



DONALDSON COAL PTY LIMITED

ABEL MINE

**Subsidence Management Plan
Area 2**

Subsidence Community Consultation Process

May 2011

Document Control

Description

Document No.	Abel SMP Area 2
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 2 at Abel Mine
Key Support Documents	Abel Mine SMP Area 2

Approvals

ORIGINATOR	Kevin Price	Brunskill Pty Limited	Signed 	Date 03/05/2011
REVIEWED	Tony Sutherland	Position Technical Services Manager – Donaldson Underground Operations	Signed 	Date 24/5/11
APPROVED	Matt Blackham	Position Manager of Mining Engineering – Abel Mine	Signed 	Date 25-5-11

Revisions

Version #	Date	Description	By	Checked	Approved	
					Name	Signed
1	May 2011					

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 2 Subsidence Management Plan and forms Attachment B of that document.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

The Technical Services Manager – Underground Operations is responsible for the continuing management of this process.

The Abel 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 14 to Panel 26 inclusive, plus main headings development panels (South East Mains, East Install Mains and Tailgate Headings) 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 211 ha, approximately 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, a narrow strip traversing the area owned by Hunter Water Corporation and ten privately owned rural residential landholdings. 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 100 to 150 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 and to conduct the mining operations in a responsible manner, considering the existing and future environment and the community, while optimising resource recovery in the area in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. It is proposed to conduct mining in the proposed extraction panels that are generally

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bounded by the previously approved SMP Area 1 to the north, the lease boundary / F3 Newcastle to Sydney Freeway / resource thickness / quality to the east, Black Hill Road for part and resource thickness / quality to the south and existing and proposed main underground development workings to the south.

Maximum subsidence predicted for the pillar extraction panels in the application area ranges between 760 mm and 1,450 mm, maximum predicted strains from 5 to 24 mm/m and tilts from 14 to 36 mm/m excluding areas nominated to be protected.

The SMP application area surface is a combination of native bushland, cleared grazing land (some previously used for poultry farms) and rural residential. Management measures are proposed to address any predicted environmental impacts, due to subsidence, for the surface above the application area.

Natural features are generally limited to Viney Creek, a Schedule 2 stream, associated tributaries and some groundwater. The only Threatened or Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) within the SMP application area is the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest. No adverse impacts are predicted for this EEC nor flora and fauna.

Man – made features include:

- Principal residences, Other Surface Structures and outbuildings;
- Disused, unoccupied residences;
- Transgrid 330kV power line;
- Energy Australia (EA) 132kV power line;
- Energy Australia rural 11kV and 415V domestic power lines;
- Optus fibre optic cable;
- Active and redundant Telstra copper communication cables;
- Hunter Water Corporation water pipeline;
- Permanent survey control marks;
- Buried stock and domestic water supply lines;
- Public roads and culverts (Black Hill and Taylors Road);
- Access roads and tracks;
- Cattle stockyards, holding areas and water troughs;
- Various fences, gates and cattle grids;
- Several buried and clay liner capped contaminated material areas; and
- Several small (<1ML capacity) stock watering dams.

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 at least 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.

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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 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 (SCCP) 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. 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"> Environmental 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 Environmental 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) 	Section 10

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Description of Item Section 7.4	Mechanism / System	SCCP Reference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the case of an enquiry, concern or complaint, the Abel Community Complaints Management Procedure is followed. 	
Mechanisms to facilitate conflict management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All correspondence / complaints assessed and response provided by mine with copy to NSW Department of Industry & Investment 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

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 2.

Consultation Meetings and Site Inspection

Stakeholder / Community consultation conducted to date has consisted of:

1. Community Consultative Committee Meetings
2. SMP Stakeholders presentation meeting and site inspection and submission process on 9 September 2010.
3. SMP Advertisements June 2010
4. Community Newsletter June 2010

A presentation followed by a site inspection was made to NSW Department of Industry & Investment NSW – Minerals and Energy (I & I – M & E) and identified stakeholders on 9 September 2010 to outline the SMP process and progress to date, relating to mine design, environmental considerations, results of mining SMP Area 1 to date, subsidence predictions and potential impacts.

The day was structured as follows;

- 1 Introduction and Meeting Objectives
- 2 Donaldson Coal Background
- 3 The Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) Process
- 4 Abel Mine
 - Project Approval
 - Mine Planning
 - Mining Methods

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- Area 1
 - Area 2
 - SMP Area Surface Environment Assessment
- 5 SMP Area 1 Approvals and Conditions, Management Plans, Monitoring Programs.
- 6 Panel 1 (SMP Area 1) progress to date.
- 7 Subsidence Results Panel 1, impacts and remediation.
- 8 SMP Area 2 Key surface features,
- Man made and natural features potentially impacted by subsidence including,
 - Properties;
 - Roads;
 - Powerlines;
 - Waterlines;
 - Dams; and
 - Other infrastructure.
- 9 Abel SMP Area 2 Subsidence Assessment and Predictions.
- 10 Abel SMP Area 2 Subsidence Impacts.
- 11 Abel SMP Area 2 Proposed Subsidence Monitoring.
- 12 Abel SMP Area 2 Mining Schedule.
- 13 Field Visit SMP Areas 1 and 2.
- 14 Lunch, open forum.

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 Subsidence Management Plan. A hard copy of the presentation was provided to all attendees.

Following this meeting a copy of the presentation was forwarded to all relevant stakeholders and placed on the company web site. Copy of presentation and minutes is included in Appendix F of the SMP Application Report.

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.

SMP Advertisement

As per the SMP Guideline 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 Industry & Investment NSW 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) 4015 1100.”

The advertisement included a map of the SMP Area, mine lease boundaries, the existing workings and regional locality. Abel placed the advertisement in the

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Newcastle Herald and the Sydney Morning Herald on 19 June 2010. A Copy of the advertisements is included in Appendix F of the SMP Application Report.

Results of Community Consultation

No correspondence or phone calls were received from the public as a result of the advertisements placed on the 19th June 2010.

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

The issues, relevant to the SMP application, raised by stakeholders, were also assessed in the SMP Risk Assessment.

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.

Any submissions received following the advertisements and public display period will be provided to I & I – M & E. 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 hold regular meetings and inspections with Landholders during the relevant extraction period. 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 Primary Industries – Office of Water Mine Subsidence Board Department of Environment Climate Change and Water Sydney Catchment Authority NSW Department of Industry & Investment - Director Environmental Sustainability NSW Department of Industry & Investment - Principal Subsidence Engineer Newcastle City Council Cessnock City Council 	Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR)	Annual (March)
	Subsidence Management Status Report	Four monthly
	Meeting and Site Visit	Annual (following submission of AEMR – April / May)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Department of Industry & Investment – 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landholders 	Regular reports, meetings and inspections during extraction period	As required generally weekly

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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