



**NEW HOPE  
GROUP**

**NEW ACLAND COAL  
COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**August 2015**



# ACLAND GRAZING TRIALS SET INDUSTRY BENCHMARK

**THE LATEST RESULTS OF A SCIENTIFIC GRAZING TRIAL TO COMPARE THE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE OF REHABILITATED LAND WITH THAT OF UNMINED LAND AT ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY HAS CONTINUED THE TREND OF SHOWING REHABILITATED SITES CAN OUTPERFORM UNMINED LAND.**

Autumn grazing period 2015 was a 49 day graze.

The trials are being conducted by independent agricultural consultants Outcross Agri-Services based in Armidale with the assistance of University of Southern Queensland and other independent industry experts including pasture agronomists, soil scientists, a veterinarian and an independent statistician.

Tom Newsome from Outcross Agri-Services said the project design enabled a comparison of three years of rehabilitation with an unmined paddock.

“Three of the sites were previously mined and subsequently rehabilitated and sown to sub-tropical pastures; each representing a different age of rehabilitation (2007, 2010 and 2012 respectively) and pasture establishment,” he said.

An unmined paddock, sown to sub-tropical pastures in the same year as the youngest rehabilitated site (2012), was used as the control.

“Both the Rehab 3 and the control were sown down to a mix of sub-tropical grasses and legumes at the same time, incorporating the same establishment techniques,” Mr Newsome said.

“During each graze we calculate a site specific stocking rate that will enable the livestock to consume 10% of available pasture (utilisation rate). This is considered to be a sustainable grazing amount that enables the pasture to survive in the long term.

“We also aim to have a minimum graze period of 42 days to enable livestock to settle in to the site and to achieve meaningful results. Each site is grazed for the same number of days.

“Rehab site 2 was the highest performing site, followed by Rehab 1, Rehab 3 and the control having the lowest performance in this graze.

“This ranking was maintained independent of sex and heifers performed better than steers.

“Interestingly Rehab 2 has outperformed all other sites since this trial commenced in 2013.

“The average daily gain across rehabilitated sites for this particular graze was 0.20 compared with 0.07 kg/day on the unmined land, producing significantly more beef per hectare for this graze.

“As was expected though, the performance of cattle was lower to previous grazes in the trial due to frost affected sub-tropical pastures and a big rain event during that time.”

Acland Pastoral Company Manager Ben Muirhead said the cattle on each site are

split evenly between steers and heifers of the same breed, age and origin.

“The trial group were inducted on Tuesday 14 April with a two hour curfew period between mustering and weighing,” he said.

“The cattle were removed from the trial sites on Tuesday 2 June and weighed under the same curfew conditions.”

The performance of cattle was lower than expected on all sites. Weight gain was influenced by seasonal conditions and frost affected sub-tropical pastures.

The research project will span five years and 20 different grazing events to measure the performance of a range of rehabilitation sites both within and between seasons.

New Hope established the Acland Pastoral Company in 2006, as a farming, grazing and land management enterprise based at the New Acland mine.

In conjunction with grazing, APC grows both fodder and grain crops in suitable areas. Environmental areas are also managed to promote native species grass species such as Queensland Bluegrass and riparian areas along Lagoon Creek.

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Members of the public tour the New Acland Mine.

## THOUSANDS TOUR **NEW ACLAND MINE**

**ALMOST 3000 VISITORS HAVE TAKEN UP THE OFFER OF A SITE VISIT TO SEE THE NEW ACLAND MINE OPERATIONS FIRST-HAND, SINCE THE NEW HOPE GROUP THREW ITS DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

The tours offer visitors a close-up look at the company's mining and land rehabilitation operations.

Advertised public tours, which are open to anyone in the general public, are well attended averaging 35 to 40 people each tour.

Other tour groups, by request and invitation, attend from as far afield as overseas,

around Australia, Brisbane and come from a vast array of groups.

They included; neighbours of the New Acland Mine, media, corporates, universities, Chambers of Commerce, business groups, schools (public and private), government Ministers and bureaucrats, industry, environmental groups, Landcare groups, community groups – including Men's Sheds and caravanning groups.

New Hope's Executive General Manager of Mining Jim Randell said although it takes a lot of resources to accommodate the tours, the company is committed to being open and transparent in the public domain.

"With so many myths and misinformation out there in the public domain about coal mining in general and our operations specifically, I think it's very important that everyone gets an opportunity to see first-hand how things are done here," he said.

"Furthermore – we are very proud of our operations, how we go about them and the benefit to the local and regional communities."

Public tours of the mine are conducted on a regular basis. To register your interest please contact the New Acland Mine on (07) 4694 8801 or the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey or on (07) 4691 3445.

## JONDARYAN COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

**MEMBERS OF THE NEW HOPE GROUP TEAM HAVE MET WITH A NUMBER OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AT THE JONDARYAN COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.**

Held on the first Thursday of every month at the Jondaryan Hall, the regular sessions are an opportunity for Jondaryan community members to speak directly to the New Hope Group team about the revised New Acland Stage 3 Project.

As part of the revised New Acland Stage 3 Project plan, the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility (JRLF) will be relocated from near Jondaryan to a site on the mining lease area, some 8 kilometres away from Jondaryan.

New Hope undertakes air quality monitoring as part of the environmental modelling for the JRLF.

Two Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) dust monitoring systems provide accurate 24 hour a day monitoring.

