

Bloomfield Colliery Community Consultative Committee

Location: Bloomfield Colliery Board Room

Time: 5.00pm

Date: 3 May 2010

ATTENDEES	
Name	Organisation
Margaret McDonald Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Cnr Jeff Maybury (JM)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Janet Murray (JMY)	Community Representative
David Balcomb (DB)	Community Representative
Michael Harkin (MH)	Community Representative
Steve Dunn (SD)	Bloomfield Colliery
Keren Halliday (KH)	Bloomfield Colliery
Luke Murray (LM)	Bloomfield Colliery

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1	Welcome and introductions		
	All members welcomed to the first meeting of the CCC		
2	Apologies		
	Nil – all present		
3	Declaration of Interests		
	MMH stated that she had been appointed as the Independent Chair of the Bloomfield Coal Mine CCC by the DG of Department of Planning. MMH is also a Member of the Mine Subsidence Board, a Member of the Minister's Arbitration Panel and Chief Executive of the NSW Association of Mining Related Councils.		
	JM stated that he is a Councillor on Cessnock City Council, Member of the Mine Subsidence Board, and a member of Austar's CCC.		
4	Purpose of the Committee		
	MMH referred members to the guidelines for Establishing Community Consultative Committee.		
	A copy of the guidelines was provided to each member for information.		
	MMH advised that the committee has no statutory		

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	<p>powers but is able to make recommendations and suggestions.</p> <p>If any issues arise between meetings they can be raised. KH is the main point of contact at Bloomfield.</p> <p>It was noted that SD is retiring in July.</p>		
5	Overview of the Project		
	KH gave a presentation on the project including an overview of the Project Approval requirements.	KH to provide a paper copy of the Project Approval to all members	
	SD advised that the company has been consulting with Council Officers to identify a suitable infrastructure project to provide financial support towards. The company had been considering supporting improvements at the intersection of Buchanan Road and John Renshaw Drive. However, following the announcement to proceed with the F3 extension this prospect was no longer viable.		
	<p>In regard to the Community Enhancement Fund requirements, JMY asked what is the definition of “local infrastructure projects”?</p> <p>JMY advised that a study (Australian Early Development Index) has found that a higher than average percentage of pre school aged children in the Kurri area have been identified as “developmentally vulnerable” in the domain of physical health could be improved with access to good playground facilities which are lacking in Kurri.</p> <p>JMY mentioned that Donaldson Coal had supported a pilot occupational therapy program last year.</p> <p>JM commented that providing playground facilities is difficult for Council not just with the provision of facilities but ongoing matters associated with the upkeep including insurances, maintenance costs etc.</p> <p>KH suggested that the company would contact Council’s Social Planner to see if there are any planned social infrastructure projects that could be supported by the company.</p>	KH to contact Council’s Social Planner	

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	JMY is concerned that the changes in landform and additional height will result in changes to climate in the valley to the south. Concerned about temperature inversions and NE wind conditions		
	LM advised the area in question has been tree seeded and is at the final height. The slope of the final landform has been designed at 10 degrees. It was noted that historically up to 18 degrees had occurred but current approach limited to 10 degrees.		
	SD advised that the site at the completion of mining will be designed to be a stable self draining landform. The approval allows for the continued operation and completion of mining up to 2021.		
	KH advised that the environmental inquiry line number is listed in the phone book (49337077). All complaints are registered on the log.		
6	General Business		
	KH advised that a variation (Section 75W) would be submitted in the next month to cover some minor changes to the design of spoil placement and rehabilitation, upgrade of an existing road to allow coal haulage and the realignment of a powerline. The modification will allow improvements to some areas that were rehabilitated over 20 years ago so they meet current criteria in terms of slope and final landform.		
	<p>JMY raised a number of issues and concerns that residents from the Black Hill area have mentioned to her. They are summarised as follows:</p> <p><i>Air quality</i> - specific concern about issues associated; two dust events in particular of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/12/10 • 21/1/10 <p>A spontaneous combustion event in the past had resulted in air quality issues. Mentioned that people are concerned about health impacts from dust, need to clean rain water tanks, pools etc.</p> <p><i>Odour</i> –notice smell of coal gas periodically</p> <p><i>Noise</i> – machinery at night causes disturbance</p> <p><i>Lighting</i> – nuisance impacts</p> <p><i>Aesthetics</i>: Scenic impact</p> <p><i>Response to complaints</i>: JMY said that some people feel frustrated that complaints have been made in the past to the mine and the EPA and nothing ever</p>		

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	<p>changes so they can't see the point in raising their concerns. Results might show compliance but doesn't help.</p> <p>KH advised that all complaints are logged and reported on in the annual environmental management report.</p> <p>DB mentioned that he had called the mine one evening regarding lighting and proximity to John Renshaw Drive and found later that the position of the light had been changed.</p>		
	KH suggested that the next meeting would discuss the environmental management plans and monitoring at the next meeting.		
7	Meeting schedule		
	Next meeting scheduled 23 August at 5.00pm		

Meeting closed at 6.30pm