



DONALDSON COAL PTY LIMITED

ABEL MINE

**Subsidence Management Plan
Area 1**

Subsidence Community Consultation Process

December 2009

Document Control

Description

Document No.	Abel SMP Area 1
Title	Subsidence Community Consultation Process
General Description	Defines the process to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed during the application, approval and mining of the SMP Area 1 at Abel Mine
Key Support Documents	Abel Mine Area 1 SMP

Approvals

ORIGINATOR	Kevin Price	Brunskill Pty Limited		
REVIEWED	Tony Sutherland	Position Technical Services Manager – Donaldson Underground Operations	Signed 	Date 9.12.09
APPROVED	Matt Blackham	Position Manager of Mining Engineering – Abel Mine	Signed 	Date 9.12.09

Revisions

Version #	Date	Description	By	Checked	Approved	
					Name	Signed
1	December 2009					

The nominated Coordinator for this document is

Manager of Mining Engineering

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1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document describes the Subsidence Community Consultation Process (SCCP) carried out during the Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) application period and the continuing process proposed during the approved mining period in accordance with *Section 7.4 of the Guideline for Applications for Subsidence Management Approvals*.

This Subsidence Community Consultation Process is designed to comply with the requirements of the Abel Mine Area 1 Subsidence Management Plan and forms Attachment B of that document.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

Abel's Environment Manager is responsible for the continuing management of this process.

Abel's Manager of Mining Engineering is responsible for ensuring that sufficient resources are available to implement the requirements of this Process.

3 SUBMISSION

This process is submitted to the Director Environmental Sustainability for approval as part of the SMP application.

4 BACKGROUND

The SMP application consists of pillar extraction panels Panel 1 to Panel 13 inclusive, plus one main headings development (East Mains) to be extracted on retreat as shown on the attached SMP plans. The SMP application has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Department of Mineral Resources *New Approval Process for the Management of Coal Mining Subsidence* and SMP Guideline 2003.

Abel commenced coal production in May 2008 and will progressively increase production to 4.5mtpa. The SMP application area contains 200 ha, less than 8% of the current lease area of 2755 ha.

Mining will take place in the application area under a combination of land owned by Black Hill Land Pty Limited, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland and Newcastle and a narrow strip traversing the area owned by Hunter Water Corporation. The current application seeks approval to mine coal by the pillar extraction method from the Upper Donaldson Seam at depths of cover ranging generally from 50 to 135 metres.

The layout of the panels has been designed to provide management outcomes of subsidence impacts in line with the Statement of Commitments and Project Approval while optimising resource recovery in the area. The proposed extraction panels are bounded by the lease boundary / John Renshaw Drive and cover restrictions to the north, the lease boundary / F3 Newcastle to Sydney Freeway to the east and existing and proposed main underground development workings to the south and west.

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No substantial adverse environmental effects due to subsidence are predicted for the surface above the application area. The SMP application area surface is a combination of native bushland, cleared grazing land previously used for intensive poultry farming and a small section of industrial land in the north east corner of the application area.

Natural features are generally limited to Viney Creek, a Schedule 2 stream and associated tributaries. No Threatened Ecological Communities are located within the application area and no adverse impacts are predicted for flora and fauna.

Man – made features include :

- Boral Asphalt Plant;
- Transgrid 330kV power line;
- Energy Australia (EA) 132kV power line;
- EA rural 11kV power lines;
- Optus fibre optic cable;
- Redundant Telstra copper communication cables;
- Hunter Water Corporation water pipeline;
- Scattered aboriginal artefacts;
- Disused, unoccupied residences proposed for demolition;
- Stock water supply line;
- Access roads and tracks;
- Various fences; and
- One small disused dam.

The Subsidence Community Consultation Process commenced prior to the preparation and submission of the Abel Mine Subsidence Management Plan application and is a continuing process.

Abel has an established Community Consultative Committee in relation to the mine operations, which meets twice a year. This Committee, containing representatives of mine management, Maitland City Council and the community, was established to provide a formal conduit for exchange of information and views between the local community and Abel Mine management.

Ongoing consultation will be carried out with a number of stakeholders not just on subsidence related matters but on the progress of the mine and overall environmental performance.

5 DEFINITION

“Community” is defined by the *Guideline for Applications for Subsidence Management Approvals* as “Anyone who is interested in or affected by subsidence issues associated with the proposed mining project.”

