



MINUTES

Mining Taskforce Meeting

Wednesday 6 May 2015

2.15 pm Committee Room

180 Mort St Lithgow

Name of Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome/present/apologies
2	Progress of the Centennial Coal Application for the Springvale Mine
3	Progress on Other Mine Applications
4	Proposed meeting with the Hon. Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning
5	Draft Minerals Industry Action Plan
6	Outcomes from the Union Organised Community Public Meeting held on 10 March 2015
7	Baal Bone Colliery
8	Summary of Correspondence Sent/Received By Council
9	Next meeting



ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Steve Galilee, Councillor Wayne McAndrew

Officers: Roger Bailey, Matthew Brewster

Declaration of Interests: NIL

ITEM: 2 PROGRESS OF THE CENTENNIAL COAL APPLICATION FOR THE SPRINGVALE MINE

Ms Katie Brassil from Centennial Coal to provided an update on the progress with the application for extension for the Springvale Mine.

Springvale is currently extracting Long Wall 417. The extraction of 417 will be complete by the end of June. There will then be a longwall changeover to LW418 (approximately 5 weeks). Federal approval is in place to develop LW 418 but not to extract. It is anticipated Springvale will be ready to extract LW 418 by mid August 2015.

A PAC hearing has been scheduled to be held on 27 May 2015. This will include public submissions and opportunity for interested persons to speak. The PAC review process is expected to take 8-9 weeks.

When the PAC makes a final determination this triggers the federal EPBC process. There is a statutory 30 business days to complete the EPBC process. Additional information may evoke stop the clock provisions under this process.

If the appropriate state and federal approvals are not in place by mid-August Springvale will lose longwall continuity. The EPBC Act needs to be a reform.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note report in relation to the update on the application for extension of the Springvale Mine.

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

ITEM: 3 PROGRESS ON OTHER MINING APPLICATIONS

Ms Katie Brassil from Centennial Coal provided an update on the progress with other mining applications by Centennial Coal.

No issues anticipated at Airly Mine. No critical issues at Angus Place at this point.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note Information on the progress of other mining applications by Centennial Coal.

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

ITEM: 4 PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE HON. ROB STOKES, MINISTER FOR PLANNING

SUMMARY

Council wrote to Minister Pru Goward on 22 December 2014 seeking a meeting in relation to the Springvale Mine. Minister Goward responded in a letter dated 5 March 2015.

Following the 2015 State Election a letter was sent to the new Minister, the Hon Rob Stokes, seeking a meeting.

A Meeting Disclosure Form has been completed and returned. Meeting Disclosure Form was submitted on 14 April 2015.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note that a meeting is currently being scheduled for 18 May 2015 with Minister Stokes and that formal advice is yet to be provided.

MOVED: Councillor Ray Thompson **SECONDED:** Katie Brassil

ITEM: 5 DRAFT MINERALS INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

The Minerals Industry Taskforce was established in May 2014 by the NSW Minister for Resources and Energy to deliver an Industry Action Plan with strategies to address the challenges being faced by the NSW minerals industry, and to drive growth, innovation and productivity in the industry.

The Minerals Taskforce is chaired by Rob Adamson, Managing Director, RFC Ambrian. Other members are industry players representing explorers, miners, industry associations, employees, university research and regional business.

The Taskforce has proposed 12 recommendations around three priority areas of focus:

- Transparent process and integrated policy
- Fiscal certainty
- Developing skills and providing supporting infrastructure

The proposed strategies in the draft Action Plan seek to support long-term investment in, and the sustainability of, the industry, and to increase the value of mineral production by 30% by 2020, which is the target in the NSW 2021 State Plan.

Recommendations:

1. Address serious identified deficiencies in the way the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) operates. Immediate steps include:
 - i. Remove the PAC, or at the very least reform the PAC, to return decision-making to the elected Government.
 - ii. Ensure that projects undergo only one rigorous and thorough review process and are not subject to further merits-based review.
 - iii. If the PAC is to be retained, the comprehensive package of vital reforms is to include;
 - a. Return of decision-making authority to the elected government.
 - b. Finalisation of clear policy parameters for project assessment.
 - c. Tighten the scope for any PAC assessment
 - d. Introduction of clear timeframes for PAC processes.
 - e. Reform of the PAC referral and hearing processes.
2. Establish a lead agency that has the authority, capability and sufficient powers to drive cross agency decisions within agreed timeframes. This includes any powers required to ensure administrative processes are undertaken and decisions made within agreed timeframes.
3. Streamline the decision-making processes for exploration and mining activity and address policy gaps, with long-term emphasis on:
 - a. Implementing outcomes and risk based regulation.
 - b. Providing greater certainty in approach.Immediate steps include:
 - i. Implementation of the Integrated Mining Policy including all supporting policy materials, in particular, guidelines for economic assessment, voluntary planning agreements and biodiversity offset.
 - ii. Re-introducing a broad based modification power for State significant development into the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

