



**Tahmoor Colliery -
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (T4C)
Thursday 17th December 2009**

VENUE

Vaby's Restaurant, Station St, Picton

Meeting Open:	5: 15pm	Meeting Closed:	6:58pm
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ATTENDANCE

✓	Attending	X	Apology / Didn't attend
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✓	Mr Stuart Waters (SW)	Chairperson
X	Cr. Ben Banasik (BB)	Wollondilly Council Representative
✓	Cr. Colin Mitchell (CM)	Wollondilly Council Representative
✓	Mr. David Auchterlonie (DA)	Community Representative
X	Mrs Diane Clarke (DC)	Community Representative
X	Mr Jarrad Hilleard (JH)	Community Representative
✓	Mr. David Hunt (DH)	Community Representative
✓	Ms Diana Lange (DL)	Community Representative
✓	Ms. Julie Sheppard (JS)	Community Representative
✓	Mr Ian Sheppard (IS)	Tahmoor Colliery Representative
✓	Mrs Belinda Clayton (BC)	Tahmoor Colliery Representative

Invitees:

✓	Mr Darren Bullock (DB)	Mine Subsidence Board
X	Mrs Judith Egan (JE)	Dept Mineral Resources represented by
✓	Mr Greg Kininmonth (GK)	Dept Mineral Resources
✓	Mr Darren Nicholls (DN)	Tahmoor Colliery Operations Manager
✓	Mr Ben de Somer (BdS)	Tahmoor Colliery Environment Coordinator
X	Mr Nate Bain (NB)	Tahmoor Colliery Graduate
X	Mr Shane Wilton (SW)	Tahmoor Colliery Employee Representative
X	Mr Nigel Charnock (NC)	Environment & Community Manager – Xstrata Coal NSW

Visitors:

✓	Cr Shane Read (SR)	Wollondilly Council Representative
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Copy to:

General Manager	Wollondilly Shire Council (for Councillors)
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GENERAL BUSINESS

Item	Issue	Action	Date
1.	<u>Welcome/Introductions</u>		
1.1	For the benefit of the Chairperson all attendees gave a brief introduction of themselves.		
2.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>		
2.1	Stuart Waters and is paid by Tahmoor Colliery as the Independent Chairperson for the committee.		
3.	<u>Apologies</u>		
3.1	<u>Apologies</u> Cr Ben Banasik Jarrad Hilleard Di Clarke Judith Egan Darren Nicholls <u>Arrivals/Departures</u> Darren Bullock arrived at 6.35pm. Darren Nicholls attended after the conclusion of the meeting.		
4.	<u>Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting</u>		
4.1	Minutes confirmed.		
5.	<u>Business Arising</u>		
5.1	SW asked if everyone thinks it is suitable to use names, contact numbers and email addresses to be displayed on the Chamber of Commerce website.	BC to forward details to confirm	Dec 2009
5.2	Lengthy industrial campaign at Tahmoor Colliery with short shifts and a number of days on strike has made it difficult for Ian Sheppard to organise an underground visit. IS apologises and hopes that at the latest early January the tour will take place.	Ian will contact everyone when everything is back to normal	Jan 2010
5.3	IS will forward the mining links website to everyone.	IS to organise over next few weeks	Jan 2010
5.4	IS informed everyone that the longwall is now moving into a more rural location, therefore residence weekly update will be distributed monthly instead of weekly in the new year.	Next year	Jan 2010
5.5	JS stated that she found the report from Geoterra on Myrtle Creek to be unsatisfactory as it contains a number of fundamental errors. SW suggested that JS talk to BC about the report and familiarise BC with it.	JS and BC to meet	Early 2010
5.6	DL has circulated the letterhead for the T4C and wondered whether Industry and Investment NSW and Wollondilly Shire Council's logo and BC contact numbers should be on it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH asked who the signatory would be? • IS is happy to have Xstrata logo on it 	DL is going to come up with a few suggestions	Distribute prior to next meeting

