

**SPUR HILL UNDERGROUND COKING COAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 14 JULY 2014
AT MERTON VINEYARD, DENMAN**

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Chair
	Les Jones (LJ)	Community Representative
	Aaron Moon (AM)	Community Representative
	Susan Pickersgill (SP)	Community Representative
	John Sowter (JS)	Community Representative
	Fiona Webber (FW)	Community Representative
	Tim Wolfgang (TW)	Community Representative
	Brett Keeping (BK)	Group Representative - Vignerons & Vineyards
	Noel Downs (ND)	Group Representative - Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
	Julie Moloney (JM)	Division of Resources & Energy
	Wayne Seabrook (WS)	Spur Hill Management Pty Ltd (SHM)
	Graeme Booth (GB)	SHM
IN ATTENDANCE	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Minute Taker
	Jo Webster (JW)	Resource Strategies
APOLOGIES	Cr Christine Phelps	Muswellbrook Council

Meeting commenced at 5.30pm

WELCOME	The Chair welcomed Committee Members to the meeting.	
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	<p>MMH advised that she was appointed by the Minister for Resources and Energy as the Independent Chair of the Spur Hill Community Consultative Committee.</p> <p>MMH also advised that she is a member of the Mine Subsidence Board and a member of the Ministers' Arbitration Panel.</p> <p>The Chairperson referred to media reports in the Newcastle Herald, criticising the Government processes and wherein she was mentioned. She confirmed she chairs a number of committees because of her experience and knowledge and stated she has never been involved in any arbitration where she was engaged by a company and was also a member on a community consultative committee. She suggested if anyone had concerns about her independent chairmanship, they should be raised at a committee meeting. She also advised that her role was paid by the Government.</p> <p>No concerns were raised by the committee members.</p> <p>MMH encouraged all members to make declarations.</p>	<p>ND: The Wanaruah LALC has assisted in cultural field work for the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project, and may assist with further cultural work in the future.</p> <p>FW: Treasurer of Upper Hunter Education Fund, which SHM has previously sponsored.</p> <p>AM: Principal of St Joseph's Primary School that has received donations from SHM for resources.</p> <p>LJ: Denman Lions has received donations from SHM.</p> <p>JS: Also associated with Denman Lions.</p> <p>TW: Compensation agreement for exploration work carried out on his property. Also, Secretary of Fire Brigade for which donations have been received.</p> <p>SP: SHM is a Denman News Sponsor. Also, a family member has previously undertaken work for SHM.</p>
ROLE OF COMMITTEE	MMH explained the role of the committee and went through the "Charter" for the Exploration	

	<p>Project.</p> <p>Discussion was held on whether the draft minutes would be placed on the website or await confirmation at the next meeting.</p> <p>MMH spoke about the contact details (email addresses and phone numbers) of the committee members and privacy. She advised that she does not divulge these details and it was up to the CCC members if they wanted their contact details displayed on the project website.</p>	<p>TW/BK: Suggested that minutes be available in draft form. <i>All agreed.</i></p>
PRESENTATIONS	<p>Presentation by Julie Moloney (DRE) on Landholder Rights and Exploration Licences.</p>	<p>Hand-outs provided to all present. Electronic version of presentation also attached.</p>
	<p>Presentation by Wayne Seabrook and Graeme Booth about the Spur Hill Underground Coking Coal Project. SHM provided a copy of the document "Application for a Gateway Certificate – Technical Overview"</p>	<p>Electronic version of presentation attached. Document handed out to CCC members.</p>
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS	<p>Q: What is the preferred option for transport?</p> <p>Q: Can you provide more information on the recent burning of grape vines? Not impressed with the burning off activities without informing the neighbours.</p> <p>Q: When does the Council have to comment?</p> <p>Q: This area was first drilled in the 1960s, do you have access to all the old information?</p> <p>Q: What about subsidence?</p> <p>Q: What about local employment for local residents and what about Aboriginal employment, not just for cultural work but for mining work?</p> <p>Q: Is Lucerne that is grown around the area going</p>	<p>SHM: We are currently assessing several different options.</p> <p>SHM: Yes, we have removed two blocks of vines that were not performing well, but we are not planning to remove anymore. SHM: We will speak to the Manager about managing this better in the future.</p> <p>SHM: The Council is involved from the beginning of the assessment process by providing input to the Environmental Assessment Requirements. Council will also have input at the adequacy stage of the EIS.</p> <p>SHM: Yes and we had a good understanding of the likely coal resource before our recent fieldwork commenced. We don't need any more geological information to prepare the EIS.</p> <p>SHM: Subsidence from one seam is around 3m (65% of seam thickness). Three seams will be mined, but not at the same time. Overall we predict a maximum of around 5m, however, years apart.</p> <p>SHM: We are committed to employing Denman residents, which will provide a benefit to the community.</p> <p>SHM: We can't see how the</p>

