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Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: LTCC Meeting Room, Austar CHPP
 Time: 9:40am – 11:02am
 Date: 29 March 2017

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
David Holmes (DH)	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Gary Mulhearn (GM)	Austar Coal Mine
Josh Chadwick (JC)	Austar Coal Mine
Apologies	
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
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		
	MMH – Welcomed the Committee and opened the meeting 9:40am		
2	Declaration of Interests		
	<p>MMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Mine Subsidence Board, the administrative office is now known as Subsidence Advisory NSW • Independent Chair of numerous Community Consultative Committee's 		
	<p>MMH – Noted that the Department of Planning and Environment's <i>Community Consultative Guidelines: State Significant Developments</i> were finalised subsequent to the Q4 2016 meeting and MMH distributed the new guidelines by email in November 2016. MMH advised that the CCC guidelines require members to sign new Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms in order to comply with the guidelines. MMH advised that, as Chairperson, she is required to ask if there are any changes to the declaration of interest at each meeting, rather than requiring members to state their interests on the occasion of each meeting.</p> <p>GM distributed to CCC members in attendance a hard copy of the CCC guidelines, and forms relevant to Austar's CCC for completion. Austar is to send forms to those not in attendance. MMH will keep originals of the declarations and code of conduct forms for our committee.</p> <p>MMH also advised she has prepared a brief summary on the changes to CCC guidelines, which she will provide to Austar to distribute with the final meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Austar to send <i>Code of Conduct</i> and <i>Declaration of Interest</i> forms to committee members to complete and return.</p> <p>MMH to provide summary on changes to CCC guidelines for Austar to distribute with the minutes.</p>	
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		
	<p>Power pole guard rail on Quorrobolong Road. AS noted that the guardrail on Quorrobolong Road had been installed. GM advised that an update is included in General Business.</p> <p>DH – Asked for an update on MB01 water level. GM advised that an update will be provided in Section 6 with environmental monitoring information.</p> <p><i>Sharing the Benefits</i> Access and Compensation Agreement and possible implications of proposed changes to the Mine Subsidence</p>		

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	<p>Compensation Act. GM advised that the proposed changes would see the mine that caused damage to built features be responsible for costs to rectify. GM advised that an enquiry had commenced since the previous CCC meeting regarding this matter, but has not been finalised.</p>		
5	<p>Correspondence</p>		
	<p>3/1/2017 – Email received from Cessnock City Council advising that Councillor Mark Lyons had been appointed to the Austar CCC, and Councillor Allan Stapleford as alternate.</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>UNDERGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development mining operations continued in the Bellbird South area. ▪ Longwall B2 extraction was completed on 3/2/2017. ▪ Longwall has relocated to B3. Extraction began 11/3/2017. <p>BELLBIRD SOUTH LWB4-B7 MODIFICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A coal resource to the northwest of the LWB1-B3 panels (LWB4-B7) has been assessed as suitable for extraction with minimal additional development works. ▪ Austar has consulted with the Department of Planning and Environment. ▪ Austar proposes to modify development consent DA29/95 to permit extraction of LWB4-B7. ▪ An Environmental Assessment to support the modification application is in preparation. ▪ Environmental field studies (ecology, cultural heritage, subsidence) have been completed Q1 2017 to support the environmental assessment with landholder permission. ▪ Specialist assessments in preparation also (subsidence, flooding and drainage, groundwater, ecology, cultural heritage, greenhouse gas & energy). 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Longwall extraction of LWB4 is proposed to commence in Q3 2017, this is dependent on approval of a modification application to an existing consent, and of an Extraction Plan for the proposed longwall panels. ▪ Landholders overlying the mining area have been advised. ▪ Further consultation planned in lead up to application lodgement with the affected landholders, infrastructure owners, Cessnock City Council and relevant agencies. ▪ Planned MOD lodgement to DPE in May 2017. ▪ This will be followed by public exhibition. <p>GM displayed plans of the proposed Longwall B4 to B7 panels.</p> <p>CHPP</p> <p>Normal operations have been occurring.</p> <p>Additional tailings boreholes are proposed to be drilled into Pelton workings between the CHPP and Pit Top. In accordance with an approved Mining Operations Plan.</p> <p>EXPLORATION</p> <p>Exploration drilling has continued around the Stage 3 area. Three boreholes have been completed and work is beginning on the fourth.</p> <p>Ground based seismic and magnetometer surveys are being planned for Q2-Q3 2017 over the Stage 3 area and Exploration Licence area. At this early planning stage, seismic surveys will likely involve buggy mounted vibration source, and magnetometer surveys may involve pedestrian surveys.</p> <p>Further consultation directly with relevant landholders will be undertaken to discuss exploration proposals.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS</p> <p>Environmental Incidents (17 November 2016 - 28 March 2017)</p> <p>6 December 2016 – Spill to land (not reportable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A potential 2 shaft pipeline leak was identified in Crown Road Reserve during routine pipeline inspection. ▪ Immediate Actions: The pipeline was isolated, E&C 		

