

Abel Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2021

Community Consultative Committee Details

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| CCC / Project Name: | Abel Coal Mine | Reporting Period: | January to December 2021 |
| Independent Chairperson: | Margaret MacDonald-Hill | Proponent Contact: | Phillip Brown |

1. Executive Summary

The Abel Community Consultative Committee was established in 2007 as a consent condition of the Minister for Planning's June 2007 approval of the project. Abel Mine is an underground coal mine located approximately twenty three kilometres north west of Newcastle and bounded roughly to the south by John Renshaw Drive and George Booth Drive, west of Buttai Creek and east of the M1 Expressway, mostly within the Cessnock Local Government area. Abel uses the adjoining Bloomfield Coal Handling Preparation Plant, however as the mine has been on care and maintenance since early May 2016, no mining operations have taken place since that time.

The Abel Mine Committee operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The Committee is currently comprised of:

- four local community representatives;
- a representative from Cessnock City Council;
- a representative from Bloomfield Colliery;
- two Abel Coal representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

Covid-19 impacted on committee meetings during the reporting period and consequently, only one face-to-face meeting was held in March. Despite attempts to reschedule the September meeting to November and then December, the escalation of the Covid-19 virus in the region saw the cancellation of the meeting, although the presentation prepared by mine personnel was distributed to the committee for information and comment, if any. The mine remains on care and maintenance. Community representatives' interest in the mine, both historical and future, has not waned.

As previously reported, the committee is briefed on a vast array of topics of interest, together with a PowerPoint presentation sent out in advance of meetings. Topics during 2021 included a follow up on mine subsidence road repairs vested in Cessnock City Council and Subsidence Advisory NSW, feral animal control, bushfire management and Rural Fire Service hazard reductions, associated elevated dust results, the installation of a borehole at the fan mine site to assist with fire fighting, the mine closure strategy and questions as to what infrastructure such as roads may be left, addition of historic minutes and attachments updated to website.

The committee also discussed the following:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water, groundwater, flora and fauna
- surrender of EPL for Donaldson Open Cut
- property update and illegal access prevention
- updated Mine Operations Plan and Mine Closure Strategy
- metrological monitoring
- community complaints

As the committee has enjoyed the benefit of stable membership for approximately a decade and a half, the members are well known to each other and the excellent rapport continues between all members.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Only one committee meeting was held in March 2021.
- There were no site visits undertaken for the reporting period.
- No joint Committee meetings were held, the Environmental Advisor from the Bloomfield Colliery remains a member of the committee.

3. Key issues

Abel Mine continues on care and maintenance and consequently, there are no key Issues at this time. The future of the Abel Mine and development of the surrounding area also continues to be of interest to the committee.

| Issue | Actions Taken | Next Steps |
|---|---|--|
| Expression of interest from Mindaribba ALC | CEO attended September 2019 meeting. Mindaribba ALC invited to join CCC. Membership application sent to Mindaribba ALC. | Meeting notices continue to be sent Mindaribba ALC. |
| Mine closure strategy | Committee requested a briefing on the draft MOP and Mine Closure Strategy - presented to March meeting, | Ongoing updates to be provided to committee as required. |


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions and interest of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- review of ongoing environmental monitoring.
- operations and future mining potential
- mine closure strategy and development of surrounding land in vicinity of the Abel leases.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

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| Signature of Chair: |  |
| Date: | March 7 2022 |