

MINUTES

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

Illawarra Coal

LOCATION: Ruby's Restaurant, Kembla Heights

DATE: 15 December 2011

ATTENDEES:

Milton Morris	Chairperson
Alex Beccari	Community Representative
Phil Diamond	Community Representative
Phil Grant	Community Representative
Chris Haley	Community Representative
Vivien Twyford	Community Representative
Julie Sheppard	Environmental Group Representative
Ann Young	Environmental Group Representative
Gary Brassington	Illawarra Coal
Nathan Menser	Illawarra Coal
Rosanne Moore	Illawarra Coal
Karen Parlato	Illawarra Coal
Peter McMillan	Illawarra Coal - Dendrobium
Wayne Price	Illawarra Coal - Dendrobium

APOLOGIES: Nil

1	PURPOSE
	The purpose of the DCCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of Dendrobium Mine, the community, the relevant councils and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the mine's operations, environmental performance and community relations, and to keep the community informed on these matters.
2	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Apologies▪ Acceptance of minutes from last meeting▪ Business arising from previous minutes▪ Update on environment and community issues (including piezometer results)▪ Dendrobium Operational update▪ Dendrobium Area 3B Subsidence Management Plan (update)▪ General business
3	ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
	The meeting was opened at 6.00pm Minutes accepted from last meeting

4	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
	<p>Ann Young raised her letter sent to Minister for Planning and Infrastructure regarding her concerns with the Dendrobium AEMR and Longwall 6 End of Panel Report. She has received a letter from Department of Planning and Infrastructure advising that the Department is seeking response from Illawarra Coal on the issues raised.</p> <p>Gary Brassington (Illawarra Coal) confirmed the Department's letter has been received by the Company and that a response to the Department is forthcoming.</p>
5	CORRESPONDENCE
	N/A
6	ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY
	<p><i>General Environmental Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AEMR site visit conducted at Dendrobium pit top, ventilation fan sites and Swamp 1. ▪ A working bee was held at Mt Kembla site. ▪ Rail noise working group. ▪ Dust deposition gauge installed at local residence, approximately halfway between the pit top and the school on Cordeaux Road. ▪ Preparation for triennial development consent audit. <p><i>Community Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Longwall move in December, this will see some increased traffic in accordance with curfew. ▪ Deer management program about to commence. ▪ Stage 2 Pathway/Rehab – tenders for work currently being evaluated. ▪ Kembla Heights Wetland Rehabilitation project: recent consultation noted some positive feedback and no negative feedback for this project. <p><i>Community Complaints</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two rail complaints received in October 2011, relating to train braking noise. Complaints received from Cordeaux Road and William James Drive. Noise associated with braking required to comply with a temporary reduction in track speed limit. ▪ One traffic complaint received in December 2011 relating to a truck crossing onto the other side of road. This occurred on Cordeaux Road, and was required to ensure clearance between the bath house being transported and nearby overhead power lines. ▪ One dust complaint was received in October 2011.

	<p>Town Water Consumption</p> <p>November usage was 1.87ML, which is above the Mine target.</p> <p>Piezometer</p> <p>Piezometer results were provided from Swamps 1 (Dendrobium Area 2), 12 and 15b (Dendrobium Area 3A).</p> <p>The slides shown had not been able to be updated following recent rainfall (67mm over 5-6 days at Dendrobium pit top), due to the Catchment areas being closed. Illawarra Coal is waiting for further advice from Sydney Catchment Authority as to when the Catchment would be reopened, so that piezometer data can be updated.</p> <p>There was a noted decrease in Relative Level (RL) of shallow groundwater in a monitoring piezometer for Swamp 15B. Subsidence can increase rock porosity, allowing groundwater to flow into and fill voids, which lowers the Water RL. The Water RL can recover in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as a result of a decrease in rock porosity, which effectively squeezes the water out of the voids, or b) rainfall events can recharge the groundwater over time. <p>Future monitoring results and inspections will be examined to confirm.</p>
7	<p>UPDATE ON LOGISTICS</p>
	<p>Work being carried out on track and rail bridge at bottom of village.</p> <p>Track work to commence on Monday 16 January 2012 in area adjacent to William James Drive.</p>
8	<p>OPERATIONAL UPDATE</p>
	<p>Longwall 7 progressing. Twice weekly monitoring of Sandy Creek Waterfall.</p> <p>Longwall 7 changeover to Longwall 8 near Christmas. Anticipating lower vehicle movements overall during school holidays.</p> <p>Longwall 7 is about 100 metres away from a known 250mm-300mm wide dyke, which was experienced during Longwall 6. The dyke will have some impact on roofing in this area, but we are well prepared to manage this issue.</p> <p>Overall production this year is approximately 300,000 tonnes more than last year.</p>