6 GUIDELINE

This Subsidence Community Consultation Process has been developed in accordance with *Section 7.4* of the *Guideline for Applications for Subsidence Management Approvals*. The general aim of this process is to ensure that the needs of the community for information, consultation and participation are adequately considered

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during the development and implementation of the SMP via a transparent and interactive process.

Table 1 provides a summary of the relevant areas of *Section 7.4* and reference to the relevant section of this document where they are addressed.

TABLE 1- SUBSIDENCE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

Description of Item Section 7.4	Mechanism / System	SCCP Reference
Mechanisms for the community to monitor and comment on the implementation of the SMP in relation to the progress of the mining operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four monthly Subsidence Management Status Report. 	Section 10 (General Template presented in Appendix A)
Systems such as individual consultation with community members, committees, advisory panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultation meeting and site inspection with interested parties / relevant stakeholders following advertisement. Opportunity to provide comment – prior to preparation of SMP application. Proposed Inter agency meeting and inspection during application processing. Continuing consultation – proposed review meetings 	Sections 7- 10
Regular reporting / review, etc to ensure effective communication between the applicant and the community, in order to facilitate fair and informed discussions / decision making in relation to subsidence management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four monthly Subsidence Management Status Report to provide opportunity for relevant stakeholders to comment and request additional information relating to approved management plans and processes. 	Section 10
In particular how the identified subsidence issues causing significant community concerns will be taken into account in the SMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following responses from interested parties / relevant stakeholders, issues raised were addressed in SMP application. 	Section 7
Mechanisms to record and respond to community enquires, concerns or complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Manager contact details both phone and e-mail provided to all relevant stakeholders in all correspondence and four monthly Subsidence Management Status Reports. All relevant stakeholders have the Environment Manager's contact details with respect to enquiry, concern or complaint. Further, Abel Mine contact details are listed on the Donaldson Coal website. (www.doncoal.com.au) In the case of an enquiry, concern or complaint, the Abel Community Complaints Management Procedure is followed. 	Section 10
Mechanisms to facilitate conflict management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All correspondence / complaints assessed and response provided by mine with copy to Mineral Resources if issue not resolved. At this point no further mechanism required. 	
Any other site-specific procedural protocols to ensure management outcomes that are consistent with government policies, taking into account community expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed monthly review of SMP condition requirements, reporting under SMP Conditions, four monthly Subsidence Management Status Reports, to provide a further internal compliance review. Annual Environmental Management Report 	Various

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7 CONSULTATION DURING SMP APPLICATION PROCESS

Community consultation during the preparation of the SMP was undertaken in accordance with the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) “*Guidelines for Applications for Subsidence Management Approvals*” (December 2003) and the New South Wales Minerals Council “*Community Engagement Handbook Towards Stronger Community Relationships*”.

SMP Consultation

Abel Mine notified all of the interested parties identified by the community consultation guidelines, regarding the intention to prepare a SMP application to the DMR for approval to carry out secondary extraction by pillar extraction methods in Area 1.

Consultation Meetings and Site Inspection

A presentation was made to DPI – Mineral Resources on 25 May 2009 to outline the SMP process and progress to date relating to mine design, environmental considerations, subsidence predictions and potential impacts.

A stakeholder meeting, as part of the SMP consultation, took place on the 24 June 2009. The presentation included information on the SMP process, the mining area, planning and mining method, SMP surface area environment assessment, subsidence assessment, final mine plan and proposed monitoring for Area 1 at Abel Mine.

Following the SMP presentation, an inspection of the SMP application area involved all attendees. Inspection of the SMP area gave community members the opportunity to observe the area and to obtain a perspective on the SMP application area.

The site inspection included the surface overlying the general application area.

The objective of the meeting was to consult with interested parties (relevant stakeholders) to identify potential issues and relevant concerns to be considered and addressed in the preparation of the Draft Subsidence Management Plan. A hard copy of the presentation was provided to all attendees and is available on the Donaldson Coal website.

Community Consultation - Submissions Process

To conclude the meeting a session for questions on the SMP process and the information presented was held. Details on how community members could provide input on the matters they considered should be addressed in the preparation of the Abel SMP were provided.

Following this meeting a copy of the presentation was forwarded to all stakeholders including those that could not attend the presentation.

A summary of these submissions, which will be addressed in the preparation of the SMP, and a list of relevant stakeholders and details, is included in the Subsidence Management Plan Written Report.