	<p>to stay?</p> <p>Q: Will there be any structural damage to nearby residences?</p> <p>Q: And water?</p> <p>Q: Will properties outside the area on the map be purchased as a buffer zone?</p> <p>Q: What will be the impact?</p> <p>Q: Do you have to provide offsets?</p> <p>Q: Most mining companies hire labour companies, how will you ensure that jobs are provided to locals and how will you help locals to get experience so they can apply for mining jobs?</p> <p>Q: Do you have a 'buy local policy'?</p> <p>Q: Isn't it more expensive to mine underground?</p>	<p>production of lucerne will be impacted by our project.</p> <p>SHM: We will be able to predict where subsidence will happen. A detailed assessment of structures will be carried out prior to works commencing with ongoing monitoring. There are two groups responsible to ensure home owners are looked after, being SHM and the Mine Subsidence Board.</p> <p>SHM: Water will be pumped to the surface, treated and used for mining and farm activities. Water extraction will be governed by water licences.</p> <p>SHM: If there is a residence in proximity to the mine infrastructure area and significant amenity issues occur, then we will look at acquiring that property.</p> <p>SHM: We have designed the mine with the objective to minimise the visual impact. Being underground, it will mitigate any noise, dust, smell, etc. compared to an open cut mine.</p> <p>SHM: As the project is located in paddocks, the offset will be smaller than for an open cut mine. However, OEH will determine this aspect.</p> <p>SHM: We will be seeking to employ a mix of experienced underground miners and new people to the mining industry. From our experience the appropriate blend of experienced people and new people ensures we create the best work place culture. We invest in training and there are world class mine training facilities in Australia.</p> <p>SHM: We are a NSW company, keen to keep the focus in the local area.</p> <p>SHM: The capital cost for an underground mine is often more expensive than an open cut mine, however, a highly productive underground longwall mine will provide operating costs below the majority of open cut mines.</p>
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>Q: What are your plans for the loading infrastructure?</p> <p>Q: Concerns have been raised that you will gain all the approvals for the site and then sell it off to another competitor who will change it to open cut.</p> <p>Q: Air quality – what do you have proposed in terms of dust monitoring?</p> <p>Q: Do you have a complaints register and can you include this information at each meeting?</p> <p>Q: There is a current decline in the industry, will you have the capital to proceed with the project?</p> <p>Q: There are other mines out further, will you be able to get the coal moved out?</p> <p>Q: Will you be exporting the coal?</p>	<p>SHM: This is a key issue; to get the coal onto the railways is one of our biggest challenges. We are currently working on assessing the coal transport route options.</p> <p>SHM: We are a dedicated team and we want to be the developer and the operator. Open cut doesn't stack up for this project as the key seams are too deep.</p> <p>JM: The approval is associated with the land, not the developer; therefore if the project is approved as an underground mine it can only be constructed that way. The whole process will have to start from scratch if an open cut mine is proposed.</p> <p>SHM: We are collecting data continually on a property that we own. We are aware of the concerns that the community may have about 'dust' health issues.</p> <p>SHM: Yes we do and we will include as an agenda item for each meeting.</p> <p>SHM: There is a market for the type of coal that we will be mining. Production costs and port costs are getting cheaper. We are confident in our predictions.</p> <p>SHM: There is enough capacity to transport the coal to Newcastle. We have done our modelling.</p> <p>SHM: Yes, 100% will be exported.</p>
GENERAL BUSINESS	No general business.	
MEETING SCHEDULE	MMH put to the Committee a number of options for scheduling the CCC.	Agreed that the meeting would be held bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of the month, commencing at 5.30pm. The next meeting will be on 16 September 2014 at the same venue (Merton Vineyard).

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Complaints Register – List of complaints to be placed on agenda for each meeting	SHM/MMH