



**NEW HOPE
GROUP**

**NEW ACLAND
COMMUNITY UPDATE**

February 2014



Crops on rehabilitated land being inspected at New Acland.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ADVERTISED

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for New Hope's revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project is now being advertised for public comment with submissions closing at 5pm on Monday 3 March 2014.

The purpose of the EIS is for New Hope to address the requirements of the Terms of Reference issued by the Coordinator-General on 22 March 2013.

It presents the revised Project and describes the measures that will be undertaken to prevent or mitigate any potential adverse impacts on the environment, and gives the community a chance to provide feedback.

"New Hope has also provided a shorter Executive Summary document, as an alternative to the 5000 page EIS," New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said.

"This will make it even easier for the community to find out more about the EIS for the revised Project."

The full EIS and the Executive Summary are available through the following means:

- ▶ Download the draft EIS at www.aclandproject.com.au
- ▶ Order a free copy on DVD by telephoning (free call) 1800 882 142
- ▶ Emailing aclandinfo@newhopegroup.com.au

- ▶ View a printed copy until 3 March 2014 at various Toowoomba Regional Council service centres and the New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell Street, Oakey.

Any person, group or organisation can make a submission about the EIS to the Coordinator-General.

Submissions must be received by 5pm 3 March 2014, be signed by each person making the submission, and state the name and address of each person making the submission.

All submissions, comments and inquiries regarding the EIS should be addressed to:

**The Coordinator-General
C/- EIS Project Manager –
New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project
Coordinated Project Delivery
PO Box 15517
City East QLD 4002 Australia
Fax: +61 7 3452 7486
Email: [newaclandproject@
coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au](mailto:newaclandproject@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au)**

For more information on the EIS process, visit www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/assessments-and-approvals/new-acland-coal-mine-stage-3-expansion.html

HISTORIC ACLAND COLLIERY TO BE PRESERVED

The New Hope Group will preserve the original Acland underground mine pit head and buildings as part of the Acland Colliery Conservation Management Plan for the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project.

New Hope's Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said under the revised Project, the Acland town area, including Tom Doherty Park, the War Memorial and the Acland No.2 Colliery, would be left in place. New Hope would maintain these properties to ensure their preservation into the future.

Acland's first mining shaft was sunk in 1913, but the history of coal mining in the areas surrounding Oakey dates back to the 1880s. Coal mining developed significantly in the district during the 1920s with the industry guaranteeing the fortunes of the Acland township for half a century.

Acland's population began to steadily decline in the 1960s with the closure of a number of collieries and the deregulation of the dairy industry.

"The old Acland No.2 Colliery was the last underground mine to operate in the Acland area," Mr Denney said.

"It used fairly antiquated mining methods, with the coal at the pit head being sorted by hand on a picking belt right up to its closure in 1984."

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NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 SNAPSHOT

New Acland Coal Pty Ltd currently operates the existing New Acland Coal Mine as a 4.8 million tonnes per annum open cut coal mine. The mine has reserves that will allow current operations to continue until approximately 2017.

NAC is proposing to develop the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project, which involves the extension of operations of the existing New Acland Coal Mine to approximately 2029 with the inclusion and progressive mining and rehabilitation of two new resource areas.

The revised Project will ensure current employment and economic benefits are not lost to the Darling Downs and that NAC continues to be a major employer in the region.

After receiving input from key stakeholders including the State Government and the community, NAC has made a series of major compromises in the revised Project.

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, will 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 new plans will ensure that Lagoon Creek is not diverted
- ▶ Production levels from the New Acland Mine under the revised project will be reduced by at least 25% to up to 7.5 Mtpa, from the originally proposed 10mtpa
- ▶ The train loading facility will be relocated from near Jondaryan to a remote site on the mining lease area

NEW ACLAND LEADING THE WAY FOR EMERGENCY SKILLS COLLABORATION

Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) from all over the Southern District gathered at New Acland Mine to collaborate and develop emergency response expertise at the inaugural inter-company 'Southern District ERT Skills Development Day' on Saturday 22 February 2014.

ERTs participated in a number of exercises at New Acland Mine under the guidance of specialist mentors and coaches such as St Johns Ambulance and Queensland Mines Rescue Service.

New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said the event was valuable to all ERTs to not only benefit their working environments, but also the local communities that they live in.