Item	Issue	Action	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DL suggested that Mine Subsidence Board (MSB) logo be on letterhead • Stuart suggested that MSB has very different relationship • DA would like to see Xstrata on letterhead because they represent Tahmoor • BdS suggested a logo above the handshake <p>Everyone thanked Di and though it was an excellent starting point.</p>		
	6. <u>Correspondence</u>		
IN	1. Bank statement received at the start of the month and funds for T4C have been deposited (in presentation).	Funds deposited	Dec 2009
OUT	None		
	7. <u>Committee Members Reports</u>		
7.1	<u>DA</u> Nothing to report at the moment.		
7.2	<p><u>DH</u> Raised issues brought to him by residents, 2 main issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A resident reported that they had a problem with a damaged water supply pipe and a fairly large water bill sent by Sydney Water. The water pipe was repaired by the MSB and the additional water lost not charged for by Sydney Water. DH stated that whether the water loss was caused by the mine or not, it is a loss to Sydney Water. The concern was that the mine did not compensate Sydney Water for the loss, but the residents were pleased that the MSB repaired the damage. DH thinks this is a community issue. 2. The cracking of the creeks, once the creek is cracked the ecosystem is gone and DH thinks that costs should be paid by mine. <p>DB stated that the first point is easily resolved. The cost of water loss is covered by the mine, and if repair work is to be done, the MSB covers the cost. At no point have MSB or the mine said that they will not pay. No request for payment has been received from Sydney Water. However, the MSB and the mine at times pay for damage or loss that ultimately they know has not been caused by mining.</p> <p>IS confirmed that Tahmoor will pay for losses resulting from subsidence impacts and has done so in the past.</p> <p>SW suggested that DH should consider asking Phil Costa about compensation questions.</p> <p>DL suggested that the individuals are not out of pocket. DH responded by saying that he thinks we should look beyond the individual but look at the community. He would like to mention this for a future meeting.</p>		NFA

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7.3	<p><u>DL</u> Increase in hits on weekly report and thinks that people have bookmarked this site. The colliery is averaging 33 downloads of each Residents Weekly Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For September 25% of visitors arrived at our site by conducting a Google search for 'tahmoor colliery' or similar (Total Hits for September – 38 336) • For July 24% of visitors arrived at our site by conducting a Google search for 'tahmoor colliery' or similar (Total Hits for October- 42 060) • For August 24% of visitors arrived at our site by conducting a Google search for 'tahmoor colliery' or similar (Total Hits for August – 47 440) <p>The Google searches for the colliery have reduced over the three months but direct references to the Residents Weekly Update have increased which means that people are probably bookmarking the page. Basically the main drivers for traffic to the site are the Business directory, Residents Weekly Update, events and the news articles.</p>		NFA
7.4	<p><u>JS</u> JS has spoken to a resident that has had their house mined under and she is distressed. She is waiting on the mine to contact her regarding Myrtle Creek issues. Q: Why can't the colliery fill a pool with a water tanker and observe the water loss? A: (IS) you would need quite a lot of water because the ground is so dry the water would absorb straight into the dry sediment. (BdS) Theoretically creeks run down hill so we would have to block them off so the water does not run away.</p> <p>A resident asked about someone who has recently visited their house and they are very confused as to who it was.</p> <p>Q: (JS) What is the process that is undertaken for a property inspection? A: (DB) MSB only go to a residence if we have a pre-mining inspection or a claim. A:(IS) Tahmoor Colliery has a building inspector. When they conduct routine inspections around once a week, people think that they are from the MSB. However they have a letter that they show to people and confirm that they are from Sunrise Building Inspection conducting subsidence inspections on behalf of Tahmoor Colliery.</p>	<p>Belinda Clayton to put information in next newsletter regarding inspections</p>	Jan 2010
8. Update on Current & Future Mining Operations			
8.1	<p><u>Environment Update – BdS</u> Ben gave a brief environmental update including surface water management issues and the surface exploration program. He informed that he has sent letters to affected residents regarding fan changes.</p>	NFA	

