

## Minutes of meeting

### New Acland Community Reference Group

<b>Date:</b>	6 June 2016
<b>Time:</b>	5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Oakey RSL
<b>Member Attendees:</b>	Graham Cook Tracey Tully Glenys Bowtell Lindsay Evans Cathy Hartley Nancy Sommerfield Barry Mason
<b>New Hope Group Representatives:</b>	Andrew Boyd – NHG Chief Operating Officer David Vink – New Acland Mine General Manager Helen Braithwaite – NHG Senior Community Advisor Jamie Kemshead – NHG Landholder & Community Liaison
<b>Apologies</b>	Helen Bawden Sarah Due Jodie Collins

#### Agenda item      Discussion

<b>Safety Share:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Vink and Andrew Boyd spoke about the importance of securing vehicles when parking. A recent example from another mine site was offered that demonstrated how far a vehicle can travel (uncontrolled) if parked on a hill or uneven surface.</li> <li>Group Discussion – members offered examples not confined to industry or local situations, but all related to vehicles not being appropriately secured when parked and then the both amazement as to how far a vehicle may travel but also the damage that can be done by these vehicles and the risk they pose to those in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>CIF (Community Investment Fund):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A high level update was given on the CIF cheque presentation event held at the NHG Community Information Centre</li> <li>CRG Members were thanked again for participating in the event and CIF process</li> <li>It was confirmed that a portion of the funds have been allocated to a larger community development project for the future</li> <li>The group spoke freely about the CIF, those who have been involved and the positive contributions that both the funding from NHG and the successful community groups make in the local and surrounding areas</li> </ul>
<b>Community Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that some unoccupied rural homes in the area have been looted by individuals looking to steal timber and other housing materials. The mine is aware of the issue and has been working with local stakeholders to address.</li> <li>General sentiment in the area, both in &amp; out of town remained mixed with people</li> </ul>

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identifying both the Pros & Cons of the mine development and future expansions. The group acknowledged that people are welcome to their view now as always have been, but that people should be encouraged to see the mine and base their opinion on fact.

- It was noted that some areas of the community still don't have a good understanding of New Acland and mining in general. A discussion was had about ways that resource companies engage with local communities. Examples were offered around marketing and company branding, both internal and external to the Resource Industry and the happenings at Oakey.
- The Jondaryan community was discussed. Lindsay gave a quick insight into day to day life in the town of Jondaryan and spoke of the very real change in demographic in the area. Many people don't work locally and need to travel to Oakey or Toowoomba each day. Lindsay also confirmed an increasing issue with mice across the Downs and around the township.
- It was suggested that NHG may look to advertise more widely if there hadn't been many attending the monthly Jondaryan sessions, but Jondaryan representatives felt that those interested would be aware of the sessions and be able to attend them if they wanted to. NHG said they would trial additional letter box drops and advertising, though locals may become more interested again once the a decision had been made on the Project approval.
- A discussion was had about the current situation in Oakey regarding the possible contamination of water and the impact media was having locally. There are many misperceptions around water quality and what is or isn't being done about the situation. Nancy S said council were aware of local sentiment and were hoping to play a part in supporting the town through the difficult period and taking every opportunity to promote the town and area.
- Jondaryan held a recent stage production, was well received and looked encouraging for future evenings.
- There have been a couple of cotton fires in the districts recently, a combination of hot machines, dry paddocks etc.
- A lot of feral pigs on the properties at the moment, reports of some properties culling up to 300 pigs. There have been some new pig traps installed in the area and seemed to be working well. The group discussed the baiting of pigs, wild dogs and the recent release of a anti rabbit virus. Nancy explained TRC's continued work in both the North and South regions to improve the weed & pest management plans, and the increased level of baiting for pigs in the area.
- A member raised the issue of community groups struggling to keep afloat in the current financial environment and the ever changing interest levels of individuals.
- She also made comment of the very real gaps in perception and even misperception of what the Resource Industry in about, the contribution made; and also the part that the media and lobby groups play in an increasingly disinterested society.
- A member raised the possibility of community signage at local town entry and exit points. The group discussed the idea as something to consider in the future
- Due to funding cuts the Oakey NED Landcare office will close and staff will work from home. Landcare are have funding for a seeding trial that will involve the use of livestock to walk seed into the ground instead of the use of mechanical means.
- Community feedback to Landcare has highlighted both the pros & cons of industry. It also highlighted the need for factual reporting, clear understanding on both sides and a requirement for handling the issues in a fair and professional manner. The group also discussed the need for continued education and clarification around issues relating to the environment, for example groundwater and MGA (Make Good Agreements).

<b>New Hope Group Company Update:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general update was provided about the mine’s approvals process and timings.</li> <li>• Andrew Boyd, NHG Chief Operating Officer introduced himself to the group and provided a business update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Land court proceedings are ongoing with results expected towards the end of Q3 of this year or early Q4.</li> <li>○ Witnesses for both sides of the discussion have been provided an opportunity to speak.</li> <li>○ Background work for NAC3 construction phase is underway to position the company well should there be a positive result come out of Land court and approval by the Mining Minister.</li> <li>○ Newcastle Coal Index is sitting around the \$49 - \$50 mark.</li> <li>○ NHG coal sales are still tracking well in a steady market.</li> <li>○ Global Coal markets do look to have flattened and there is a feeling that this may close to the bottom of the market cycle – but very hard to know.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• David Vink provided and update on local NAC activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mine site safety going well at both New Acland &amp; West Morton; there had been one recent incident where and operator injured his arm, but generally speaking there is a positive vibe around the company in regard to safety.</li> <li>○ APC (Acland Pastoral Company) have made a decision to hold off on purchasing any more livestock for the time being, feed levels on farm have dropped and with winter coming on they are looking to hold the herd at about 2,500 head.</li> <li>○ The breeder herd have seen 489 calves born recently and APC have bought 500 PTIC cows to add to this breeding program.</li> <li>○ The water (troughs &amp; water lines) is going well and should be complete by the second week of July, as should the re-fencing program.</li> <li>○ The attenuation of all machinery on site continues with all machines either done or budgeted to be done in the current budget. New equipment is brought to site already fitted out for noise attenuation – including a new loader and six new trucks.</li> <li>○ The Central and West pits continue to be mined and the mine site noise monitoring system supports this works 24/7. David spoke in some detail as to how the Mine monitored noise in the pit and what actions were taken throughout the day/night shifts to ensure they were compliant.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>General Business:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member spoke of her recent experience with NHG, the New Acland mine and her tour of the mine site’s rehabilitated land. She said she was very impressed with the way her questions were handled and what she was able to learn from the visit. All the information she felt was key to the education process when sharing the mining story locally.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB to touch base with GB re recent correspondence NHG may want to address.</li> <li>• AB/JK to speak to Trent Knack to see if NHG can assist CH with ideas as to how to move machinery around at the Rosalie Shire Historical Museum.</li> <li>• JK to investigate internally the possibility of APC being able to provide sand to Rosalie Shire Historical Museum for a show day at the museum.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> of August 2016 at the Oakey Hospital