

Minutes of meeting

New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number:	8
Date:	21 October 2013
Time:	3.30pm
Location:	Oakey RSL Function Room
Apologies:	Sarah Due – AgForce Queensland Shane Charles – Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Greg Johnson – Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Nancy Sommerfield – Toowoomba Regional Council Chris McNally – Oakey State High School
Facilitator:	Michael Cuthill – Australian Centre for sustainable Business and Development, USQ
Attendees:	Matthew Boyd – Queensland Health Catherine Hull – Downs Group Training Andrew Langton – Oakey Chamber of Commerce
New Hope Group Representatives:	Bruce Denney – Observer Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining Helen Braithwaite – Community Liaison Officer Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat

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Item 1	Michael welcomed the group Continue meeting however limited numbers were able to attend
Item 2	Safety Share Bruce Denney reminded everyone of being aware of snakes when gardening. Jim Randell advised that during a routine inspection a truck that came onto site had a cracked rim and that it is important to take the time to inspect rims on vehicles.
Item 3	Community feedback and input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Investment Fund had received a large number of applications and is being well supported in the community. ▪ Jim advised the group that despite recent media, New Hope has every intention of moving the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility should the New Acland project be approved. If members of the public have concerns, please feel free to contact New Hope for further detail. ▪ The Oakey Hospital new garden was recently opened with support from the community, Rotary, local business and New Hope. Everyone is encouraged to wander through the gardens if visiting.
Actions:	
Item 4	New Hope Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coal prices continue to fall or remain flat while the US\$ has been going in the wrong direction. Our response is to continue to address costs in our business. Despite these pressures, at this time we are still able to offer security to our employees. • One of the ways we are addressing costs is to trial a new piece of mining equipment called a Wirtgen Miner. The Wirtgen Miner is a larger version of the machines used in road work. At this stage, New Hope is still trialling the machine, however, we expect that the machine will allow more efficient recovery of the thin seams. • The mine also has some new Caterpillar 793 trucks. These trucks carry approximately 230 tonnes. The trucks will assist in reducing operational costs and noise. • New Hope is continuing to look at ways to minimise noise. In particular, addressing the noise inversions that occur in colder months. Some of the mitigation measures that the company is currently doing or planning to do include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving M1 Road and installing earth berms ○ Planting trees screens around the mine ○ Management of noise level through the design of the mining sequence ○ Installing noise suppression on mining equipment ○ Using ‘cricket’ reversing alarms, which use a frequency of sound that is loud when in close proximity, however, doesn’t travel long distances. ○ Installing track slaps to dozers. • As with the 2012 Christmas, New Hope intends to close the mine over the Christmas period. • Rehabilitation has commenced in south pit of the mine. This is the area that can be seen from the Oakey Cooyar Road. • The New Acland Project EIS has been submitted to the State Government. It is expected that it will be released for public comment by the end of the year. Over the coming month, New Hope will be engaging with potentially impacted neighbours and landholders in the area. • Clarification was given in regard to the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility (JRLF) and recent stories in

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	<p>the paper. New Hope is still committed to moving the JRLF should the New Acland Project be approved. The withdrawn development authority was in relation to some smaller changes planned at the facility, which will no longer take place due to current economic pressures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHG tabled a letter that was forwarded to NHG. The letter, from local activist groups, has been sent to schools in the area and raised concerns around dust. As discussed at previous meetings NHG continues to remain open for discussions with the activist group and previously an invitation to present at the CRG was made. • There have been some concerns regarding tenants in New Hope rental properties. NHG is investigating the concerns and will take appropriate actions to remedy any issues. • Security around site on weekends has been organised. • Public tours at New Acland are continuing with great success. Between the public tours and group tours, there have been approximately 1500 visitors to mine in the last twelve months. We will be slowing down the number of tours over the hotter summer months, as rainfall can cancel tours at short notice. • Acland Pastoral Company (APC) recently donated a few hundred cattle to the Brymaroo camp draft. All accounts report that the event was very successful. • As previously mentioned, a feral animal baiting program recently occurred. The program was initiated with TRC and included local landholders, including APC. Further feral animal programs are now being investigated with Agforce. • New Hope will be continuing to discuss work experience opportunities with the Oakey State High School • CRG Applications closed on 18 October with 23 nominations received from a cross section of the community. Representation of numbers within the community and the relevance to the local community will be considered. All selection will be done through a fair and reasonable process.
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Action:

Item 6	<p>Community Investment Fund (CIF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CRG CIF Subcommittee has reviewed a large number of strong applications. A short list of projects has been developed based on criteria such as, project location and community needs addressed. ▪ The short listed projects will be discussed at the first meeting of the new CRG term. At this meeting recommended projects will be finalised for New Hope’s final decision. ▪ Prior to this meeting, a summary of project applications will be forwarded to CRG members for review. ▪ The next round for the New Acland Community Investment Fund will close on 30 March 2014. Applications can be submitted at any time between now and 30 March 2014
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Item 7	<p>Bruce Denney thanked all the Community Reference Group members for their contribution and the opportunity to be a conduit for two way communication between the mine and community. Bruce explained that the previous year had been a good first step, however, going forward NHG would like the CRG to move from being a mine centric group to more community focused group with NHG involvement. NHG will continue to provide secretariat and organising services.</p> <p>Bruce recognised that members have been lobbied by external groups and NHG understands and respects the way it has been handled.</p> <p>The Community Investment Fund will allow investment in projects that will deliver long term, sustainable outcomes for the community. The NHG Sponsorship and Donation program will continue to operate alongside the CIF.</p>
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	<p>New Hope stated that the company would be very interested to hear input from the group, as to where the CRG moved to from here.</p> <p>Bruce presented the members with a gift in appreciation of the CRG process.</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for next meeting dependent on finalising the new CRG nominations.
<p>Meeting close</p>	<p>Meeting closed at: 4.45pm</p>

The minutes of all New Acland CRG meetings will be recorded and published within 30 days of a meeting. All CRG members are required to review and comment on minutes within one week prior to publishing.