

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #5**

Wednesday 15th December, 2008 at 5.00pm

Abel Underground Mine 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 Brad Ure, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson, Mr Stephen Thornton, Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr Andrew Pace and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 17th September, 2008 were confirmed by those members present.*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil
7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 7.1 ***Development update***
 - 7.1.1 ***Abel Program 2008***

Mr Stephen Thornton (General Manager, Underground Operations) provided an update on the mine's progress.
 - 7.2 ***Monitoring and Environmental Performance***

Mr P Brown introduced Mr Simon Clulow of Ecobiological to talk about the dam flora fauna surveys.

 - At the moment 90% of dams have been surveyed. 64 of 160 dams had suitable habitat for Green and Golden Bell Frog. 6 dams suitable for Blue-billed duck but not detected.
 - Mr. A Brown asked if dam drains due to subsidence cracking, what is lead time to ensure species stay onsite. Can the report be made available to CCC?
 - Mr Clulow advised that he was unsure, dependent on severity of drainage but maybe 2-3 days. Mr M McPherson and Mr M Morris confirmed that any reparation would be undertaken by Donaldson as agreed to in submission. (Mr M McPherson and Mr P Brown agreed that report be issued to CCC.
 - 7.3 ***Community Complaints and response to complaints***

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no community complaints relating to Abel.
Mr L Crawford advised that he had discussed the lighting with Mr Andrew Pace who was happy with the progress on the lighting issues.
 - 7.4 ***Information provided to the Community and any feedback***
 - 7.4.1 ***Website Information***

Mr P Brown advised that the website will be updated by 1912/08.
 - 7.5 ***Company Contribution Initiatives - current status.***
 - 7.5.1 ***Conservation.***

Mr M McPherson advised that this would not be a regular report to this meeting as there were separate trusts etc for these to be reported to. First meeting of the Trust is scheduled for tomorrow, 16/12/08. The proposed members are Alick

Osborne (Chairman), Mark McPherson, Alan Brown, Colin East, Professor Scott Holmes, Craig Anderson.

7.5.2 Community Welfare.

The trust is under way. \$10,000 will be presented to Blackhill Public School tomorrow. The online application format is now operational on www.doncoal.com.au and a letter explaining the trust and the application process will be delivered to residents in area next week.

7.5.3 Road Safety.

Mr McPherson advised that the RTA has sent out Tenders for the Road Works on John Renshaw Drive.

7.5.4 Employment Generation.

Mr McPherson advised that there had been over 3000 applicants for positions with Donaldson Coal and that these were being handled by a Human Resources section set up by Donaldson. Mr McPherson advised that the Company has been involved in employment generation for approximately 7 years through the Hunter VTEC and have assisted with the employment of an Assistant Curator at Maitland Art Gallery.

The Chairman acknowledged Donaldson Coal's contribution to Employment generation and congratulated the Company on their efforts.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

8.1 Mr A Brown referred to the DoP Guideline for Conducting and Operating CCC meetings as well as the Donaldson EMS regarding distribution of information to members and the community. This issue had been raised previously, specifically the inclusion on the Company web-site. Mr P Brown and Mr M McPherson responded that they were encountering difficulty with Donaldson Coal web-master who did not prioritise their requests. Mr P Brown advised that he will emphasise the need to post Minutes according to the Guidelines.

8.2 Mr T Lewin asked about the possibility of having a generalised/combined website with Bloomfield for providing environmental information and reports to the community. Mr P Brown advised that the company is looking at methods of displaying the Environmental Monitoring data on the website. He also confirmed that both Donaldson Coal and Bloomfield have their own websites.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

9.1 Mr S Thornton advised that the Company is currently preparing the first Subsidence Management Plan for the Abel footprint. With coal extraction proposed for October/November 2009. Mr B Ure asked when would the SMP's be agreed and signed off by Donaldson and the landowner. He advised that it is envisaged that the SMP will be submitted to the Interagency Committee in April/May 2009.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 23rd March 2009 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

MEETING CLOSED: The meeting closed at 6.00 pm with a site tour of the Abel facilities.

Minutes adopted at the meeting held 30th March 2009.

Chairman: Mr Milton Morris.

Enclosure: See attachment Email from Brad Ure dated 11th March 2009