

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting #9**

Monday 1st February 2010 at 5.00 pm

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 Terry Lewin, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Matthew Blackham, Mr Tony Sutherland, Ms Keren Halliday , Mr Adam Heeney and Mr Phillip Brown (mins).
3. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Andrew Pace, Mr Lachlan Crawford (Bloomfield), Mr Mark McPherson and Mr Alick Osborne
4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - 4.1 *Previous Minutes 28th September 2009 were confirmed by those members present.*
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - 5.1 *Business Arising.*
Dealt with in Reports below.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
Nil
7. **COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:**
 - 7.1 **Development update**
 - 7.1.1 **Abel Program 2009**

Mr Matthew Blackham provided a presentation on the mine progress. See attached plan. Looking at first lot of secondary extraction in June and then the second lot in August. The approximate budget is 1.3 Mt for 2010 and 2 Mt for 2011.
 - 7.2 **Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

Mr P Brown presented a report on environmental monitoring. See attached for presentation.
 - 7.3 **Community Complaints and response to complaints**

Mr P Brown advised that there had been no complaints. Refer to presentation for details.
 - 7.4 **Information provided to the Community and any feedback**

No matters raised.
 - 7.5 **Subsidence Management Plan Update**

Mr T Sutherland gave a presentation on the SMP update including subsidence monitoring. The Subsidence Management Plan application was lodged with the Department in December 2009 and has been advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald and Newcastle Herald. It will be listed on the 7th April 2010 with the SMP Interagency Committee as an Agenda Item.

Mr A Brown asked about the established levels and how they are prepared/establish (ref 2nd page Ref P 10 Table 2 of A Brown's document).

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	P Brown	24 Feb 2010	
		Adopted		3 May 2010	M Morris

Mr T Sutherland commented that they are based on other subsidence monitoring TARP's (Trigger action response plans) that had been approved by the Department's Principal Subsidence Engineer in the past (including Donaldson Coal's Tasman Mine)

Mr T Sutherland also advised that the SMP still has to be approved by the Interagency Committee.

Mr A Brown raised the issue of subjectivity of the subsidence and commented there was not a single landholder involved in the assessment.

Mr A Brown commented about the risk assessment and commented that there were a lot of risk issues that should have had either higher risk rankings or lower risk rankings attributed to them. that. He said it was more aligned to the Company than the community.

Mr A Brown also commented that he was disappointed with the number of apologies for the SMP meeting.

Mr T Sutherland advised that [Department of Water and Energy were represented](#) and that he had been in contact with various Government Departments who were unable to be present at the meeting.

7.5.1 Questions tabled by A Brown
Refer to enclosure.

7.6 2009 Dam Survey

Mr P Brown advised that the dam survey will be undertaken over the coming months and that the report will be forwarded to the Committee and Community when received.

7.7 RTA Upgrade works – schedule, timeframe etc.

Mr P Brown advised that the RTA are still on target to complete by end of May 2010.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Mr A Brown tabled the article "Residents Dig in" and asked if the Company had a comment.

The Chairman said he would refer the matter to Mr Mark McPherson.

Mr T Lewin asked about the Community Welfare trust and where the application by the RFS for \$30,000 was up to?

The Chairman will refer the matter to Mr Mark McPherson.

Mr B Ure raised the question about the amount of extraction.

Mr M Blackham explained that the amount of extraction was 85% of the coal present and not 85% of the height.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr P Brown tabled the Abel Annual Environmental Management Report and gave the members a copy. The Document is also available on the website.

10. NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday 3 May 2010 to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 5.30 pm by the Chairman.