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	<p>Presentation contained in Attachment A.</p> <p><u>Questions regarding Environmental Update</u> JS thinks that the summary was really good and thinks it should go on the website.</p> <p>Q: (GK) have there been any complaints about the new fans? A: (BdS) No, however there have been a few noise complaints about general mine noise from a resident in Olive Lane.</p> <p>Q: (JS) When is the reverse osmosis plant going to happen? A: (IS) Final studies are now underway, including an assessment of the energy demands and overall environmental impacts. The plant is extremely energy intensive, and energy supply and consequent greenhouse emissions are a major concern. The mine also needs an underground booster fan and additional winding equipment, which will require additional power as well. Integral energy may not have enough capacity in the short term to supply us with electricity from Maldon Zone substation, where the mine is fed.</p> <p>However the biggest issue at the moment is the transport and disposal requirements for brine removal. The tragic road accident last week on the Picton Road was with a brine tanker returning to Appin Colliery. They have around 6 truck movements a day; we would have up to 40 B-double truck movements.</p> <p>For the water treatment plant, we have put together a complete specification for design, construction and operation of the proposed plant, and are working with DECCW to be able to move forward.</p> <p>Q: (DH) Have you looked at solar thermal power? You could do it in association with the community. A: (IS) For the amount of power that the plant requires, solar thermal would be unlikely to be able to supply the amount of power required, or at a competitive cost.</p> <p>Q: (CM) Is there another option for trucking brine? A: (IS) Evaporation of residual brine can be done but at the penalty of even more power required. CM: The wheat from Lachlan Valley is going up and down the Picton road and if we put a submission in for a new road with the addition of 40 trucks it would help us.</p> <p>Q: (DH) Has the solar evaporation of brine been looked at? A: (BdS) We don't have the land requirement to put the brine on for evaporation for the climate in this area.</p> <p>SW: let's move on, but we will look at it in the future.</p>		
8.2	<p><u>SMP Update – IS</u> Since the last meeting mine subsidence has affected only two more houses and rail subsidence is effectively finished.</p>	NFA	

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	<p>Monitoring of the Bargo River has also ceased due to the distance that mining has progressed away from the river and gorge.</p> <p>Q: (DH) What was the figure for the subsidence in the gorge. A: (IS) From memory it is about 10 and 20mm. This is right on the surveyors limit of accuracy when surveying into the gorge, so it is hard to say if there was any definitive movement.</p> <p>Q: (DH) There was no pre-mining flow monitoring at Myrtle Creek. Will Redbank have pre-mining monitoring? A: (IS) Yes. It is being installed at the moment.</p> <p>GK has reviewed LW27-30 SMP Application. His only real concern in the area is the Redbank Creek cliffs and the nearby sections of the creek. The mine will need to address potential impacts of subsidence on these features.</p>		
8.3	<p><u>Mine Subsidence Board Report – DB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Subsided (LW22-25 only) 1289 (+2) • Total No Claim (LW22-25 only) 992 (77%) • Total Claims Received 374 • Total Claims Refused 65 • Total Repairs Completed 96 • Total Repairs In Progress 26 • Total Repairs Pending 213 <p>A letter is going out tomorrow from the MSB to Council for the roundabout at Tahmoor to be repaired. While expensive, the cost from Council was checked by a third party (which was the RTA), who confirmed the cost estimates.</p> <p>Q: (SR) What about Abelia Street? A: (DB) Abelia St is going to be affected by the next longwall, longwall 26, so final repairs will not be completed at this stage. The other major work repair work is at the Tahmoor Town Centre and that is being done in consultation with the Centre management.</p> <p>Q: (CM) What rights do people have with a refused claim? A: (DB) The first step is to conduct a claim review and if they are still not happy with that, they go to the land and environment court.</p> <p>Q: (DH) What are the costs? A: (DB) If you lose you pay and if you win you don't. We have a brochure with all of that information in it.</p> <p>Q: (DH) There is confusion with people about whether the MSB replace all the fittings during repairs? A: (DB) If it is not impacted by mining we generally don't replace it.</p>	NFA	
8.4	<p><u>Community Support Update – IS</u></p> <p>The Bridge Street site has been cleaned up with blackberry bushes cleared and fences replaced, so that a helicopter can land there during an emergency, as it is located very close to the SES and RFS</p>	NFA	

