



MINUTES

Mining Taskforce Meeting
 Tuesday 17 February 2015
 10.00 pm Committee Room
 180 Mort St Lithgow

Mining Taskforce Meeting	
Item	Agenda
1	Present and Apologies
2	Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
3	Council Report on Mining Taskforce Meeting 1 December 2014
4	Charter of the committee
5	Angus Place update (extension of employment)
6	Springvale Project (assessment process update)

7	Approval process and update on remaining Centennial mines in the Lithgow LGA
8	Contractual developments between Energy Australia and Centennial Coal
9	Feedback from correspondence to date
10	Sale of Baal Bone Colliery
11	Mt Piper Power Station
12	Information feedback to employees at the mines
13	Support of the community, information flow, media
14	Next Meeting

ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Maree Statham (Chair), Councillor Ray Thompson, Councillor Wayne McAndrew, Katie Brassil, Graeme Osborne

Apologies: Steve Galilee

Officers: Roger Bailey, Matthew Brewster

Declaration of Interests: NIL

**ITEM 2: DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT, REGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

SUMMARY

Presentation by the Department of Trade and Investment.

COMMENTARY

Introduction of Tania Stark (McShane) a Community Liaison Officer from the Division of Resources and Energy of the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

The Division has engaged a team of regionally based Community Liaison Officers to work in communities across NSW with a particular focus in mining and energy.

In order to understand and address the issues emerging out of this environment, individuals and organisations, and governments, are becoming increasingly dependent on sharing knowledge and working together.

The Division of Resources and Energy has increased its role in the stakeholder engagement process on the ground.

The role of this team is to act as a conduit between stakeholders and the industry and importantly, to support the role of Local Government.

A key part of that role is to increase access to relevant NSW Government agencies and provide transparent and factual communication about what is happening in these regions.

Tania's area of responsibility includes working with stakeholders in thirteen LGA's across the mid to central western areas including the Lithgow area.

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce thanked Ms Stark for her contribution.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

Ms Stark remained for the rest of the meeting.

ITEM 3: COUNCIL REPORT ON MINING TASKFORCE - MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2014

The report that was presented to the Council meeting on 1 December 2014 was provided to the Mining Taskforce for their information.

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce noted the report to Council.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

ITEM 4: MINING TASKFORCE CHARTER

COMMENTARY

According to the Council resolution the Mining Taskforce has been established to:

- Promote coal mining in our region.
- Lobby the State and Federal Governments around issues confronting coal mining in the region including but not limited to, local coal supplies to Mt Piper and planning and environment concerns restricting mining.

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce's charter be noted.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

ITEM 5: ANGUS PLACE UPDATE (EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT)

Katie Brassil informed the Taskforce that the current 77 employees working on the Angus Place Colliery have had their employment extended until the end of March 2015. Several of these will then stay on for care and maintenance of the mine.

ACTION

THAT

The information on the Angus Place Colliery be noted.

MOVED: Clr Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

ITEM 6: SPRINGVALE PROJECT – ASSESSMENT PROCESS UPDATE

Katie Brassil advised the Taskforce that the NSW State Government is very aware of the need for a timely approval. Legislative changes are required to meet water licensing requirements. Water quality and quantity is of a level not acceptable to the EPA. To achieve the EPA levels is uneconomic. Discussions with the EPA and Planning to achieve an acceptable outcome are ongoing.

Centennial Coal is working to ensure that there is continuity of mining operations.

Centennial may modify its current consent to extend operations.

ACTION

THAT the information on the Springvale Project be noted.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

ITEM 7: APPROVAL PROCESS AND UPDATE ON REMAINING CENTENNIAL MINES IN THE LITHGOW LGA

Advice was provided in relation to:

- **Clarence** is looking at new reject emplacement area
- Flexible Conveyor train refurbish
- **Airly** - looking at ways of ramping Airly up.
- **Inglenook** - continuing exploration

ACTION

THAT the information in relation to various Centennial projects be noted.

MOVED: Cllr Wayne McAndrew **SECONDED:** Graeme Osborne

ITEM 8: CONTRACTUAL DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN ENERGY AUSTRALIA AND CENTENNIAL COAL

The Taskforce was advised that negotiations are continuing.

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce noted the position with negotiations on coal contracts.

MOVED: Cllr Ray Thompson **SECONDED:** Graeme Osborne

ITEM 9: FEEDBACK FROM CORRESPONDENCE TO DATE

The Taskforce was provided with a summary of the responses to date to the various correspondence sent by Council.

ACTION

THAT the summary of correspondence be noted.

MOVED: Clr Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Graeme Osborne

ITEM 10: SALE OF BAAL BONE COLLIERY

It is understood the Colliery is subject to a sales process.

Glencore sought, and has been granted by the NSW Department of Planning, a modification for the Baal Bone Coal Project to extend the time allowed for extraction of the remaining remnant coal by 5 years to enable areas of coal currently approved for mining to be extracted. Modification of consent for 5 years has been granted.

ACTION

THAT the information on the Baal Bone Colliery be noted.

MOVED: Clr Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

ITEM 11: MT PIPER POWER STATION

Discussion was held on the Mt Piper Power Station

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce obtain information about the National Energy Market and how it operates to better understand Mt Piper's future.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

ITEM 12: INFORMATION FEEDBACK TO EMPLOYEES AT THE MINES

The Taskforce was advised of the Centennial Coal communication mechanisms to advise employees in relation to progress with different projects.

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce note the communication plans for staff at Centennial Coal.

MOVED: Clr Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

ITEM 13: SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, INFORMATION FLOW, MEDIA

The Taskforce noted the actions taken so far by the Taskforce, including;

- The holding of the Centennial Coal supplier meeting.
- Flow of correspondence to politicians
- Update on outstanding issues e.g Planning consents
- That the CFMEU is planning a community meeting in early March
- Deputation to the Minister for Resources and Energy

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce note the actions taken so far in response to the Taskforce's requests.

MOVED: Clr Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

ITEM 14: GARDENS OF STONE

The Taskforce discussed the potential impact of any expansion of the Gardens of Stone on mining operations in the area.

At its November meeting Council resolved to:

4. Maintain its opposition to the expansion of the Gardens of Stone National Park
5. Write to the NSW Opposition in relation to Gardens of Stone seeking a commitment that it will not expand the National Park

ACTION

THAT the Taskforce note potential impact on mining should there be an expansion of the Gardens of Stone.

MOVED: Clr Wayne McAndrew

SECONDED: Clr Ray Thompson

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.54pm.