



**NEW HOPE
GROUP**

**NEW ACLAND
COMMUNITY UPDATE**

December 2013



Crops on rehabilitated land being inspected at New Acland.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS

NEW HOPE RELEASED A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE REVISED NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT TO THE OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR GENERAL IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

The draft EIS is now being reviewed to ensure it has addressed matters raised in the Terms of Reference (ToR), which included comments from community members.

The final version of the EIS is expected to be publicly released in early 2014.

“Once the final EIS is released it will be again another opportunity for the community to review the document and give their feedback on any matters,” New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said.

“Hard copies of the EIS will then be available to read in several local community centres such as libraries and council offices throughout the region, plus copies will also be available at our New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.”

Key features of the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project plan include:

- The Acland town area, including the Tom Doherty Park, the War Memorial and the Acland No 2 Colliery, would be left in place. Permanent access and utility services to Acland will be

maintained over the life of the revised Project.

- The closest point of potential mining operations will be located at least 10km away from the township of Oakey, compared with 7km as previously proposed.
- From the original Stage 3 proposal, there will be an overall reduction in the total amount of land disturbed for mining activities by more than half.
- The train loading facility will be relocated from near Jondaryan to a remote site on the mining lease area.
- The new plans will also ensure that Lagoon Creek is not diverted. Operations will continue to be self-sufficient for water, with water continuing to be purchased from Toowoomba’s Wetalla Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Only around 20% of the Wetalla water is purchased by New Hope.
- Production levels from the New Acland operation under the revised project will be reduced by at least 25%, from the originally proposed 10mtpa.

COAL DUST PLAN

A comprehensive coal dust management plan for the south-west and metropolitan rail corridor has been released in conjunction with a peer-reviewed final report of air quality monitoring from Oakey to the Port of Brisbane.

“This is not about drawing a line under dust management as an issue but establishing a base from which industry can continue to meet and hopefully exceed community expectations,” said Queensland Resources Council Chief Executive Michael Roche.

“The facts about dust on the South West-Metropolitan rail corridor have now been collected, collated and analysed to the satisfaction of the most respected scientists in the country.”

Earlier this year, the South West Users’ Group which includes New Hope, other coal producers and supply chain service providers commissioned air quality scientists at the Department of Science, Information Technology and the Arts (DSITIA) to independently assess both health and nuisance impacts of dust from all sources at six sites along the corridor.

Mr Roche said the final report found that on all metrics (before and after veneering) rail corridor dust levels were well within government air quality targets and Australian standards.

The DSITIA report is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website.



www.
ehp.qld.gov.au

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CHANGES AT NEW ACLAND

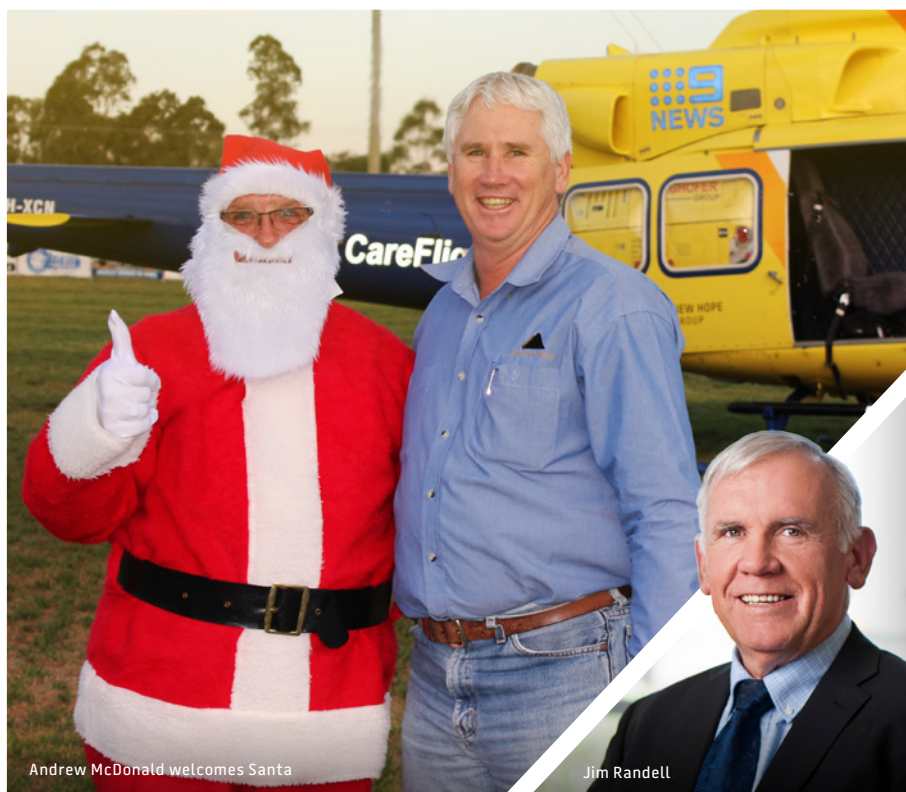
THE NEW HOPE GROUP HAS ANNOUNCED SOME RECENT CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AT NEW ACLAND.

Former New Acland General Manager Jim Randell has been appointed to the position of Executive General Manager of Mining for the New Hope Group, with Andrew McDonald taking over as General Manager of the mine.

One of Andrew's first official duties was to welcome the star of the show at Oakey's Santa Fair earlier this month (below).

As a major supporter of the CareFlight helicopter rescue service, New Hope was able to arrange for Santa to arrive at the festivities in fine style.

New Hope would also like to wish everyone a happy and safe festive season.



