

ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Meeting #32

Monday 7th December
Abel Underground Mine Administration Building
DRAFT

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Chairman, Ms. Margaret MacDonald-Hill declared meeting open at 5:02 pm

2. PRESENT

Ms Margaret McDonald-Hill, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Ian Turnbull, Mr Aaron McGuigan, Mr Matthew Wright, Mr Phillip Brown and Mrs Linda Clough (minutes).

2.1 APOLOGIES

Mr Brad Ure, Mr Greg Lamb, Mr Andrew Pace and Mr Tony Sutherland.

3. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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 that she is a Board member on the Mine Subsidence Board.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Previous Minutes 14th of September, 2014. Minutes confirmed.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 *Independent Environment Assessment for Abel. The Chairperson noted the high degree of compliance detailed in the Report.*

7. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

7.1 Abel Mine Update

Presented by Mr McGuigan. Refer to Presentation.

7.2 Environmental Update

Presentation by Mr P Brown. Refer to Presentation.

Mr A Brown questioned if resurfacing of Blackhill Road will be undertaken as done previously. Response from Mr Wright that MSB have engaged consultants to review the road in conjunction with Cessnock Council.

Mr A Brown questioned the timing of impacts on Blackhill Road. Mr Wright advised that it should be completed by January/February next year.

Mr Jennings requested if the pothole near the Blackhill School could be repaired. Mr Wright advised that he will arrange for it to be fixed.

Mr Lewin questioned if the noise monitoring was undertaken when the M1 closure occurred which redirected all traffic along John Renshaw Drive.

Mr P Brown advised he will advise the Noise Consultants of the road closure times.

7.3 Donaldson Coal Community Support Program update

Presented by Phil Brown. Refer to Presentation

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	L. Clough	7 th December 2015	P. Brown
		Approved Minutes			

7.4 SMP/Extraction Plan Area 4 – Matthew Wright

Presented by Matthew Wright. Refer to presentation.

Query by Terry Lewin as to the status of remediation of Dams.

Mr Wright advised that repairs are being coordinated by the MSB with the view to completing prior to Christmas.

7.5 Blackhill Road Undermining update – Matthew Wright

Refer to Presentation

8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr A Brown spoke of the reduction of the workforce and the previous discussion of the last meeting with Mr Gibson regarding the Longwall presentation and asked if the mine had proceeded with the Longwall project.

Mr McGuigan advised that the progress on the review has been slow but due to the economic benefits, the Longwall project review is progressing. He advised that if there is justification, then further work will be done including consultation and required studies. Whilst no decision has been made at this stage, Donaldson is continuing the evaluation process. The Feasibility Stage will address subsidence.

Mr Jennings asked if the Budget has been submitted based on Bord & Pillar.

Mr McGuigan advised that the 2016 Budget has been submitted on Board & Pillar as any Longwall project will have a timeframe of greater than one (1) year.

Mr Jennings asked if 2016 is based on the current situation.

Mr McGuigan advised that there were various scenarios put forward including the current situation.

Mr Alan Brown questioned the statement by Independent Environmental Auditor– that are you or are you not compliant – how does the consultant determine compliance? Is 99% compliant?

For example, on Page 7 - Subsidence and compliance plan satisfactory and ongoing.

Mr P Brown advised that Donaldson will request a response from the Auditor.

Mr Lewin commented that compliance will have a range.

Mr A Brown requested as to which is the prediction and which is the actual Column in Table 4.5.3A.

Mr P Brown advised that a response will be provided by the Auditor.

Mr A Brown requested clarification on page 19 and included tables of what range is deemed acceptable to determine Compliance and Non Compliance

Mr A Brown asked if Donaldson pumps water out from the Abel Mine.

Mr P Brown advised that water is pumped from underground to the Big Kahuna and then pumped to Bloomfield for use in the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant as per the Abel Water Management Plan.

Mr A Brown commented on the quality results included in table 4.7.6.4 – general comment on the difference in the result and if there is any concern from a mine site.

Mr A McGuigan advised that the results were in line with what has been experienced previously.

Mr A Brown advised that the Compliance Table states that it is 2014 included instead of 2015 - Reponses Consultant to update documents

9. GENERAL BUSINESS – Nil**10. NEXT MEETING****Proposed meeting dates for 2016**

29th February

30th May

29th August

5th December

The meeting was declared closed at 5:31 pm by the Chairman.