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SMP Advertisement

As per the SMP Guidelines 2003, Abel prepared an advertisement to notify the community of the intention to submit an SMP application for approval. The advertisement stated:

“Donaldson Coal is developing a Subsidence Management Plan to accompany an application to the Department of Primary Industries - Mineral Resources for Pillar Extraction mining at Abel Mine in the application area outlined below. Once prepared, the draft Plan will be advertised and displayed for comment. Any person wishing to provide input to the preparation of the plan can contact the mine on (02) 40151100”.

The advertisement included a map of the SMP Area, Mine Lease boundaries, the existing workings and regional locality. Abel placed the advertisement in the Newcastle Herald and the Sydney Morning Herald on 4 July 2009.

Results of Community Consultation

No correspondence or phone calls were received from the public as a result of the advertisements placed on the 4th July 2009.

A summary of the issues, relevant to this SMP Application only, raised by the stakeholders, at the Community Consultation meeting, inspection or by submission, and where they are referenced is included in the SMP Written Report.

The issues, relevant to the SMP application, raised in the stakeholders submissions were also assessed in the SMP Risk Assessment (Appendix F).

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8 PROPOSED CONTINUING CONSULTATION

Following the SMP Application lodgement, a copy of the application will be provided to each relevant stakeholder, advertisements placed in appropriate newspapers (Sydney Morning Herald and Newcastle Morning Herald) and the SMP application placed on public display for the required period.

An inter agency information meeting and site inspection is proposed to provide an outline of the SMP application. This will also provide an opportunity to address any concerns and answer questions relating to the application. All inter agency members are to be provided with contact details for any additional enquiries.

Any submissions received following the advertisements and public display period will be provided to DII – Mineral Resources. Responses to these submissions will also be provided to Mineral Resources prior to the inter agency meeting.

Consultation is proposed to continue following the approval process, consisting of various notifications and consultation with appropriate relevant stakeholders as and when required.

Additionally, further information and consultation opportunities will be provided through reporting processes, predominately the Subsidence Management Plan Status Reports and the Review Schedule.

Proposed consultation is detailed in **Section 9**, Review Schedule and **Section 10**, Reporting and Consultation Meeting.

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9 REVIEW SCHEDULE

A proposed Review Schedule has been developed. The objective of the Review Schedule is to provide a process to ensure regular feedback regarding the management / monitoring undertaken for the SMP and to provide a mechanism for feedback from interested parties. The Review Schedule has provided the basis for this Consultation Process which is detailed in **Section 10**.

10 REPORTING AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS

The primary reporting mechanism to relevant stakeholders is to consist of the Four Monthly Subsidence Management Status Report which will provide updates on:

- Face position of the extraction panels
- Management actions
- Consultation with Stakeholders
- Observed subsidence impacts
- Subsidence and environmental monitoring program results and trends.
- Adequacy, quality and effectiveness and
- Proposed management actions.

This report will also provide the opportunity for comment and feedback from relevant stakeholders.

The Community Consultation Process proposes to separate consultation meetings into Government Department, Interagency, relevant stakeholder meetings and the currently established Community Consultative Committee Meetings. However, this does not preclude the possibility of combined Consultation Meetings if necessary or the attendance of any one (or more) Government Departments at Community Consultative Committee Meetings if requested.

It is proposed to have one Community Consultation meeting for each Panel following completion of the relevant extraction panel. These meetings will be supplemented with the Four Monthly Subsidence Management Status Report.

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Details regarding Government Department, Interagency, relevant stakeholder meetings and reporting is presented in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2- GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT, INTERAGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER REPORTING AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Stakeholder	Communication Method	Frequency and Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Planning Department of Natural Resources Department of Environment Climate Change and Water Sydney Catchment Authority DII Mineral Resources - Director Environmental Sustainability DII Mineral Resources - Principal Subsidence Engineer Newcastle City Council Cessnock City Council Forests NSW 	Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR)	Annual (March)
	Subsidence Management Status Report	Four monthly
	Meeting and Site Visit	Annual (following submission of AEMR – April / May)
	End of Panel Report and Meeting	Two months after the completion of the extraction panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DII Mineral Resources – Principal Subsidence Engineer 	Report on the subsidence survey results	On completion of each survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Lands (Crown Lands and Survey) Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council 	Subsidence Management Status Report	Four monthly
	End of Panel Report and Meeting	Two months after the completion of the extraction panel

This consultation process will be reviewed as necessary including at the completion of each extraction panel.

11 REFERENCES

NSW Department of Mineral Resources (2003) - *Guideline for Applications for Subsidence Management Approvals*

New South Wales Minerals Council - *Community Engagement Handbook Towards Stronger Community Relationship*.

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APPENDIX A

Subsidence Management Status Report

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