Andrew McDonald welcomes Santa

Jim Randell

NEW HOPE ASSISTS JONDARYAN RURAL FIRIES



New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald joined about 60 people at the official opening of the Jondaryan Rural Fire Service's new fire station building recently.

"The whole project was made possible with the inclusion of \$10,000 in support from the New Hope Group," Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade's Third Officer and Treasurer Barry Byrne said.

"Without New Hope's support the project would have taken longer to complete, which would have pushed the costs up even more.

"We are very happy with the end result as we came in on budget and this new building helps the whole region.

"The new building now houses our big trucks, which means we can use our previous building for training, conferences, and importantly, as an emergency response hub to assist in any future crisis event impacting the district."



Jim Randell with a recent public tour group.

TOURS OF NEW ACLAND

NEW ACLAND'S PUBLIC SITE VISITS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE PROVEN VERY POPULAR.

The tours will take a rest during the hotter summer months, but stay tuned for more tours in the New Year.

The group tours give residents the chance to learn first-hand about our mining, land rehabilitation and agricultural operations. Visitors have said they found the tours

very interesting and left with a better understanding of how the operations work and interact with local communities.

All visitors must comply with the site's safety requirements including a long-sleeved shirt, long trousers and closed-in footwear (no heels). Due to legislative requirements children under 12 are not allowed.

Details about future tours will be advertised in local newspapers in early 2014.

NEW TRUCKS IMPRESS

NEW ACLAND'S RECENTLY ARRIVED CAT 793F HAUL TRUCKS HAVE QUICKLY BECOME THE PRIDE OF THE FLEET AT THE MINE.

The impressive new machines feature the latest safety and production monitoring systems available.

They also boast an improved sustainability performance with longer periods of time needed between maintenance and servicing.

New Acland's maintenance team expected the new trucks would record efficiency gains but their performance has exceeded expectations.

Fuel efficiency is 10 percent better than original calculations while payloads are over 5 percent above what was originally anticipated in the new machines.



NEW-LOOK CRG TO HELP RUN NEW COMMUNITY FUND

New Acland's Community Reference Group (CRG) has six new members and will help run New Hope's new Community Investment Fund.

New Hope would like to thank the outgoing CRG members for their valuable input during the past 12 months.

The new members of the locally-focused CRG are Jodie Collins, Lindsay Evans, Graham Cooke, Victoria Menkins, Glenys Bowtell and Greg Jones who join Barry Mason, Sarah Due, Andrew Langton, Matthew Boyd and Councillor Nancy Sommerfield.

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

The fund aims to assist community groups and organisations with grants to support community-based initiatives and projects, which develop long-term outcomes for the communities around the New Acland coal mine.

To learn more about the New Acland Community Investment Fund, and how to apply, please visit www.aclandproject.com.au

SECOND STAGE OF CATTLE TRIALS

THE NEW HOPE GROUP'S ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY HAS STARTED A NEW PHASE OF SCIENTIFIC CATTLE GRAZING TRIALS ON REHABILITATED MINING LAND.

Acland Pastoral Company (APC) Manager Ben Muirhead said the independent trial was the second stage of a five-year project to compare the performance of cattle grazing on rehabilitated mined land with cattle grazing on land that had not been mined.

The trial will involve around 200 head of cattle.

"Last year's first stage of these cattle trials indicated that the weight gain of the cattle on the rehabilitated mining land was better than the cattle that grazed on the non-mined land," Mr Muirhead said.

"It was also slightly above the expected benchmark performance for cattle grazing in this area of the southern Downs.

"This second stage of the project will be very important in identifying any

improvements we can make in these trials and any other factors that may affect the performance of cattle on rehabilitated land.

"The project has been developed to determine the viability, safety and sustainability of beef production on rehabilitated land and will also investigate the structure of rehabilitated soils compared to unmined soils.

"We will look for key performance indicators including cattle weight gain, animal health and pasture quality before and after grazing."

Independent livestock consultancy Outcross and the University of Southern Queensland are working with the Acland Pastoral Company on the new trials.



Cattle mustering at New Acland.



New Acland's volunteering efforts feature in the information campaign.

NEW HOPE'S INFORMATION PROGRAM

THE NEW HOPE GROUP'S INFORMATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE DARLING DOWNS FOCUSING ON LAND REHABILITATION AND THE EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF THE NEW ACLAND MINE AND THE ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY.

The television and newspaper-based program features employees of the mine, the

Acland Pastoral Company plus local businesses and community group representatives talking about their involvement with New Acland.

The information program is also aimed at helping people across the Darling Downs learn a bit more about the New Hope Group, the New Acland mine and the Acland Pastoral Company operations.

To view the information program, please visit www.aclandproject.com.au



Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Paul Antonio joined residents and dignitaries for the opening of the gardens.

NEW OAKEY HOSPITAL GARDEN OPENS

A 'Spring Fair' to officially open the new gardens at the Oakey Hospital and Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home proved very popular with local residents in late September.

New Acland provided materials for the garden beds from the mine, including the basalt edging, plus some willing hands for the various working bees held to create the impressive gardens.

The New Hope balloons were also very popular with the kids at the fair.

NEW ACLAND FAST FACT

As part of the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project plan, the train loading facility will be relocated from near Jondaryan to a remote site on the mining lease area, some 8km away from Jondaryan.

ACLAND CATTLE STAR AT BRYMAROO CAMPDRAFT

Acland Pastoral Company cattle were the stars of the show at the Brymaroo Campdraft recently. A mob of about 800 cattle were walked from Acland to Brymaroo for the event, which grows each year. Many favourable comments were heard about the good lines of the cattle at the event.

Acland Pastoral Company cattle on the move to Brymaroo.

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