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	<p>Manager and Manager Mechanical Engineering were notified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up Actions: Inspection by Environmental Coordinator confirmed the wet area was likely mine water. Crown Lands and near neighbour were notified of maintenance activities on the pipeline. Investigation located the leak on 9/12/16. The pipeline was repaired and tested and the pump restarted. <p>24 February 2017 – Spill to land (reportable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A mine water leak from No. 2 shaft pipeline to road reserve, small area of private paddocks, and pools of water near road culverts was identified. ▪ Immediate Actions: The pipeline was immediately isolated. E&C Manager inspected and triggered the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan. EPA and other agencies were notified of the incident. ▪ Follow up Actions: Containment pumping of the pooled water was undertaken, and the pipeline drained of water. Landowners of private paddocks and Council were notified of potential leak and future repair and remediation strategy. The leak was repaired on 8 March 2017. Remediation has progressed after approvals for works in the road reserve were approved by Council. <p>1 March 2017 – Spill to land (reportable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tailings sprayed to ground at CHPP site and an on-site gravel road table drain adjacent overland conveyor. The source was a failed pipe fitting gasket spraying material outside of the existing standard containment bunding. ▪ Immediate Actions: Pump stopped. An earthen containment bund was installed to contain spill. ▪ Follow up Actions: Tailings spray area cleaned up. Other similar fittings within other containment bund areas were fitted with a spray containment hood. Austar’s EPA officer was notified that the incident will be reportable in the Environment Protection Licence Annual Return. 		

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	<p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING UPDATE</u></p> <p>Subsidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidence surveys have occurred over the centerline of LWB2, and of LWB1-B3 crossline. ▪ Maximum recorded surface level movement is 178mm. <p>Discussed undermining Sandy Creek Road. GM advised that visual inspection to look for possible damage is undertaken during mining as has been undertaken in the Stage 3 area for Quorrobolong Road. Also, Sandy Creek Road has been undermined by the Ellalong Colliery immediately adjacent to the Bellbird South mining area, and it is difficult to observe where the mining area commences and ends. This is due to depth of cover and overlying strata being a large sandstone unit.</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>Groundwater Monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring Bore 01 (MB01)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Increased monitoring frequency was initiated and a groundwater and environment consultant undertook an investigation. ▪ Groundwater inflow into underground mine workings has not increased, and is within licenced levels. ▪ A fault is mapped in the area of the monitoring bore. It is theorised that the bore may be connected to locally higher permeability fault strata, and this may have locally drained. ▪ No decrease due to mining has been observed in other nearby monitoring wells (MB02). 		

