

Minutes of meeting

New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 6

Date: 29 July 2013

Time: 3.30pm

Location: Oakey Primary School

Apologies: Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health
Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Gray – RDA Darling Downs and SW Qld

Facilitator: Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development, USQ

Attendees: Barry Mason – Local Landholder
Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council
Dave Bosworth – Oakey State School
Chris McNally – Oakey State High School
Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland
Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise
Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training
Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce

New Hope Group Representatives: Jim Randell – New Acland General Manager
Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer
Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat

Agenda item Discussion

Item 1	Michael welcomed the group
Item 2	<p>Safety Share</p> <p>Discussion on driving safely in the fog conditions.</p>
Item 3	<p>Community feedback and input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dave Bosworth has received comments on the stockpiles at Jondaryan. Upon further conversation with the person, he felt that not all the information that they had was accurate. ▪ Greg Johnson advised that with the lead up to the election there was a great opportunity to highlight the significance of the Toowoomba region in relation to the mining, energy infrastructure and diversity of industries. ▪ Catherine Hull had heard of concerns of pay cuts to New Acland employees. Jim advised that this was not a fact, however West Moreton Operations had a shift restructure due to pressure to reduce costs. ▪ Sarah Due received a request to meet with the Jimbour Action Group. The CRG would like to extend an invitation to attend a meeting if they have any particular concerns. Sarah has also received concerns in relation to the water levels if Stage III goes ahead. Jim Randell advised that NHG has been monitoring bores from the beginning of mining at New Acland with no major reductions. He informed the group that New Hope has recently undertaken more monitoring after permission was sought from neighbours as part of the EIS for Stage III. If anyone knew of landholders with specific concerns he was happy to discuss further with the landowner. Sarah requested an update on dust monitoring results for a member's property. ▪ Barry Mason attended the fundraising breakfast that New Acland held for the St Vinnie's Sleep-out. Barry also questioned TRC in relation to the lighting in Acland Township. ▪ Nancy Sommerfield briefly discussed the dust monitoring study at Jondaryan. NHG welcomed the study by an external group and was confident of the outcome. ▪ Chris McNally discussed a meeting between New Acland and the Oakey High School regarding a partnership opportunity. He expressed that he was getting frustrated with some of the processes; however, things were back on track after the meeting. The school and the mine have come to an agreement on employment related opportunities for the High School. Michael Cuthill suggested contacting other schools that had similar relationships. ▪ Shane Charles advised that the TSBE had published an investment magazine for the region. ▪ No response from the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA) on meeting with members. Jim stated that he would welcome the opportunity to show the OCAA the mine and engage in conversation.
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Item 4	<p>New Hope Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activity is continuing on the Stage III EIS submission. This includes the Social Impact Assessment which members contributed to at the previous meeting. ▪ Prices have dropped for coal however the New Hope Group is confident it will be able to keep costs down and maintain current employees. ▪ New Acland Information Campaign is about to be launched. This campaign aims to share information with the community regarding New Acland's land rehabilitation practices, employment and economic contribution, and community benefits.

Agenda item Discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public tours will start in August. These tours are open to local residents interested in seeing the mine. People on the tour will be given a presentation in the Acland Hall about New Hope and the mine, before going on a bus to see the current operations. ▪ Stage 2 of the grazing trials about to commence. The trials are conducted by Outcross in conjunction with USQ. ▪ A five year plan for the Acland Pastoral Company is under development. The plan will look at the resources and opportunities for the 10,000 ha which is owned by the company. ▪ Jim advised of a change of his role to include all of the New Hope Operations. Andrew McDonald will be New Acland General Manager.
Action:	
Item 6	<p>Community Investment Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helen requested feedback on the recently circulated Draft Community Investment Fund. ▪ The Fund will concentrate on community development projects that deliver long term, sustainable outcomes for the communities surrounding the New Acland Coal Mine. ▪ The group made a range of suggestions which are going to be considered by New Hope. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael mentioned that indigenous had not been specifically mentioned. ○ Some clarity required in documents including criteria, Darling Downs Community includes a broader area, business community and chambers should be included. ○ Suggested a community planning session could assist in identifying needs. ▪ Helen reiterated that the CRG was an important part of the Fund. In particular, their recommendations for projects which will be beneficial for the community. The group discussed the process for assessing applications which will be recommended. ▪ A decision was made that a sub-committee of the CRG would be established to review and short list applications. Final recommendations would then be decided upon by the group. ▪ Time is to be allocated at the next meeting for an update on the fund
Next meeting	<p>Next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3.30 pm – 9 September. New venue needed, CRG members will be notified of location. ● Consideration to be given to alternate attendees. ● Darling Downs Regional Plan consultation will be finalised at the end of September.
Meeting close	Meeting closed at: 5.30pm