

Minutes of meeting

New Acland Community Reference Group

Date:	24 August 2017
Time:	5:30 PM – 7:45 PM
Location:	Oakey Hospital Rec Room
Member Attendees:	Graham Cooke (Chair) Lindsay Evans Barry Mason Cathy Hartley Nancy Sommerfield Maree Scheuerle Matthew Boyd
New Hope Group Representatives:	David Vink – NAC GM Jamie Kemshead – NHG
Guest Speakers:	n/a
Apologies	Danny Keenan Andrew Langton Glenys Bowtell Helen Bawden Jodie Collins Helen Williams – NHG

Agenda item Discussion

Meeting Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Chair welcomed the group Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and adopted
Safety Share:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flu season... members discussed the current and ongoing incidents of the flu both locally and around the state. Discussion was based around the prevalence of two strands of the flu and a nasty case of vomiting & diarrhoea with many examples given around the impacts to the young, the sick and the elderly members within the community. Advice was provided around flu injections, personal hygiene and importance of remaining hydrated throughout should you fall ill with any of these conditions Fire danger... increasingly dry conditions across the region reminds every one of the need for a proactive approach to fire safety when operating the field/paddock Complacency around safety... Dave Vink spoke to the group around a company initiative that sees Leaders/Supervisors speaking to the crews around everyday safety when working, driving or at home – just to remind teams of the little things that can be forgotten about at this time of the year, during ongoing situations like

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	<p>the Stage 3 approvals process and at the start of another financial year when people's minds move to larger targets and away from the everyday tasks.</p>
New Hope Group Company Update:	<p>Dave Vink provided an New Hope Group and New Acland Coal mine update to the group, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progress of the NAR (Northern Access Road) into the mine from the Oakey Cooyar Road. The NAR construction has been led by a Projects team based out of head office with an integrated management group on site to oversee the works done by principle contractor OB (Ostwald Brothers). With recent discussions in the media around OB, NHG remain focussed on completing the NAR in a timely and professional manner. A short discussion was had by the group in relation to the NAR and how it may or may not impact current traffic movements once complete, with assurances given that the road installation and both intersection upgrades met all required Main Roads Approvals prior to commencement of works • The ongoing approvals process, Land Court and the Judicial Review timings. The group led by DV's update once again had a lengthy and broad ranging discussion about the LC recommendation and possible outcomes. • Coal stocks on hand are nearing 100% of storage areas. With a combination of contributing factors influencing the methods in which NAC has been exporting coal, this last year there continues to be a very high level of product coal on hand for export. Last year's damage to the port coal handler, the recent rail derailment between Oakey & Jondaryan, scheduled power outages and some periods of rain in early winter have all contributed to increased coal stocks on hand and delays in getting product to port. NAC continue to work with Aurizon to ensure coal keeps moving towards the port • Mine mapping for remaining stage 2 coal stocks continues, current coal prices are at a higher level than the last few months and with the production stocks on hand the first quarter reporting is looking very positive • A question was posed around the amount (number) of voids to be left at the end of stage 2 mining, which led to a broad conversation around EIS requirements, mining logistics and business decisions; Dave Vink was able to confirm that the eventual shape of the mining area would be in line with current operations and the relevant legislative requirements • Dave Vink spoke to the group around ongoing media, company advocacy and extensive community discussions in relation to the S3 approvals process, the length of the application and the myriad local and regional implications that a 'no stage 3' scenario may have.
Acland Pastoral Company Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Vink provided the group an operational update on behalf of Acland Pastoral in relation to stocking rates, rotational grazing, calving or pregnancy tested in calf percentages as well as the recent increase in numbers of breeding females • Dave also discussed with the group the effectiveness of the recent and ongoing program to address tree pear and some box thorn, mostly through use of mulching equipment and a follow up spraying regime • An update was provided on the continued boundary fencing renewal program, as well as the added water infrastructure and baling of hay for stock feed supply with the conditions in the paddock continuing to dry off.
Community Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a recent baiting program in the Jondaryan area that has been conducted by community members, NAC / APC looking to do similar in coming weeks along the western side of it's acreage • Continued dry conditions (lack of rain) has heightened the risk of fire across the downs and all members to be mindful of this when conducting paddock operations (like welding fence assemblies, running machinery or attending to weeds/heavy grass with machinery or attachments)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group discussed the various recent and upcoming events being held locally and the expectation that Christmas will be upon us soon, leading to events like Santa Fair and the Oakey based Legends of League initiative • The recent flu season and other ongoing health issues has meant that the Oakey hospital is nearing capacity – another reminder for people to look after themselves and be on the lookout for those elderly members of their families • Numerous positive comments made about the manner in which the community and staff have been conducted themselves through what has been described as a heightened time of stress, with many families both on farms and in towns demonstrating concern over the possible loss of jobs and the knock on effect and impact on local businesses due to the continued delays and uncertainties around the stage three approval.
General Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support; the group again discussed the different levels and occurrences of Community support that has been seen by some of the members around the immediate local area in the weeks since the LC recommendations were delivered, and the impacts or knock on effects of the visual support amongst the community • Members talked about the difficulties some are finding in attracting timely attention from media outlets suggesting negative stories only seem to get responded to • Further broad discussion was had around groundwater as a follow on from the DV update . • The group discussed NAC's methods of engaging the immediate neighbours to the mine (Landholder breakfasts, info sessions, community days at the Acland hall or NAC mine site) • The broad topic of noise from the mine, both now and should Stage three go ahead was discussed, and some explanation given around the manner in which the mine operates to mitigate noise impacts and monitoring program that are in place • The recent train derailment was again raised and the subsequent increase in rail traffic – more trains being sourced to maintain supply to port, but there have been issues with QR re a bridge near Brisbane with questions around weight restrictions. DV spoke to the group around the complexities of weighing each train when they are loaded and then again prior to crossing the bridge to ensure requirements are met.
Actions Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DV to provide better map of mine plan in relation to how it may impact the Acland / Muldu Rd and update around possible impact to local traffic and possible timings of a closure to that road, if there was to be one • If possible information on the ground water model, as well as a snapshot of data provided in a recent DNRM update was available, the group had a general interest into the extent levels had recharged and timeframes over which that had happened • HW to provide data on NHG staff that live local to the area, to outline the extent to which people travel from and all the different areas that benefit from mining jobs – highlighting the diverse collection of individuals that work at the NAC operation • A request was made for a slide explaining how NAC address noise at the mine site be presented at the next meeting • A question was taken on notice in relation to trials that have been conducted with crops and the Wetalla water – could an update be provided?
Next Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 12th October 2017 – Oakey Hospital Recreational Room @ 5:30 pm