

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:40am – 11:20am
 Date: 16 November 2016

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
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		
	<p>MMH – Welcomed the Committee, including Councillor Mark Lyons attending the CCC for the first time, and opened the meeting 9:40am</p> <p>GM – To welcome Councillor Mark Lyons to Austar Coal Mine’s operations, GM provided a briefing presentation which included an overview of Austar Coal Mine, environmental regulation, Austar’s approvals, surface and underground operations and infrastructure, environmental monitoring and community management.</p>		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	<p>MMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Subsidence Advisory NSW (prev. Mine Subsidence Board) • 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. AS moved, DH seconded.		
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes		
	<p>Power Pole Guardrail on Quorrobolong Road - GM has spoken with the Council’s works team and is awaiting a response on contractual queries and timeframe.</p> <p>MMH advised that the new Community Consultative Committee (CCC) guidelines are now available on the Department of Planning and Environment website. Margaret gave an overview of some of the changes compared to the 2007 guidelines and committed to distributing a copy of the new CCC guidelines to the committee.</p> <p>Community Sponsorship Program- covered in 7. General Business</p> <p>Forecast Subsidence Longwalls B1-B3- GM provided subsidence predictions from the LWB1-LWB3 Extraction Plan, which GM noted is also available on the Austar website. The plan shows a prediction of 925mm of subsidence after mining of all 3 panels. GM Also discussed requirements prior to mining Longwalls B4-B7 including subsidence assessment, flood assessment, flora & fauna and cultural heritage studies.</p>	MMH to email out new CCC guidelines	Done 16/11/2016
5	Correspondence		
	30/9/16 the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) was distributed to CCC members.		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
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. ▪ Longwall B2 has retreated approximately 668m since commencing extraction to 15 November 2016. <p>LWB1-B3 EXTRACTION PLAN – BUILT FEATURES MANAGEMENT PLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cessnock City Council – Built Features Management Plan has been agreed with Council. ▪ Built Features Management Plan for private landholders north of Sandy Creek Road will be prepared shortly. <p>BELLBIRD SOUTH AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar has finalised the mine plan for the coal resource to the northwest of the LWB1-B3 panels (LWB4-B7) ▪ Austar will need to lodge a further modification application prior to extracting any additional panels. ▪ Environmental Assessment to support additional panels will commence in 2016 <p>Displayed plan showing location of proposed Longwalls B4-B7</p> <p>CHPP</p> <p>Tailings boreholes have been drilled into Pelton workings between the CHPP and pit top in accordance with the approved Mining Operations Plan.</p> <p>EXPLORATION</p> <p>Nil exploration undertaken since previous meeting.</p> <p>Austar has been consulting with landholders regarding access for exploration. Three exploration boreholes have been approved by the Division of Resources and Energy. Further applications are</p>		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<p>planned for submission for the exploration program as part of this program.</p> <p>Work is expected to start in November 2016 with work extending into the first quarter of next year.</p> <p>Seismic programs are still being planned internally ahead of further consultation with landholders.</p>		

Environmental Incidents (23 August 2016 – 16 November 2016)

5 September – Noise Exceedance

- One reportable noise exceedance from the CHPP was identified at one location during routine noise monitoring on 29 August due to the low frequency modifying factor. Weather data analysis was completed on 5 September which confirmed the exceedance. There was no community complaint at the time of the measured exceedance.
- Immediate Actions: EPA & DPE notified of exceedance on 5 September.
- Follow up Actions: Continue with actions established from previous noise exceedances (continue potential noise control options and potential Low Frequency sources (to be subject to reasonable/feasible test), review Premises Noise Assessment prepared in 2014 for the CHPP to update with low frequency noise monitoring findings), an incident report was provided to EPA & DPE.

10 September 2016 – Spill to land (not reportable)

- During routine inspection of the 2 shaft pipeline, a wet area of ground was identified above the pipeline in a section of Crown Road (Q14 opposite Dry Creek Rd) as a potential leak.
- Immediate Actions: The pipeline was isolated, E&C Manager and Manager Mechanical Engineering were notified.
- Follow up Actions: Crown Lands and near neighbour were notified of maintenance activities on the pipeline. Pipeline investigation works commenced 12/9/16 and repair was completed by engineering on 21/9/16 without further incident.

1 November 2016 – Spill to land (not reportable)

- Austar's security guard notified control operator that a small amount of water had discharged out of an air relief valve in the compound at #2 shaft site.
- Immediate Actions: Control room operator placed control stop on both pumps. The valve was isolated to stop water flow.
- Follow up Actions: Pumps remained off until engineering assessment and replacement of the valve.

5 November 2016 – Spill to land (not reportable)

- 2 Shaft borehole pump required restart after loss of power during recent bushfires. A fitter travelled to 2 shaft and restarted pump at 8am. Security notified Control of leak from an air bleed valve on hill near Kalingo dam which had wet the ground adjacent.
- Immediate Actions: A fitter immediately investigated, notified the Environment and Community Manager, and isolated the air relief valves.
- Follow up Actions: Air bleed valves were isolated with instructions to manually bleed air on pump restarting as required until an incident review takes place and new air bleed valves are obtained, installed and checked. Air bleed valves in the 2 shaft compound were fitted with hoses to direct potential leak back down shaft.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE

Subsidence

- Subsidence surveys have occurred over the centerline of LWB2, and of LWB1-B3 cross line (following two slides).
- Maximum recorded surface level movement is 106mm.

