

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #3

Wednesday 18th June, 2008 at 5.00pm

Donaldson Coal Administration Building

MINUTES

1. **OPENING & WELCOME:** Chairman, The Hon. Milton Morris AO
2. **PRESENT:** Mr Milton Morris (Chairman), Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Matthew Blackham (Abel Mine Manager), Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Brad Ure, Mr Andrew Pace and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTERESTS:** No issues were raised.
5. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 5.1 *Previous Minutes 11th March, 2008 were confirmed by those members present.*
6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 6.1 *Business Arising.*
 - 6.1.1 *Abel information on Planning Website*

Mr P Brown advised that the Department of Planning have updated their website with regard to the missing Abel Appendices.
 - 6.1.2 *Proposed Trust Structure*

Mr McPherson provided a copy of the Trust Documents to the Trust Representatives present. He advised that a letter would be sent to them inviting them to be on the Trust. Mr McPherson advised that the Company representatives would be Mr M McPherson and Mr A Osborne.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no correspondence.

The Chairman paused the meeting at this stage and welcomed the new Abel Mine Manager, Mr Matthew Blackham to the meeting and as a member of the Committee.
8. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 8.1 **Development update**
 - 8.1.1 **Management Plans Update**

Mr P Brown advised that all Management Plans have now been approved by the Department of Planning and are available on the Company website.
 - 8.1.2 **Abel Program 2008**

Mr Matthew Blackham provided an update on the mine's progress.
 - 8.1.3 **Abel AEMR**

Mr P Brown tabled the first Annual Environmental Management Report and provided copies to the members.
 - 8.1.4 **Independent Audit Report**

Mr P Brown advised that an independent audit had been undertaken of the compliance with the Development Consent. The auditor advised that there were no non-conformances identified. Mr P Brown advised that the Audit would be provided to the Committee once it has been submitted to the Department of Planning.
 - 8.2 **Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

Mr P Brown advised there was noise monitoring undertaken of the initial driving of the portals and the temporary mine fan. The monitoring established that the noise from the Mine was inaudible on John Renshaw Drive.

8.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no community complaints relating to Abel.

8.4 Information provided to the Community and any feedback**8.4.1 Website Information**

Mr P Brown advised that the approved management plans have been placed on the Company's website.

9. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

9.1 Mr A Brown asked about the geophysical survey currently being undertaken. Mr McPherson advised that the Company is currently undertaking exploratory drilling and modelling over the various areas covered by the Exploration Leases.

9.2 Mr A Jennings asked if there had been any advice from the RTA concerning the intersection of John Renshaw Drive and Blackhill Road. Mr McPherson advised that he has heard no more news. Mr A Brown asked if a letter could be sent to the RTA concerning the construction of the intersection.

Mr Lewin asked if the Company was intending to hand over the contribution for the intersection. Mr McPherson advised that it would as long as the intersection has been started.

9.3 Mr A Brown asked if the Company intended to circulate an update as an Abel newsletter. Mr McPherson said that they would look at it.

9.4 Mr A Brown asked what the frequency of the meetings would be. Mr Morris advised that the meetings would be quarterly during the construction and for the first year of operation. Mr A Brown referred to the Donaldson EMS Operating Manual and questioned the status of other Donaldson projects CCC meeting frequencies plus distribution of minutes and AEMR's as there was no record for Donaldson open-cut beyond October 2005 and Tasman Underground beyond November 2006. Mr P Brown advised that he would refer to archives and the Website administrator.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS:

10.1 Mr A Brown spoke about identifying projects for the Environmental Trust. Mr Lewin suggested that a project for the broader area such as an integrated environmental management Plan for Environmental Programs being undertaken in the area may be appropriate.

11. NEXT MEETING:

The Meeting agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 17 September 2008 commencing at 5.00pm at the Donaldson Coal Administration Building.

12. SITE INSPECTION

At the conclusion of the meeting, a site inspection was undertaken by members of the Committee.

12.1 During the site inspection Mr Alan Brown mentioned noise monitoring of the new mine fans when they are available/installed. Mr P Brown indicated that Heggies Pty Limited would undertake a similar program as for the temporary fan. Mr McPherson anticipated that the new fans although larger, would be quieter.

12.2 Mr. A Brown queried the type of seed used in the hydro-mulching of the portal entry road verge. Mr. P Brown said that it was a mixture of couch and pasture grasses. Mr A Brown mentioned that it would be preferable if the seed mix was sterile to avoid creation of potential weed species. Mr P Brown advised that the seed was in line with the Landscape Management Plan.

12.3 Mr A Brown referred to the visibility of new flood-lighting from the existing Opencut. Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr P Brown and Mr M McPherson outlined the lighting plan for the Abel portal and stockpile areas would be shielded and designed to emit below the surface topography.