The air quality data is made available to the Jondaryan community, and can be found at [www.aclandproject.com.au](http://www.aclandproject.com.au)

## REVISED PROJECT TIMELINE

| Activity  | Anticipated Timeframe |
|---|-----------------------|
| Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) advertised for public comment    | January 2013          |
| Environmental Impact Statement ToR approved                     | March 2013            |
| Environmental Impact Statement submitted                        | December 2013         |
| Environmental Impact Statement public comment period            | February 2014         |
| Additional Environmental Impact Statement public comment period | September 2014        |
| Coordinator-General's report and approval                       | December 2014         |
| Federal Government approval decision                            | In progress           |
| Construction (if approved)                                      | Between 2016 and 2017 |



New Hope's Jim Randell, CRG member Graham Cooke, with Wendy Dux, Michelle Crawford and Roberta Vaughan representing the Friends of McDonald Nursing Home.

New Hope's Jim Randell, CRG member Barry Mason, with Barry Byrne and Damien Cooke representing the Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade.

## LOCAL INVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

### COMMUNITY GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO SEVEN LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AS PART OF THE NEW ACLAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND.

Among the beneficiaries are the Friends of McDonald Nursing Home in Oakey, Kingsthorpe and District War Memorial Hall Committee, Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade, World Karate and Kickboxing Association, Quinalow State School P&C Association, Maclagan-Windermere Kindergarten and Oakey State School P&C Association.

New Hope's Senior Community Advisor Helen Braithwaite said the company was proud to support and partner with local community groups.

"This funding round, we will help the Friends of McDonald Nursing Home with the refurbishment of the palliative care room at the Oakey Hospital," she said.

"The Kingsthorpe and District War Memorial Hall Committee will receive assistance to purchase new chairs for the hall which meet health and safety requirements.

"We will also help the Quinalow State School P&C Association to install a new outdoor play structure for lower primary school students.

"The World Karate and Kickboxing Association will receive support to purchase new martial arts equipment to be used by local students and the broader Oakey community.

"New Hope will also help the Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade to improve their

communications and command room especially during emergencies where power has been interrupted.

"The Maclagan-Windermere Kindergarten will receive assistance to undertake its external painting and reroofing project.

"And finally, we will support the Oakey State School P&C to continue the Steps into Prep program which aims to provide low cost pre-prep training for children transitioning into Oakey State School."

The Community Investment Fund was launched in August 2013, and is in addition to the New Hope Group's substantial Community Sponsorship and Donation Program.

The New Acland Community Investment Fund assists not-for-profit community groups and organisations to develop long-term outcomes for communities around the New Acland Coal Mine.

Not-for-profit community groups and organisations within the Toowoomba Regional Council area are eligible to apply for grants of \$10,000 or more under the Fund.

Applications to the Fund are welcome at any time; however eligible organisations are invited to submit an application before 30 September to be considered for the next round of funding.

**For more information please visit Helen Braithwaite and Naomi Tonscheck at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey, or phone 4691 3445.**

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE OPENING HOURS

NEW HOPE'S COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE IS THE PLACE TO GO FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEW ACLAND COAL MINE AND THE NEW ACLAND REVISED STAGE 3 PROJECT.

### The Centre is open on:

Mondays from 9am to 5pm,  
Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm,  
Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm and  
Closed on Fridays.

If you are unable to visit the centre during those hours, we are happy to organise an alternative time to meet or speak with you.

## ENQUIRIES, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

**YOU CAN LODGE YOUR ENQUIRIES, CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE NEW ACLAND COAL MINE AND ITS OPERATIONS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:**

### Call:

1800 882 142 – your call will be answered during business hours, or you can leave your return call details outside of business hours;

### Email:

[community@newhopegroup.com.au](mailto:community@newhopegroup.com.au)

### Visit:

The New Hope Community Information Centre at 90/88 Campbell Street, Oakey.

*We are always happy to hear from you.*

# ACLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN SURVEY



Acland No. 2 Colliery



Acland War Memorial

## NEW HOPE IS SEEKING INPUT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON ASPECTS OF THE ACLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The Acland Management Plan outlines the planned management of the Acland township area.

Under the plan, the Acland town area including the Tom Doherty Park, War Memorial and Acland No. 2 Colliery will be left in place.

New Hope will maintain these properties to ensure their preservation into the future.

Permanent access and utility services to Acland will be maintained over the life of the Project.

In addition, New Hope will maintain and tidy up land as required, including the planting of trees around the township.

New Hope has conducted extensive consultation with the community about the Acland Management Plan, including

community information sessions, EIS/AEIS engagement and through the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.

Throughout consultation, the community has had an opportunity to comment on the Plan, and New Hope is now seeking input from the community on which options they would prefer to be incorporated into the Acland Management Plan.

Please rank your preferences from 1 to 4, and return the form to the New Hope Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey or by email to [community@newhopegroup.com.au](mailto:community@newhopegroup.com.au).

- Creation of an Acland Heritage Walk, with markers for key aspects of the town.
- An Acland History board, possibly located in the park or Acland No. 2 Colliery facilities location, detailing the history of Acland.
- An Acland Environmental Workshop, providing locals an opportunity to view and experience environmental, operational and rehabilitation practices first-hand.
- Special New Acland Mine tours for locals which include a visit to the Acland No. 2 Colliery facilities.

### CONTACT

- ▶ Free call 1800 882 142
- ▶ PO Box 47, Ipswich, Qld 4305
- ▶ [community@newhopegroup.com.au](mailto:community@newhopegroup.com.au)
- ▶ [www.aclandproject.com.au](http://www.aclandproject.com.au)
- ▶ New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell St, Oakey

*New Hope has prepared this newsletter to keep the community informed about the New Acland Mine operations and initiatives.*