Discussed undermining road. Cracking unlikely due to level of predicted subsidence being relatively low.

Monitoring Results General

Graphs showing results for the period on subsidence, air quality, water, groundwater, noise and vibration monitoring were presented.

Groundwater Monitoring

Monitoring Bore 01 (MB01)

- Quarterly monitoring completed during the September 2016 monitoring round showed the water level in sandstone overburden bore MB01 (located over longwall panel A9) had decreased.
- The groundwater level in MB01 began to decrease on 19 August 2016.
- A groundwater and environment consultant has been commissioned to undertake further field work to investigate the measurements at the bore.
- The groundwater level decrease has been tracked using a piezometer and manually measured to confirm on 29 September, 6 October and 10 November with the rate of

decrease slowing over time. Next scheduled early December.

GM advised that in relation to the MB01 observations that no extra water inflow has reported into the coal mining area in the vicinity of the bore. Noted that this is a bore which is immediately adjacent to the extracted longwalls, and that there are no users of the groundwater in the porous rock aquifer some 150m depth. We will continue to monitor and investigate.

Noise Monitoring

- One noise exceedance on 29 August 2016 as described in Environmental Incidents.
- No complaints have been recorded in relation to noise from the CHPP since longwall production and CHPP throughput recommenced in July 2016.
- Contractor currently undertaking noise source investigation and noise control options are being assessed.

Vibration

Since last CCC meeting (23 August 2016 to 16 November 2016)

- **Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road**
 - 2 events >1mm/sec (1.15mm/s, 1.12mm/s).
- **Monitor V9 – Barraba Lane**
 - Monitoring commenced on 10 October 2016
 - 8 events >1mm/sec
 - Highest reading 10.22mm/s
- **Monitor V9a – Barraba Lane**
 - 22 events >1mm/sec
 - 2 events over British Standard 7385 curve which notes a “minimal risk of cosmetic damage may occur”. (19.82mm/sec, 18.83mm/sec)
 - All other readings are below the British Standard screening threshold of 15mm/sec.
 - Residents are noting the vibration events and information about vibration events is being provided to residents. 1 complaint detailed in *Community Complaints*

Community Complaints

Since last CCC meeting (23 August to 16 November)

- 4 x community complaints were received during this period.
- 1 complaint was received by phone 26/9/2016 regarding vibration in the Barraba Lane region of Quorrobolong. The resident stated that his previously earthquake damaged home had repaired cracks reopening. **Actions taken** – Environment and Community Manager (ECM) visited resident and contacted an MSB officer to advise of potential damage identified. MSB officer advised that the landholder should lodge a claim, and the MSB will investigate installing their own vibration monitors in the area (which they have done). Vibration events have been recorded by the resident and are felt as a loud "crack" noise and windows rattling. ECM advised the resident of the location of the longwall at present, the level and number of vibration events recorded since monitoring started in July 2016, the vibration monitor positions, the amount of subsidence that has been recorded to date (60mm) and provided a letter summarising that information. ECM also provided an MSB claim form, details of how to lodge an online claim form, and the contact details of the MSB officer spoken.
- 3 x complaints from residents in Cessnock regarding an odour from Aberdare Emplacement Area (17th and 18th October). **Actions taken** – The odour had already been identified by Austar prior to the complaint and a water truck was sent to wet the area down and piles were spread with the dozer and rolled. Residents were advised of the actions undertaken.
- One of the odour complainants also mentioned needing to clean dust from their outside areas. The resident was advised that Austar operates water carts when reject trucks are operating, and the coarse reject forms a crust and does not generate significant dust, potentially from other sources such as motorbikes. The resident was advised that rehabilitation efforts will reduce dust progressively.

Item	Issue	Action	Date
7	General Business		
	<p>Mining Operations Plan 2016-2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Mining Operations Plan was approved by DRE on 9 September 2016. The MOP shows mining activities and rehabilitation activities during the approved period. <p>Community Sponsorships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar is supporting the Cessnock Youth Employment Program in conjunction with Cessnock City Council. A \$10,000 sponsorship was provided to assist with training and support of unemployed youth in our area. Potential to be used in other Council areas. ▪ Austar’s Community Support Program 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 41 applications have been assessed by Austar personnel as well as local community representative, David Clark. • The Funding allocations will be announced as soon as practical. ▪ Cessnock High end of year awards 2016. ▪ Kitchener Public School end of year awards 2016. <p>Subsidence Advisory NSW</p> <p>MMH described changes at the Mining Subsidence Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Name change to Subsidence Advisory NSW ▪ Legislation changes from early next year – under consultation. Move towards mine operators paying for the damage they cause. Continuation of mines paying into derelict mines fund <p>AS raised the issue of how these changes would affect the <i>Sharing the Benefits</i> scheme which describe the Mine Subsidence Board role.</p> <p>Council Member Allocation to Committees</p> <p>ML advised that Cessnock City Council would allocate members to specific committees in December, which will include external committees like Austar’s Community Consultative Committee.</p>	<p>GM to investigate implications of MSB changes for existing agreements</p>	

Item	Issue	Action	Date
8	Next Meetings		
	Next year's meetings – proposed dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 March 2017 – 9:30am Location TBA ▪ 17 May 2017 – 9:30am Location TBA ▪ 23 Aug 2017 – 9:30am Location TBA ▪ 8 Nov 2017 – 9:30am Location TBA 		
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2017 then declared the meeting closed at 11:20am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 16/11/2016

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill