



**NEW HOPE  
GROUP**

**NEW ACLAND  
COMMUNITY UPDATE**

December 2016



New Acland supporters at Parliament House in November

## COMMUNITY RALLIES BEHIND STAGE 3

**IN NOVEMBER THE OAKEY COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FARMERS, LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS AND MINERS JOINED FORCES TO PROTEST NEW LAWS, DESIGNED TO PREVENT NEW ACLAND FROM PROGRESSING THROUGH ITS APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF MINING, 'STAGE 3'.**

These new laws further delay the approval process and because of this they have the potential to destroy local jobs and have been distressing to our local community.

More than 700 community members gathered together in protest and rallied outside Queensland's Parliament House to show their support for the next stage of mining at New Acland.

Despite the rousing protest, the Government passed legislation that will increase the amount of green tape faced by resource companies.

The impact of this new legislation on New Acland means it will now need to go through another Land Court process, time the mine does not have.

Everyone knows that the nine, going on ten, year approval process for the mine is now so drawn out that we are running out of places to mine at the existing operation.

We also know that unless the next stage is approved mining will slow down as the existing pits finish and that this has the potential to devastate local jobs and the whole community.

Understandably New Hope Group is extremely disappointed that the Palaszczuk Labor Government took this course of action, especially when the Chairman of their own legislative review committee implored the Minister responsible to examine the impact of the Bill on advanced projects, like New Acland.

Despite this set-back our resolve remains strong. We will continue to focus on making the most of every opportunity available to us in limiting the impacts of this new legislation as we work our way through this new approvals process.

It has been very encouraging and energising to see so many members of our local community join us in pledging support for the next stage of mining.

New Acland Mine, its employees and the local businesses that support the mine are a vital part of this local community. Be assured that the company will continue to fight for local jobs and an extension of the mine life.

Thank you for your continued support.

**DAVID VINK**  
General Manager  
New Acland Mine



Local business owner David Coops



Local farmers and New Acland employees Matthew Tonscheck and David Wood



Local farmer Marie Scheuerle

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# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

**NEW HOPE IS INCREDIBLY PROUD OF BEING PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A LONG TERM POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL AREA.**

Since establishing the Community Investment Fund in 2012, New Hope has helped to support a range of local not-for-profit organisations and projects.

The Community Investment Fund runs in addition to the company's regular sponsorship program to provide grants above \$10,000 to community-based initiatives which develop long term outcomes for the communities around New Acland Mine.

The New Acland Community Reference Group, made up of community representatives from across the local area, plays an important role in identifying valuable projects.

The recipients of our latest round of funding are:

#### **Goombungee State School P&C Association Thermal Pool Blanket**

Eat. Swim. Sleep. Repeat! The Goombungee State School P&C Association is looking forward to installing a new thermal pool blanket to extend the pool's operating hours during cooler months. The blanket will combat evaporation in warmer months and retain water temperature in cooler weather. The P&C is focused on serving their growing swim community including baby and toddler groups, small group swimming lessons, school children, recreational swimmers and adult lap swimmers.

For more information about pool opening hours for recreational swimming or swimming lessons, please contact Cory Grice on 0429 501 271 or the school office on (07) 4612 6888.

#### **Oakey Agricultural, Pastoral and Rodeo Society Inc (Oakey AP&R Society) Interior Hall Painting Project**

Greenwood Hall at Oakey Showground is getting a facelift. Through its successful grant applications the Oakey AP&R Society will revitalise the heart and soul of Oakey Showgrounds with an internal makeover of the Hall.

Over 110 years of operation, the Oakey AP&R Society has tirelessly promoted local industry through events like Oakey Agricultural Show and the Beef Classic. The Society hopes to increase the hall's usefulness and maintain the important community asset.

For more information contact Judy on 0409 062 442 or email [oakeyshowsociety@gmail.com](mailto:oakeyshowsociety@gmail.com). For hall bookings contact Alma on (07) 4691 1319.

#### **Jondaryan Public Hall Committee Exterior Hall Painting Project**

A much loved Jondaryan gem will continue to shine thanks to a new exterior painting project. The Jondaryan Public Hall Committee is committed to maintaining the 96 year old hall as a trusted community venue. The hall has served generations of local families hosting Anzac services, theatre restaurants, school concerts and old time dancing.

The Hall is located at 11 Duke Street, Jondaryan. For information and bookings please call 0429 328 681.

#### **Oakey Men's Shed Men's Shed Fitout**

Oakey Men's Shed will use their grant funds to invest in building materials and equipment to kick-start their 'shed'. The recently formed group hopes by forming new friendships and instilling a sense of purpose in its members it will foster a supportive environment for local men.

To learn more about their building projects and community work, please call Lex Hudson on 0437 121 389 or John Phillips on 0428 491 646.



New Acland General Manager David Vink with members and supporters of Oakey Men's Shed



Members and supporters of Jondaryan Public Hall Committee



Judy Byers (left) and Diane Marsh (right) from Oakey AP&R Society with New Hope Senior Community Advisor Helen Williams (centre)



Community Reference Group Chairman Graham Cooke (left) with Goombungee State School Principal Skye Gabler (centre) and New Acland General Manager David Vink (right)



# EPOLA BILL TO CAUSE FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DELAYS

## AUSTRALIA'S MOST SCRUTINISED MINE, NEW ACLAND STAGE 3 WILL FACE FURTHER DELAYS FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (UNDERGROUND WATER MANAGEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (EPOLA) UNAMENDED.

By passing this legislation, the Queensland Government has virtually condemned New Hope Group to up to 12 months further delay in getting approval for New Acland Stage 3, a project that has already undergone unprecedented levels of scrutiny.

The original application for Stage 3 was lodged in 2007 and has been through the process of public scrutiny at least six times.

New Hope Group did not reject the proposed legislation in its entirety. The Company actually supported and satisfied all the policy objectives of this legislation.

The only amendment requested was that the transitional provisions for the legislation be modified so that projects like New Acland Stage 3 that have already been through detailed underground water impact assessment studies would not have to needlessly repeat the process.

The Government did pass an amendment to exclude some projects but only those that already had a mining lease such as the foreign owned and operated Adani Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin.

The livelihoods of not only New Hope employees but those of many in the wider community are dependent on New Acland Stage 3.

Stage 3 will provide full time employment for up to 435 people with an economic contribution to south east Queensland of \$300m, \$100m of that going directly into the Darling Downs region.

The Stage 3 Project will extend the life of the operation through until 2029, delivering significant positive benefits to the community in and around the operation, including hundreds of contractor jobs scheduled for early 2017.

## BRYMAROO CAMPDRAFT WEEKEND

### THE BRYMAROO CAMPDRAFT WAS A WHIRLWIND OF ACTION THIS YEAR WITH MORE THAN 200 RIDERS COMPETING IN THE HOTLY CONTESTED THREE-DAY EVENT.

Riders completed over 1,200 runs across six different draft divisions including Open, Restricted Open, Novice, Maiden, Juvenile and Junior.

Tansey competitor Huon Smith took out the coveted Open Draft Title riding Boonara Monitor and took home the Mick Willis OpenCut Drafter Prize Saddle.

The New Hope sponsored saddle was meticulously handmade over 40 hours

with labour generously donated by New Acland Mine employee and talented local saddlemaker Mick Willis.

Money raised during the Campdraft will fund improvements to the grounds and a range of local projects at Quinalow State School, Maclagan Kindergarten and Quinalow Cricket Club.

The Campdraft was made possible by the supply of over 1,400 head of cattle from local landholders including Acland Pastoral Company, David and Robyn Kucks, Oakey Beef, the Plant family, Jamie and Ruth Watts, Greg and Christine Clewley, Tim Gleeson, the Menkins family, Kerwee Feedlot, Mike Christianson and Col and Bridget Purcell.



## FRIENDS OF NEW ACLAND MINE

Find us on 

## FRIENDS OF NEW ACLAND MINE

Have you visited the Friends of New Acland Mine community Facebook page? It's a dedicated community space for local business owners, community members, mine employees and families to show their support for the mine.

[facebook.com/friendsofnewaclandmine](https://facebook.com/friendsofnewaclandmine)

## ENQUIRIES, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

YOU CAN LODGE YOUR ENQUIRIES, CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS REGARDING NEW ACLAND MINE AND THE STAGE 3 PROJECT IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:

### Call:

1800 882 142 – your call will be answered during business hours, or you can leave your return call details outside of business hours.

### Email:

community@newhopegroup.com.au

### Visit:

The New Hope Community Information Centre at 90/88 Campbell Street, Oakey.

We are always happy to hear from you.

## Oakey Community Information Centre

NEW HOPE'S COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE IS THE BEST PLACE TO GO FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW ACLAND MINE AND THE NEW ACLAND REVISED STAGE 3 PROJECT.

### The centre is open on:

Mondays from 9am to 5pm

Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm

Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm

Closed on Fridays

If you are unable to visit the centre during those hours, we are happy to organise an alternative time to meet or speak with you. You can call the Information Centre (07) 4691 3445.

## ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY

### NEW HOPE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME STEVE ERBACHER AS NEW MANAGER OF ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY.

We also welcome his wife Meg and their two young boys to the local area. Steve commenced his role on 5th December and is responsible for the safe, profitable operation of the company's farming and cattle business.

Steve is a third generation farmer and comes from a strong pastoral background, managing several large cattle and cropping landholdings over the past 17 years. Prior to joining Acland Pastoral Company, Steve managed a 13,000ha cattle and grain operation near Chinchilla.

## NEW ACLAND STAGE 3: WHERE IS IT AT?

### THE NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 CONTINUATION PROJECT PROGRESSED THROUGH THE APPROVAL PROCESS WITH LAND COURT HEARINGS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

It is anticipated the Land Court will hand down its recommendation to relevant ministers by the end of January. The Ministers' decision on granting the Mining Lease is hoped for in early 2017.

There is no doubt New Acland Stage 3 is the most scrutinised mine in Australian history.

Since its first application in 2007 under the Beattie Government the mine has been to public notification and assessed for its impacts on the environment and underground water six times.

Queensland's independent Coordinator-General approved the Project in 2014 and imposed 137 conditions upon it.

New Hope Group also made an additional 890 development commitments as part of that approval.

The Project has also twice been through the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The company is exploring various options for ongoing operations that seek to preserve the current workforce for as long as possible and seamlessly transition them from Stage 2 to Stage 3 of the mine.

However the reality is, the longer approval takes the more likely it is that the company will have to adjust the workforce according to changing circumstances.

The Mine, which has been in operation since 2002 and currently employs about 300 local people and 500 contractors, will close if Stage 3 is not approved.

Coal reserves in Stage 2 of the mine are depleting meaning a ramp down of operations from August 2017 unless mining approvals are granted in early 2017.

Importantly, infrastructure for Stage 3 needs to be built and this is also dependent on the same mining approvals.

The construction period is 26 months and this cannot commence until the granting of a Mining Lease.

### CONTACT

- ▶ Free call 1800 882 142
- ▶ New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell St, Oakey
- ▶ community@newhopegroup.com.au
- ▶ www.aclandproject.com.au
- ▶ PO Box 47, Ipswich, Qld 4305

*New Hope has prepared this newsletter to keep the community informed about the New Acland mine operations and initiatives.*