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	<p>Noise Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since last CCC meeting (17 November 2016 to 28 March 2017) ▪ No noise exceedances since the previous CCC meeting. ▪ No complaints have been recorded in relation to noise from the CHPP. <p>Vibration</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (17 November 2016 to 28 March 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 events >1mm/sec (1.1mm/s) ▪ Monitor V9 – Barraba Lane - Thompson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12 events >1mm/sec ▪ Highest reading 14.6mm/s on 8 December 2016 ▪ All readings are below the British Standard screening threshold of 15mm/sec. At this screening level there is a minimal risk of cosmetic damage to buildings (e.g. cracks in plaster) <p>Water</p> <p>GM discussed a pH reading in December 2016 at discharge location SW6. The result was within the acceptable pH range, but was close to the upper Environment Protection Licence limit. Austar investigated the result by reviewing the monitoring and control system for this area of the plant, which includes multiple pH probes which continuously monitor pH. Subsequent monitoring results have been lower.</p> <p>Community Complaints</p> <p>Since last CCC meeting (17 November 2016 to 28 March 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x community complaint was received during this period. ▪ 1 complaint was received on 25/2/17 - Resident attended the Mine Control Room approximately 8:50pm and made complaint regarding Austar employees entering his property without first asking on 24/2/17, and a water discharge which may originate from a mine pipeline which has affected part of his property. ▪ Actions taken – At 9:00pm the Austar Coal Mine Environment & Community Manager contacted resident by phone and advised that an incident was identified in a road reserve on Friday afternoon 24/2/17 and Austar employees inspected the road reserve. At no time did any 		

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	<p>Austar employee cross any fencelines for the inspection. The resident still did not agree with this advising his wife had observed men in orange shirts on their property from her house (the house is approximately 500m from the inspection area). Resident also advised that water was on his property, and was concerned about possible impact to stock. ECM advised that the extent of water onto his property must have not been observed during inspection. ECM met with resident on Monday morning to inspect and arranged to erect fencing to exclude stock, this was completed on 27/2/17. The resident has subsequently agreed with Austar to a strategy for remediation of his property.</p>		
7	<p>General Business</p>		
	<p>Quorrobolong Road Guard Rail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A guard rail adjacent a power pole constructed for the 33 kV feeder to Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site has been installed by Cessnock City Council in Feb 2017, funded by Austar. <p>Subsidence Advisory NSW (formerly Mine Subsidence Board)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subsidence Advisory NSW are proposing changes to Mine Subsidence Districts in the Hunter. This process commenced in 2016. One will include the Bellbird/West Cessnock/Pelton/Millfield area, and also including Austar’s mining areas. ▪ The purpose of a district is to minimise the risk of mine subsidence damage to structures through regulation of development. Districts are proclaimed over areas where there is the potential for mine subsidence to cause damage to structures, due to abandoned, active or proposed mining activity. ▪ We understand that Subsidence Advisory NSW intends to write to landowners within the additional areas proposed to be included within the new Bellbird-Millfield district to seek their feedback in the coming weeks. Subsidence Advisory NSW will consider this feedback prior to making a final determination on the proposed changes. <p>Note: Importantly - Subsidence damage to structures will still be subject to compensation under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act whether within or outside a MS District.</p>		

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	<p>Community Sponsorships –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Austar’s Community Support Program 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of 41 applications 14 were successful in either part or full sponsorship. Over \$30,000 of sponsorship has been provided to worthy community organisations or programs. Successful applications include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abermain Public School P & C – Carols by Candlelight ▪ Camp Quality – Touring School Program ▪ Cessnock Regional Art Gallery - Art exhibition for artists with a disability ▪ Cessnock Croquet Club - Turf improvement and levelling of playing surface ▪ Cessnock Rugby League Football Club – Annual sponsorship ▪ Coalfield Heritage Group - To undertake historical research specific to Cessnock ▪ Coalfields Amateur Swimming Club - to accredit 4 trainers & 20 x fins, 20 x buoys ▪ Ellalong Public School – Shade cover over children’s sandpit area ▪ Heal for Life Foundation - 6 children and their parents in a 1 week training camp plus training teachers from 2 schools ▪ Kitchener Poppet Head - Installation of signage at Kitchener Park for the link with mining and the Poppet Head ▪ Kitchener Public School - Edible garden ▪ Kurri Early Childhood Centre - Purchase a recycling station ▪ OzHarvest - Providing perishable food to vulnerable men, women and children ▪ Stanford Merthyr Public School P and C – AV projector • Austar CSP 2017 will be advertised soon. 		

Item	Issue	Action	Date
8	Next Meetings		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal to change time for next CCC meeting from May 24 to May 31. 	MMH to email members to check if May 31 is suitable.	
10	Meeting Closed		
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 11:02am and thanked all for attending.		

Recorded: Josh Chadwick 29/03/2017

Minutes Confirmed: To be confirmed at next meeting

Chairperson – Margaret MacDonald-Hill