;1mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All &lt;3.2mm/sec</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor V8 – 159 Coney Creek Lane <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 event &gt;1mm/sec <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Event was 1.7mm/sec</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Graphs of vibration monitoring results were presented.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Community Complaints</u></b></p> <p><b>Since last CCC meeting (18 November 2015 to 16 February 2016)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x community complaints during this period on 15 Feb 2016 (received via EPA and Council). Both relate to odour from Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area. Source was two small piles of coarse reject which were heating/smouldering.</li> </ul>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
7	<b>General Business</b>		
	<p><b>Sponsorships – Austar Community Support Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austar will be commencing more formal Community Support Program in 2016.</li> <li>• Local community groups will be invited to submit applications throughout the year, with closing dates to be advertised on the Austar website as well as The Cessnock Advertiser.</li> <li>• Applications for funding will be considered two times per year.</li> <li>• A group consisting of Austar employees and a selected representative from the community will assess applications against a set of criteria and provide independent recommendations on allocation of funds. Funding allocations will be announced as soon as practical after the submission dates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Planning and Environment is revising the CCC guidelines and will be inviting comment.</li> <li>• Copy of the guidelines are not yet available on the DPE website.</li> </ul> <p><b>100 Years of Operations – Pelton Colliery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW noted that 2016 marks 100 years of operation of the Pelton Colliery. BW noted that Austar is connected to the Pelton Colliery, and the current CHPP site is located on the surface of the colliery.</li> <li>• Austar is planning to commemorate the centenary and is working on the manner in which this will occur.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other</b></p> <p>Nil</p>	<p>GM noted that the guidelines for the Community Support Program will be presented to the CCC when finalised.</p> <p>GM to distribute a copy of the CCC guidelines when available.</p>	



Item	Issue	Action	Date
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>		
	Next Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 April 2016 – 9:30am Location TBA</li> </ul>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:40am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Gary Mulhearn 17/2/2016

Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill