

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2005
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Cr Fred Harvison	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Fiona Scanes	Singleton Council
Thelma DeJong	Community Representative
Deidre Oloffson	Community Representative
John McInerney	Community Representative
Philip Holz	Community Representative
Ian Callow	Company Representative (General Manager)
Colin Davies	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)
Peter Barton	Company Representative (Technical Manager)
Mike Chapman	Company Representative (General Manager) (part of meeting)
Sherry Russell	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.10pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Monique McDonald from Department of Primary Industries.
Brian Thomas from Singleton Council.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: **John McInerney**

Seconded: **Fiona Scanes**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

DO raised the issue of minutes being circulated in draft format initially. It was agreed that the minutes will be issued in draft format within 21 days after the meeting. Committee members will be given seven (7) days to comment. Final minutes to be issued at completion of the seven (7) day period.

5.1 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

CD confirmed all committee members were issued a copy of the AEMR. CD asked if any member required further clarification on the report. PB gave an overview of the report and the feedback received from government agencies. IC advised it has to conform to the EPA Licence and DMR guidelines. Chairman asked if any questions on the report.

PH asked about the Glennies Creek Road dump in comparison to other rehabilitated areas ie. in particular with regard to tree planting. JM asked about the trees planted by Rix's Creek Mine. CD advised the trees at Rix's Creek were planted by State Forest and were hybrid trees. PB advised that the Consent requires ACOL to plant native trees. PB advised the rehabilitation will be given to one contractor. Contractor has been advised to work between 7am and 10pm – work will mainly be kept to daylight hours. No reversing beepers and if the wind direction changes – work will be modified accordingly.

CD advised that the future sustainability needs to be kept in place. IC advised ACOL could issue a letter to DIPNR with regard to planting different tree species with CC preferences outlined. PB advised the Grey Crowned Babbler likes She-Oaks. Committee advised they were happy with the mix of trees as outlined by PB. Chairman asked what impacts these works will have on the residents. PB responded that a dozer will be working on the bund with no reversing beeper. PH asked if the water sprays have been installed down at the CHPP. PB advised ROM Stockpile sprays and cladding of CHPP – works will be prioritised. PH asked if residents get advised of blast exceedances. PB confirmed this data is included in the AEMR.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 FROM PROJECT MANAGEMENT

IC advised that Mike Chapman (MC) has been appointed as General Manager of Ashton. IC introduced MC to the committee members. MC gave the Committee an update with regard to the open cut operations.

IC advised he will be concentrating on the Moolarben Project, as such, PB will be present at future meetings to provide an overview from project management.

PB raised the issue of the CHPP noise emissions. Main methods will be cladding to eliminate noise and noise bund along Glennies Creek Road.

JM – survey on the corner of Glennies Creek Road. Greg McTaggart from Council waiting on plans from ACOL. PB advised that the road speed design limit will be 80km. PB advised Council will have to give approval for the plans.

PH advised that 15m for the bund adjacent Glennies Creek Road was extremely high. Neil Pennington (Spectrum Acoustics – noise consultants) advised a bund of 5m would be ineffective.

6.2 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

CD went through the latest newsletter and asked if community members wished any issues to be circulated to the community they advise ACOL. CD tabled a document advising the complaints received for the period 01.12.04 to 21.02.05 and provided discussion on this issue. CD advised the level of complaints has decreased.

6.3 SECTION 94 – LIST OF PRIORITISED WORKS

IC advised he was going to contact Eric Noble to get information on the Church. IC to advise who owns the land near the Church. TD advised she thought the land was owned by ACOL. Community Hall idea has been dropped – not worthwhile spending money on the Hall. Put in BBQ area near the Church for local residents. IC advised we will have to check with Council to see if they agree with this approach. IC advised he will also speak to the Newcastle Diocese as Church owner. Chairman suggested IC contact Ken Horner or Mark Ihlein from Council.

6.4 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

CD raised the issue with regard to complaints received that are non-Ashton related. DIPNR do not have a policy on this issue – each mine is able to put their own policy in place. PB advised there is always a record of each complaint received.

JM left the meeting at 2.45pm.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

TD advised the Green Cestrum was a problem along the creek and also near the Church. CD has spoken with Hunter Catchment Management Trust and they are not interested in assisting as the property is privately owned. IC advised ACOL have an ongoing program of management along Glennies Creek.

PH raised the issue about the blasting sign located in the village. PH advised a local resident had complained and as such the sign was removed. PB advised that ACOL will obtain a development application from Council and re-erect the sign in line with blasting risk assessment outcome.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 24 May 2005 at 1.00pm

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

No site inspection was undertaken.

MEETING CLOSED AT 3.00PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Update on Section 94 Contributions.	ACOL
DA to Council for the erection of the blasting sign.	ACOL
Ownership of the land located near the St Clements Church.	ACOL
Consultation with Newcastle Diocese regarding St Clements Church.	ACOL