

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24 MAY 2005
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:

Brian Thomas	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	Community Representative
Deidre Oloffson	Community Representative
John McInerney	Community Representative
Philip Holz	Community Representative
Ian Callow	Company Representative
Peter Horn	Company Representative (Environmental Officer)
Peter Barton	Company Representative (Development Manager)
Sherry Russell	Minute Taker

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.07pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Cr Fred Harvison.

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: Philip Holz **Seconded:** John McInerney

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Issues to be discussed under section 6.

6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

6.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT

6.1.1 Environmental Officer

PB introduced Peter Horn to the meeting as ACOL's new Environmental Officer. PB advised Peter Horn will be on site full time. PB advised that the contact personnel for community issues will be Peter Horn, Peter Barton and Mike Chapman.

6.1.2 Rehabilitation Status

PB advised that Daracon is the contractor undertaking the rehabilitation works on site. Progress on the southern face of the eastern emplacement area is progressing well. The face near the railway line will be completed around September 2005.

Hydro-mulching will be undertaken on the southern face to minimise dust emissions. 1500 trees have been planted in the Moir Landscape Area. Another 4,000 trees will be planted on the southern face of the Eastern Emplacement Area.

JMc remarked that he was impressed with rehabilitation works that had been undertaken.

Work on the construction of an environmental bund along Glennies Creek Road has been delayed as DMR were unsure whether all necessary approvals were in place. Current plans are for a bund that is 7.5 metres in height above Glennies Creek Road, however, this may be increased if environmental objectives are not achieved.

6.1.3 CHPP Works

CHPP cladding is nearing completion. Sprays have been installed on the stockpile.

ROM stockpile sprays are yet to be installed – ACOL currently trialling various options.

6.1.4 Water Trucks

PB advised that water trucks are able to operate 24 hours per day. Currently operating between the hours of 7am and 10pm. On dusty days water cart will be operational from 6.00am.

6.1.5 Coarse Reject Haulage

Reject haulage is permissible 24 hours per day under the Consent. Currently ACOL have been carting during mine hours – this position will change in the near future to enable 24 hour dumping.

6.1.6 Underground Mine

Underground development is underway with mining of the Arties Pit in progress. Infrastructure for UG completed by the end of 2005. The continuous miners will commence work on the main and gate roads in early 2006, whilst longwall operations will commence in early 2007. PB showed the Committee members a conceptual plan for the underground development.

6.1.7 Glennies Creek Road

JMc raised concerns about the safety of Glennies Creek Road in the vicinity of the Camberwell Common. Site distance needs to be improved, but this will involve excavating material from the inside of the corner.

The land in question is Crown land and comes under the control of the Camberwell Common Management Committee. IC suggested to DO that the Common Committee look at the issue. DO advised no feedback from Council regarding survey requested by Greg McTaggart. JMc asked if ACOL would be prepared to undertake a community project with regard to the road safety issue. PB advised that ACOL cannot due to public liability, etc, issues.

6.1.8 Annual Environmental Management Review

PHolz asked if the audit that was undertaken has been followed up? PHorn advised that a further audit will occur in September 05 to follow up on all issues.

6.2 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

PHorn advised that the next newsletter will be issued within the next week or two.

PHorn advised the main issue currently on site will be dust control. PH will be talking to the open cut operators with respect to dust management.

PB advised that ACOL have 4 operational water carts on site. JM raised the question why operators are not requesting water carts when in dusty conditions. BT asked what the complaint record is like. PHorn advised last year we received around 90 complaints per month. PB advised ACOL have received about 10 complaints to date for the month of May.

6.3 SECTION 94 – LIST OF PRIORITISED WORKS

IC advised he had not chased up ownership of the land in front of the St Clements Church.

TD advised the land that the Church is situated on belongs to the Newcastle Diocese.

BT requested a brief overview with respect to the Section 94 contributions. PB provided BT with the history. For this issue to be progressed ownership details need to be addressed.

6.4 ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Following extensive discussion, DO suggested that the sign be placed in the originally proposed location and that the sign be headed Camberwell Common Trust and state that the Common will be closed to all personnel on the appropriate day, by order of the Trust.

The signage will require Council approval. PHorn is to follow up this issue.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

JM asked about the grave site of Bernard Fox located on the old Sinclair land. PB advised that a permanent wooden fence would be placed around the grave to preserve the site.

DO asked whether rain diverters are still available. P Horn confirmed that they are still available.

TD raised the issue of green cestrum. PB advised ACOL have 2 full time personnel employed for a month to spray the green cestrum along the creek bed.

PHolz raised the issue of the roadway entrance to the mine. PB advised it has been budgeted for in 2005/6.

PH mentioned the weekly blasting program and advised if any people are interested in receiving a copy to contact him.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 23 August 2005 at 1.00pm

9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS

Site inspection was undertaken by Committee Members.

MEETING CLOSED AT 2.40PM

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
DO to look at the constitution of the Camberwell Common Management Committee to see if minor earthworks are able to be undertaken with respect to the road safety issue, ie. removal of trees.	DO
A further letter to be sent to Greg McTaggart (Singleton Council) with regard to the road safety issue.	ACOL
Phone call to Shearers to find out where they are carting to/from.	ACOL
Land ownership to be addressed ie. St Clements Church.	ACOL
Gain approval for Common Closure sign in village	ACOL