

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting #31

Monday 14th September at 5:00 pm

Abel Underground Mine Administration Building

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Chairman, Ms. Margaret MacDonald-Hill declared the meeting open at 5:05 pm.

2. PRESENT

Ms Margaret McDonald-Hill, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Ian Turnbull, Mr Greg Lamb, Mr David Gibson, Mr Tony Sutherland, Mr Matthew Wright, Mr Phillip Brown and Mrs Linda Clough (minutes).

2.1 APOLOGIES *Nil*

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms. MacDonald-Hill declared her position as the Independent Chair appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment. Ms. MacDonald-Hill also advised she is a Board member on the Mine Subsidence Board.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes 22nd June 2015. Minutes confirmed (moved by Alan Brown, seconded by Terry Lewin)

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES *Nil*

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1** *Email from Brad Ure asking for an aerial of the MOD4 affected properties – addressed in Presentation (Mod4 on hold)*
- 6.2** *Email from Alan Brown asking for information following the retrenchment of employees at Abel Mine – addressed in Presentation (refer to attached)*

7. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 **Abel Mine Update**

Mr Gibson provided the Abel Mine Update. Refer enclosed presentation.

Mr Lewin asked if the reduction in employees occurred all at once or were staged. Mr Gibson responded that some individuals were able to be redeployed but that approximately 160 employees were made redundant on the 10th of August.

Ms Macdonald-Hill asked where the workforce came from. Mr Gibson responded Newcastle, Maitland and Cessnock.

Mr Ure asked what the chances of the Longwall would be. Mr D Gibson responded 50%.

Mr A Brown asked if Donaldson was looking at extending Longwall linking with Tasman mine. Mr Gibson advised that the current concept does not link to Tasman mine workings.

Mr A Brown asked on the horizon of the longwall being five years out including a query on whether a deposit had been placed for the procurement of the Longwall. Mr Gibson advised that no deposit had been placed as the current Mining Lease did not provide enough mining area to make use of a long wall economical.

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	L Clough	14 September 2015	P. Brown
	1	Revised Minutes	P Brown	24 September 2015	P Brown
		Approved Minutes		7 December 2015	M McDonald-Hill

Mr Jennings asked about the lead time for Longwall procurement being in excess of two years. Mr Sutherland advised that it can be as little as twelve months currently to procure a longwall system.

Mr Ure asked as to the status of land arrangements with Catholic Diocese. Mr Sutherland advised that arrangement had ceased on 30th June, 2015 and arrangement were underway for final sign off.

Mr Jennings asked as to the future of other Yancoal operations. Mr Gibson advised that Austar is currently evaluating other areas and Ashton operations are looking to breakeven this year. Mr Gibson advised that each operation was looked at as an individual site.

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Mr P. Brown provided an update on monitoring and environmental performance.
Refer enclosed presentation.

Police incident of theft from site: Mr Lewin commented that he sits on the Daracon CCC meeting and that they have had a number of incidents of theft.

7.3 SMP/Extraction Plan

Mr Wright provided an update
Refer enclosed presentation

Mr A Brown asked if the Mine Subsidence Board (MSB) was paying for restoration works on Black Hill Road. Mr Wright advised that the MSB was the primary contractor and paid directly for the works.

7.4 MOD4

Mr P Brown confirmed that the MOD4 program was currently on hold due to the current review of operations and that Donaldson had received advice which concluded that should mining be planned for the lower Donaldson in the land owned by Blackhill Ltd then a 75w Modification would be required.

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr Lewin asked if the sale of Harding property was still planned. Mr P Brown advised that Donaldson still intend to sell but are reviewing due to the review of the operations.

Mr A Brown asked concerning the recent works by Ausgrid changing out power lines on the Harding Property and whether Ausgrid had billed Donaldson for these works. Mr P Brown advised that they were increasing the pole height and at this stage no bill had been received or discussed.

Mr A Brown noted that local landholders have received advice from Ausgrid that a number of power poles were now being assessed as private.

Mr Ure asked if Donaldson had baited for wild dogs recently. Mr Lamb advised that Bloomfield had laid baits. Mr P Brown advised Donaldson had not. Mr B Ure commented that he had laid baits recently. Mr P Brown agreed to review Donaldson's participation and revert.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS - Nil

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Abel Community Consultative Committee was set down for Monday the 7th of December to be held at the Abel Underground Mine Administration Building at 5.00 pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 5:33 pm by the Chairman.