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	<p>Emergency Control Centre in Bridge Street,</p> <p>Last year's Community Support Program expenditure was \$83,600.</p> <p>Presentation contained is Attachment A.</p>		
9. General Business			
9.1	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>IS displayed bank statement for up to current period. Account balance = \$8,784.51 The indexed contribution for 2010 has since been deposited to the account. See Attachment B for bank statement.</p>	NFA	
9.2	<p>GK would like the 2008/09 Bargo and Tahmoor Annual Environmental Management Report acceptance letters included with inward correspondence for the next meeting.</p>	BC to include	Next meeting
9.3	<p><u>Rehabilitation</u></p> <p>JS would like to ask a question from last year's AEMR site inspection. Is the intention to only rehabilitate the top of the emplacement with grass, rather than with trees as on the sides, and asked if the requirements have changed? BdS responded that it was only one section involved and the mine is looking to using that area for a trial with biosolids and to do some research. The ultimate plan will incorporate the inclusion of corridors of trees.</p>	NFA	
9.4	<p><u>Protocols</u></p> <p>SW expressed a view that he would not want to make any important decisions without JH and DC present, but would like to have some discussion on how the committee might make decisions.</p> <p>IS: 'Reflecting on a few comments submitted by email from JS, she has suggested that the committee does not make decisions. My thoughts are that at times, the committee does make decisions regarding its own activities and that this should be on consensus basis. eg we may have a question for the mine subsidence board and if by consensus we decide to approach as a committee we should then do that. These decisions would not be on behalf of the colliery or the community but on behalf of <i>the committee</i>.'</p> <p>DH: 'The only time when there would not be consensus was when there may be a contentious issue. I would like correspondence as required on letterhead even when there is disagreement. I am having difficulty understanding what issues that there will be agreement by consensus, because the mine and the community will always represent their own opinion which provides a conflict of interest.'</p> <p>SW: Who made the decision to fund the eco group to do the report on potential subsidence impacts to Bargo River Gorge?</p> <p>CM: The committee decided.</p>		

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	<p>DH: The company carried out an assessment by their consultants for the SMP. However the community representatives saw it differently so we requested another one. The mine subsidence consultants and Tahmoor Colliery didn't agree with us. Therefore how could there be a consensus when a letter is to be sent out?</p> <p>BdS: When we have an issue to address we wouldn't necessarily require correspondence to be sent out on the letterhead.</p> <p>DH: When we feel we want to inform the community and the mine does not agree, we should use a different letterhead.</p> <p>DA: We need a set of protocols. I was not happy to engage the consultant for that independent report. I acknowledge I was only an observer, but did not agree with it.</p> <p>CM: It was a unanimous vote of the committee.</p> <p>SW: In some cases not all community members will agree and it seems to me that individuals will disagree.</p> <p>GK: Should we have an 80% agreement.</p> <p>DA & CM: No, we should have 100%.</p> <p>DH: If all the community members agree on it and can sign on it and if the mine disagrees they can write: <i>We as community members of the Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee....(but it is not to be written on letterhead).</i></p> <p>SW: It would not be right to represent the committee except as a whole.</p> <p>CM: The guidelines of the <i>purpose of the committee</i> are very good and if new committee members join or the current have not read it they should.</p> <p>SW: What have we learnt? What questions do we have? What would DC want?</p> <p>DL: We should hold it over to the next meeting.</p>	<p>BC to forward a copy to everyone</p> <p>Discuss this topic</p>	<p>By next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
9.5	SW: JH was talking to residents of Abelia Street regarding subsidence impacts but has not yet contacted DB regarding this.	Discuss	Next meeting
10.	New Business		
10.1	<p>JS mentioned that in recent documents regarding development application for Illawarra Coal longwalls there is a mention of Tahmoor's extracted area being 1,000m wide. Was there any subsidence relevant?</p> <p>IS stated that it is the area south of the Inghams plant and it was</p>	NFA	

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	<p>then generally open agricultural area. Tahmoor Colliery fully b extracted coal used continuous miners as well as partial extraction using 'panel and pillar' mining under the Ingham plant about 20 to 25 years ago.</p> <p>DH asked what type of subsidence?</p> <p>IS responded, stating that it is the same degree of subsidence as experienced today. However when you carry out full extraction with continuous miners you don't tend to get the small undulations over the chain pillars left by longwall mining.</p>		
10.2	IS, on behalf of Tahmoor Colliery, thanked the chairman, community representatives, councillors and invitees for their attendances and involvement during 2009, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.		
11.	<u>Next Meeting</u>		

THURSDAY 18 MARCH, 2009

Location: Administration Building, Tahmoor Colliery, Remembrance Drive, commencing at 5pm

Recorded: Belinda Clayton 17th December 2009

Confirmed:

(Signature)

Chairperson - Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee

ATTACHMENT A

Presentation

ATTACHMENT B

Bank Statement