

Coal Mine Emergency Management Taskforce – Surf Coast

Meeting # 4 – 28 May 2015 – Surf Coast Shire Offices

MEETING OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

Attendees:

Craig Lapsley	EMC (Chair) (Phone hook-up)	Ross McGowan	DEDJTR	Margot Smith	Surf Coast Shire Council
Warren Sharp	Alcoa	Bessie Abbott	DEDJTR	Rowan McKenzie	Surf Coast Shire Council
Chris Rolland	Alcoa	Emma Fenby	DPC	Kate Sullivan	Surf Coast Shire Council
Lisa Mills	Alcoa	Peter Schmidt	EMV	Rob Kelly	VWA
Wayne Almyer	CFA	Alison Muscroft	EPA		

Apology:

Kate Betts	Alcoa	Mick McGuinness	CFA	Virginia Morris	Surf Coast Shire Council
Christopher Walschots	Worksafe	David Rourke	DELWP		

Guests:

Steve Gleeson DPC & Brian Hine DPC

	Issue Topic	Points of Discussion	Agreement / Action	R/O
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES			
1.1		The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members and noted apologies. The Chair welcomed Steve Gleeson DPC & Brian Hine from DPC.	Noted	
2	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES			
2.1	Actions outstanding and	Peter Schmidt provided a general update on actions since the		

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	arising	previous meeting including on risk mitigation works undertaken at Alcoa to be discussed further during the meeting.		
3	ALCOA STATUS			
3.1	Closure announcement – short term focus	<p><u>Warren Sharp</u> advised that at 9.00am on the 2 May 2015 Alcoa announced that sale process had been unsuccessful and the mine and power station will close on or before 31 August 2015.</p> <p>Since the announcement Alcoa has been focusing on staff safety and welfare - supporting them in any way practicable over the next few months.</p> <p>Up until the announcement, Anglesea had been operating as if the sale process would be successful. The technical shut down and closure plans have now commenced.</p>		
3.2	Longer term horizons	<p>Warren further advised that the framework for rehabilitation exists as part of the mine plan but how this actually looks on the ground requires a lot more work in collaboration with all the relevant regulators and stakeholders. Alcoa will be there until the end of the rehabilitation process and will continue to manage the fire risks.</p> <p>Looking forward, it is unclear what the Alcoa workforce look like over the rehabilitation process.</p> <p>Alcoa will still plan and prepare for 15/16 fire season. There should</p>		

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		<p>be no exposed coal in the mine and all stockpiles will be used before 31 August 2015.</p> <p><u>Chris Rolland</u> advised that since the last meeting, Alcoa's been learning from the Hazelwood fire experience. Alcoa have reviewed its mine fire risk assessments in light of the Hazelwood fire and made changes accordingly including working with CFA to update relevant procedures.</p> <p>A small area of the mine will remain active until the closure and the remainder be covered over which will substantially address the fire risks and we will document an explanation on how the fire risks will be managed into the longer term. There is likely to be some external verification process along with that.</p> <p>Peter reminded the Taskforce that compared to Latrobe Valley, where the mine areas are expanding, Anglesea's coal area has been successively rehabilitated and so it is more like moving the active mine around the larger mine area. This is another reason why the risks at Anglesea are much smaller than Hazelwood.</p>		
4	IMPLEMENTATION MONITOR TEAM (IMT)			
4.1	Reporting Process Update:	<p>Brian provided summary of the Team and their role. Lead by Neil Comrie supported by Steve Gleeson and Brian Hine.</p> <p><u>Brian Hine:</u> The IMT has been establishing relationships and reviewing</p>	The taskforce will be provided an opportunity to comment direct to the IMT on a draft	

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		<p>actions and collecting evidence that the changes needed to reduce risks are being made. The IMT will publish a final report after an open consultation process.</p> <p><u>Steve Gleeson</u>: IMT has also been doing site inspections of Hazelwood and Anglesea. Steve explained his role and background as a senior police officer and involvement in Bushfires Royal Commission and other emergency management roles.</p> <p>Between 12 June 2015 and 10 July 2015 taskforce members will be able to review a draft of the report. Then after the drafting and finalisation, the Premier will be asked to decide if it becomes a public document.</p>	report	
5	RE OPENING OF INQUIRY			
5.1		<p><u>Peter Schmidt</u> advised three important aspects in the terms of reference</p> <p><i>31 August 2015</i> – Reviewing fire risks at Anglesea as a priority to ensure proper preparations for this fire season.</p> <p><i>2 December 2015</i> – Reporting on reviewing the health impacts at Hazelwood and if a long term health study needed.</p> <p><i>15 March 2016</i> – Report on rehabilitation of all coal mines.</p> <p>There will also be an emergency management exercise pre 15/16</p>		

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		<p>season to test some of the learnings so far.</p> <p>The Anglesea group Surf Coast Air Action (SCAA) have been lobbying for a long term health study at Anglesea but we are not sure if the need for this will still be as strong post the Alcoa closure announcement.</p> <p><u>Emma Fenby</u> advised that there are consultations planned in Anglesea likely to in early July. Emma would appreciate any feedback on who should be consulted or contacted. They will include Alcoa in their consultations.</p>		
6	MINE, AGENCY AND SURF COAST UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS			
6.1		<p><u>Craig Lapsley</u>: Need to ensure that station is shut down safely and whether the mine is active or not, there needs to be a fire management plan in place.</p> <p><u>Chris Rolland</u>: Alcoa would like clarity on any communications needed from this group. Peter agreed and advised that EMV will take responsibility for this</p> <p><u>Margot Smith</u>: SCAA Community Group has arranged a meeting on future use of the area for 13 June 2015 at 2.00pm so it is important that we have consistent message for this meeting.</p> <p><u>Craig</u>: We need to manage community expectations for example, we</p>		

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		<p>could communicate what rehabilitation looks like in December 2015 and December 2016 etc.</p> <p><u>Warren:</u> Our target dates to cover the coal are quite ambitious but a priority will be to manage the fire risk.</p> <p><u>Rob:</u> Will continue to work with Alcoa on worker safety over the closure process.</p> <p><u>Emma:</u> The taskforce should be prepared for requests for information from the Inquiry.</p>		
7	NEXT MEETING	Probably sometime mid to third week in July. TBC		