"The development day was run as a way for local ERTs to develop relationships and learn from one another on different emergency response skills," Mr McDonald said.

"Emergencies happen rarely at mines, but it is extremely important to be prepared and to have personnel equipped with the right skills to manage all situations."





TOURS OF NEW ACLAND

New Acland's public site visits for local residents started again this month after taking a break during the hotter summer months.

The tours proved very popular in 2013, with many locals taking up the offer to learn first-hand about our mining, land rehabilitation and agricultural operations.

Details and dates for the upcoming tours will be advertised in the local newspapers. To book, please call 4694 8801 or visit the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.

CRG IN 2014

The first meeting in 2014 for the new-look Community Reference Group (CRG) was held earlier this month on Monday 10 February. It was the third time the CRG had met since welcoming new members: Jodie Collins, Lindsay Evans, Graham Cooke, Victoria Menkins, Glenys Bowtell, and Greg Jones.

On the agenda was the recently released EIS for the revised Stage 3 Project, as well as upcoming New Acland Community Investment Fund (CIF) projects. New Hope is preparing to announce the community initiatives to be supported through the CIF in the current funding round.

New Hope Group Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said the company is proud to partner with, and provide opportunities for, community groups in the region.

“
This fund supports
community investment
and development projects
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“This fund supports community investment and development projects that provide significant and measurable benefit to a broad range of people and develop long-term, sustainable outcomes for the communities surrounding the New Acland Coal Mine - the communities in which we live and work,” Mr Denney said.

“We are now finalising details for the CIF projects in the community, and will be announcing them very soon.”

STAGE 3 IMPORTANT FOR THE REGION

Currently, the New Acland mine supports 300 full-time workers, 35% of who are based in the local district (including Oakey and Jondaryan) and a further 45% who are based in Toowoomba. The mine injects \$300 million each year into the Southeast Queensland economy and \$110 million each year into the Darling Downs economy.

Stage 3 of New Acland Mine will continue the operation until approximately 2029, supporting construction jobs of up to 260 and approximately 435 operational jobs at peak, as well as more than 3,000 indirect jobs.

It will attract construction costs of around \$896 million and is valued at \$6.6 billion for the life of the project while indirect and induced output will contribute a further \$12 billion for a total output impact of almost \$19 billion.

If the revised Project does not proceed, the coal reserves within the mine's current lease area will be depleted and the mine will close in 2017, with the loss of those benefits.





CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR OAKEY HOSPITAL

A change of pace was decided for the New Hope Group Annual General Meeting corporate gathering this Christmas past.

New Hope elected to donate \$5,000 to the Oakey Hospital and Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home in lieu of the usual corporate gifts to each attendee in November 2013.

New Hope's Executive General Manager for Mining Jim Randell said the donation in lieu of the annual gifts was a further way of giving back to the Oakey community.

"The Oakey Hospital and nursing home has a special place in the hearts and minds of a lot of community members," he said.

"New Hope is always looking for ways in which we can support the communities in which we work, and the people with who we work.

"Attendees were all very enthusiastic about the charitable donation as opposed to a gift, and thought it was a wonderful idea leading into Christmas."

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTEND INFORMATION SESSIONS

Dozens of locals attended the recent information sessions run by New Hope as part of the public notification period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project (the revised Project).

Of the 63 people who attended the information sessions, held in Acland, Jondaryan, Goombungee and Oakey, the overwhelming majority were interested in finding out a bit more about the revised Project.

"Many topics were discussed at the information sessions, but the main subjects of interest were the environmental impact statement assessment process, environmental management, the fact that Lagoon Creek will be left untouched, land rehabilitation, and the employment and economic benefits of the New Acland Project," Project Manager - New Acland Expansion André du Preez said.

"The information sessions were a great opportunity for the community to speak

directly with the project team and to ask any specific project or EIS-related questions."

"The revised Project is extremely important, to the area and to Queensland, so we want to make sure that people are well informed about the facts and have as much detail as possible."



NEW ACLAND FAST FACT

The EIS consultation period for the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project is now open for public comment. For more information, the EIS Executive Summary, as well as the complete set of EIS documents, is available on the New Acland Project website - www.aclandproject.com.au



CONTACT

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- ▶ PO Box 47, Ipswich, Qld 4305
- ▶ community@newhopegroup.com.au
- ▶ 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.