9	<p>SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p>
	<p>Illawarra Coal is currently developing its Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) for Dendrobium Area 3B. It is anticipated that a draft SMP will be submitted in March 2012 for the Government to commence its review process.</p> <p>Aboriginal consultation</p> <p>Engagement with Aboriginal communities has commenced, with the recent newspaper advertisement calling for registration of interest in the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment. The process involves registrants to review and provide feedback on assessment documentation, undertake fieldwork and inspections with Illawarra Coal, and provide information on the significance of items or areas identified. This knowledge is incorporated into an assessment report, which is finalised for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which becomes a part of the SMP.</p> <p>Subsidence Management – Conditions of Consent</p> <p>Information provided on Conditions 2, 3 & 5, which describes how impacts to surface features, water flows or ecosystems is managed and minimised.</p> <p>Conditions 7 and 8 outline what needs to be considered and included within the SMP for Dendrobium 3B: detailed subsidence impact assessment, includes ongoing management of Dendrobium Areas 1 & 2, monitoring swamps and watercourses, protection of Sydney Catchment assets, and management and contingency plans for both significant natural features and man made features.</p> <p>Natural features within 600 metres of the edge of secondary extraction are to be identified and assessed. Dendrobium 3B is in proximity to Lake Avon (approximately 400 metres), and the Maldon-Dombarton rail line runs above the 3B area. Illawarra Coal will be able to use its experience from the Great Southern Railway in managing the abandoned Maldon-Dombarton rail line.</p> <p>Groundwater monitoring plan</p> <p>Provided information on the plan for monitoring groundwater via shallow auger holes, and at depth in the rock strata. A number of the monitoring sites have been installed and monitoring for some time. Illawarra Coal plans to install additional boreholes well in advance of mining activity, and is working with Sydney Catchment Authority to gain approvals necessary to conduct this activity.</p>
10	<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p>
	<p>Fugitive gas</p> <p>Question on notice received regarding fugitive gas release from old coal mine workings.</p> <p>Illawarra Coal advised that gases may be released from within sandstone rock strata through the surface via fractures, joints and faults. Often, the releases break through the surface in valleys or</p>

	<p>water courses, with the volume released slowing over time as the reservoir of gas is exhausted.</p> <p>Gas can also be released from within the strata, or within coal seams, by pre-drilling into the rock strata and extracting the gas. Illawarra Coal's practice is to drill down near to the coal seam for methane extraction, and use this methane in gas-fired power generation on site.</p> <p>In terms of old workings, gas may seep out from old workings. The volume released would be based on pressure differentials from within the old mines and level of sealing.</p> <p>In any instance, the overall volume of gas released would depend on the properties of the coal seam, the depth of cover, the geology and other leakage paths. Once a shaft or mine is capped and rehabilitated there is no evidence of continued release of mine gas.</p> <p>There was also general discussion about Illawarra Coal's re-use of methane on site for power generation.</p>
11	CLOSE OF MEETING
	<p>Close of meeting at 7.10pm.</p> <p>Next meeting at Dendrobium Mine meeting room, 16 February 2012 at 6.00pm</p>

Thank you all for attending.