4. The NSW Government to demonstrate excellence in service delivery for and regulation of the resource sector. Immediate steps include:
 - i. Establish and publish robust key performance indicators for all agency and independent approvals processes with a commitment to improve timeliness of decision-making.
 - ii. Develop an online system to enable titles application lodgement and tracking of exploration permits and mining leases, to simplify the application process and increase transparency for everyone in the community.
 - iii. NSW Government to re-affirm its commitment to continued consultation with the industry on potential changes to policy or regulation that would have the potential to materially affect the mining sector.
5. The NSW Government to clearly communicate the comprehensiveness of its regulatory regime and the high regulatory and safety standards and strong environmental protection it provides. Immediate steps include:
 - i. Enhance stakeholder accessibility to clear factual information, with options to access this either directly or via subscription.
 - ii. Improve availability of environmental information, including through an online environmental database.
6. The Industry and NSW Government to continue to improve community engagement, including through public information available on how exploration and mining activities are being managed to minimise impacts, and actions being taken to address community concerns. Immediate steps include:
 - i. The ongoing deployment of Community Liaison Officers by NSW Trade & Investment, and wider utilisation of other source of public information from the NSW Government.
 - ii. Continued focus by industry on enhanced community engagement, particularly in mining regions, through forums like the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.
7. The NSW Government is committed to not increasing the ad valorem royalty rate for the next 25 years.
8. The NSW Government to commit to consolidating the overall number of fees and levies charged to companies in NSW that undertake (a) exploration activities, and/or (b) mine production and reducing these fees and levies in real terms over the long term.
9. Industry, NSW Government, and skills and training sectors work together to provide the skilled workforce for a competitive and growing minerals industry through:
 - a. Direct industry engagement and input into the NSW skills and training system.
 - b. A shared view of current and future skills and training needs of the minerals industry.
 - c. NSW Government and training sector continued commitment to quality skills and training.
10. The NSW Government commit to invest in the availability, accessibility and promotion of, pre-competitive geosciences information to current and potential explorers in Australia and overseas.

11. Research, Industry, and Government to work together and fund research centres in three priority areas:
 - a. Deep cover exploration.
 - b. Mining operations productivity.
 - c. Low emission energy technology.

12. NSW and Commonwealth Governments to continue to work together to boost the competitiveness of the freight network by:
 - a. Ongoing investment to remove bottlenecks.
 - b. Regulatory agencies covering the freight networks recognise the national significance of the minerals industry

Submissions on the Taskforce's final Industry Action Plan were to be made by Friday, 19 December 2014.

A submission was made by Council.

The latest information on the progress of the Draft Minerals Industry Action Plan is that it is with the NSW State Government for a response.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note that a response is being awaited from the NSW State Government in relation to the Draft Minerals Industry Action Plan.

MOVED: Councillor Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Graeme Osborne

ITEM: 6 OUTCOMES FROM THE UNION ORGANISED COMMUNITY PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2015

A letter was received from The United Mineworkers South Western District in relation to the outcomes from Union organized public meeting.

A further draft letter was tabled from the Union to Luke Foley, leader of the NSW Opposition..

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the:

- The tabling of the draft letter to Luke Foley
- Letter from United Mineworkers South Western District

MOVED: Katie Brassil

SECONDED: Councillor Ray Thompson

ITEM: 7 BAAL BONE COLLIERY

For discussion if there are any updates.

NIL

ITEM: 8 SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT/RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

SUMMARY

Attached is the latest summary of correspondence sent and received by Council. This is for the period 17 February 2015 to 30 April 2015.

ACTION

THAT the Committee note the Summary of Correspondence.

MOVED: Councillor Ray Thompson

SECONDED: Graeme Osborne

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING:

Next Meeting: Set as required

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.20pm