

**ABEL UNDERGROUND COAL MINE  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC) Meeting #44  
15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
Abel Underground Mine Administration Building  
DRAFT**

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**1. OPENING & WELCOME**

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared the meeting opened at 3:05 pm.

**2. PRESENT**

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill (Chairperson), Mr Terry Lewin, Mr Alan Brown, Mr Allan Jennings, Mr Brad Ure, Mr Phillip Brown (Abel Mine Environment & Community Relations Superintendent), Mr James Benson (Abel Mine Environment & Community Coordinator) (minutes) and Mr William Farnworth (Donaldson Operations, Mining Engineering Manager) (arrived late at 3.34pm).

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Greg Lamb (Bloomfield Group)

**3. PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no changes to the previously declared pecuniary interest.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the Abel CCC on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were confirmed by Mr A. Brown and seconded by Mr Lewin.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**5.1 Black Hill Road repairs**

Mr P. Brown advised that there was still no update from Subsidence Advisory on any road repairs. It is unlikely that we will hear anything further on this matter.

**5.2 Controlled Rural Fire Service (RFS) burn**

Mr Benson advised that a controlled burn was conducted on the 17 October 2020 by the RFS in the Bushland Conservation Area (BCA) adjacent to the Avalon Estate at Thornton. The burn area was broken into two parts with the second area still yet to be conducted due to wet weather. The burn was successful in reducing the fuel load in the area.

**5.3 Mine Closure Strategy and MOP**

Mr P. Brown advised that the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) continues to be reviewed including a water investigation study. The NSW Resource Regulator has extended the period of the MOP to the 1 May 2022 with no change to the currently approved operations.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from Mr A. Brown regarding;

- Referenced material within historical minutes has not been added to the Donaldson website
- Has the 2020 CCC Annual Report been prepared and sent to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment?
- Can you inform us on the latest Abel Mine Closure Strategy and MOP?
- Are there any current Exploration licences in the Black Hill Mine Subsidence District?
  
- The Chairperson circulated a hardcopy of the 2020 Chairman's Annual Report for the Abel CCC; advised that it has been forwarded to DPIE; and has been posted on the Donaldson website ([www.doncoal.com.au](http://www.doncoal.com.au)).
- Mr P. Brown advised that:
  - previously referenced CCC meeting "Enclosures or Attachments" to documents are being added to the website.
  - The Mine Closure Strategy and MOP has been discussed in Business arising
  - Exploration Licences will be discussed in the Environmental Update.

Revision History					
Edition	Revision	Comment	Author	Date	Authorised by:
1	0	Draft Minutes	J Benson	19/03/2021	

**7. COMPANY REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES****7.1 Abel Mine Update**

*Refer to presentation*

Mr Farnworth advised that Abel remains in Care and Maintenance with minimal changes during the past six months. There has been no issues in the last six months.

A question was asked if the borehole was installed at the fan site. Mr Farnworth advised that the borehole had been installed to enable potable firewater to be used at the fan site in the event of a bushfire.

**7.2 Environmental Update**

*Refer to presentation.*

Mr Benson advised that the elevated PM<sub>10</sub> levels seen in September 2020 correlated with hazard reduction burning undertaken at Donaldson and Bloomfield lands over consecutive weekends.

Mr P. Brown showed a plan of the Donaldson Exploration Leases (EL's) overlaid on the Black Hill and Lake Macquarie Subsidence Districts.

**8. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

*Refer to correspondence*

**9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Mr Lewin asked if during the Mine Closure Strategy process had there been discussions or considerations for Donaldson internal roads to be used for public access between John Renshaw Drive and the New England Highway.

Mr P. Brown advised there was no plans to leave internal roads for public use.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting date is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 3:00pm.

**The meeting was declared closed at 3:40 pm by the Chairperson.**