



Community Liaison Officer Helen Braithwaite talks with locals at the public information session.

COMMUNITY PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON REVISED **NEW ACLAND PROJECT**

THE COORDINATOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS RECEIVED 67 SUBMISSIONS WHICH WILL BE USED TO HELP DEVELOP THE FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE REVISED NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

New Hope held community information sessions in Oakey last December and again in January this year to allow the community to review the draft ToR and other information about the revised Project, and to provide feedback.

"New Hope will involve the community through all stages of the approvals process and will continue to work in partnership with local residents and stakeholders to develop the revised Project," New Acland Project Manager Andre du Preez said.

"In consultation with the community and many stakeholders, New Hope developed a significantly revised version of the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project, which addresses and

compromises on issues of concern from the original proposal.

"The Coordinator-General took the revised Project back to Terms of Reference, the final version of which will set out the specific matters that must be addressed in preparing a comprehensive EIS for the revised Project," Mr du Preez said.

The EIS will fully investigate social, environmental, economic and cultural implications of the revised Project.

The community will be able to comment on the EIS when it is released for public consultation, which is expected to be in the middle of this year.

REVISED PROJECT **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ▶ The Acland town area, including Tom Doherty Park, the War Memorial and the Acland No2 Colliery, will be left in place
- ▶ The closest point of potential mining operations will be located at least 10km from Oakey, compared to 7km as previously proposed
- ▶ The Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility will be relocated to a remote site on the mining lease area
- ▶ Lagoon Creek will not be diverted
- ▶ The operation will continue to be self-sufficient for water, with water continuing to be purchased from Toowoomba's Wetalla waste water facility (Only about 20% of Wetalla's water is currently purchased by New Hope)
- ▶ From the original proposal, there will be an overall reduction in the amount of land used for mining activities by more than half
- ▶ Production levels from this revised proposal will be reduced by at least 25%, from the originally proposed 10mtpa
- ▶ Community feedback in relation to the revised Project is encouraged. You can visit our Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey or go to www.aclandproject.com.au for more information

JONDARYAN RAIL LOADING FACILITY PROGRESS

The New Hope Group is committed to moving the existing Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility onto the mine site as part of the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 project.

An eight-kilometre rail spur is proposed to connect a new modern train load out facility to the existing rail line at a cost in excess of \$62 million.

“We are completely committed to moving the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility onto the mine site as soon as we have certainty about the mine’s

future and we are progressing our revised Project as quickly as possible through the State and Federal approval processes,” New Hope’s Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said.

In other news, Mr Denney said the profiling and veneering of all coal train loads leaving New Acland was on track to be finalised in early April this year.

The new facility will profile each wagon load to provide a flat surface before a vegetable-based starch is applied, which then dries to form a crust on top of the load.

The facility will also include the ability to sweep clean the sills of each wagon.



PROJECT BENEFITS LOCAL ECONOMY

THE REVISED NEW ACLAND STAGE 3 PROJECT WILL BOOST THE DARLING DOWNS ECONOMY THROUGH DIRECT AND INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT, INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS.

The revised Project will provide an annual injection of \$530 million into the south-east Queensland economy and a total of \$8 billion over the life of the mine.

Hundreds of local livelihoods depend on the New Acland operations and have for the past decade.

The revised Project will boost current employment from 460 full time equivalent positions

up to 570 full time equivalent positions. It is also expected to grow indirect employment from 2,300 to 2,850 jobs.

“The project will help boost employment”

During the 30-month construction phase starting between 2015 and 2017, an additional 220 jobs will also be available.

The latest figures from the Queensland Resources Council show the economic contribution to the region from the resources sector is large and increasing.

REVISED PROJECT TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	ANTICIPATED TIMEFRAME
Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) released for public consultation	1 December 2012–4 February 2013
Final ToR released	Early 2013
EIS released for public consultation	Mid 2013
Coordinator-General’s report completed	2014
State and Federal Ministers’ decisions	2014
Construction (if approved)	Between 2015 & 2017

The QRC’s Chief Economist David Rynne said the resources sector spent \$1.1 billion in the Darling Downs region during the 2011–2012 financial year on wages, community contributions and local goods and services.

“This is an increase of 53% on the previous year when \$720 million was spent on wages, community contributions and goods and services in the region,” Mr Rynne said.

REHABILITATED LAND SHOWS PROGRESS

Progressive rehabilitation is a key part of New Acland’s mining activities and each year we strive to rehabilitate an area equivalent to the amount of land disturbed in that year.

Environmental Officers Brooke Topp and Tom Sheppard recently inspected growth at one of New Acland’s latest rehabilitated areas with operator Donny Ballon.





DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES RESOURCE

EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST WITH THE JONDARYAN RURAL FIRE BRIGADE WELCOMING ASSISTANCE TO CONSTRUCT A NEW, LARGER BUILDING TO HOUSE VITAL EQUIPMENT.

The new three-bay shed will store a communications vehicle and the new water tanker truck that was allocated to the station late last year which will be used for the whole region west of Toowoomba.

Recognising the importance of the project to the community, the New Hope Group has donated \$10,000 towards the new infrastructure.

Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade Treasurer and Third Officer Barry Byrne said the donation would be a huge benefit not just to Jondaryan, but also to the many communities around the district.

“The Jondaryan brigade covers a large area from Oakey to Bowenville, south to the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road, and north to the other side of Acland.

“The donation from New Hope has definitely allowed us to build this new shed sooner rather than later,” Mr Byrne said.

Mr Byrne said the need for the larger facility was brought home during the 2011 floods and again in January this year.

ABOVE FROM LEFT: New Acland’s Greg Briggs with Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade members

New Acland’s Greg Briggs and Stewart Sherrington join Jondaryan Rural Fire Brigade members in a recent drill

NEW ACLAND AND CAREFLIGHT WEATHER STORM

NEW ACLAND EXPERIENCED LITTLE DISRUPTION DURING THE RECENT BOUT OF BAD WEATHER THANKS TO AN EXPERIENCED TEAM AND GOOD COMMUNICATION.

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell said a decision was taken to temporarily halt operations at the mine over the Australia Day long weekend for one day shift and one night shift to allow employees to remain with their families during the expected flood events.

“With reports coming in that the roads could be cut between Toowoomba and Oakey we made the call to temporarily halt operations and ensure

our employees could be at home looking after the safety of their families until the rain event passed through,” he said.

“Following the experience of 2011, the management procedure has been updated to cover off site disaster events.

“The usual management of localised rain events continues with an eye to good knowledge and controls of the situations as they arise.

“Management is well versed in these situations and assessments are carried out to determine the safest outcome for each event.

“In many cases it is safest to stay at the mine until roads are clear. On this occasion,



the opportunity to allow people to leave the site safely was the best option.”

Mr Randell also acknowledged the great work done by CareFlight during the recent weather events.

“It is very satisfying to see that New Hope’s major sponsorship of CareFlight helps the rescue service to do such a fantastic job to assist Queenslanders in need during these emergencies,” he said.

At the height of the recent weather events, CareFlight conducted more than

200 patient airlifts from flood-stricken houses, nursing homes and hospitals to evacuation centres in Bundaberg in just 48 hours.

The community rescue helicopter service then repositioned its fleet to south-west Queensland to take on more emergency missions as floodwaters cut access throughout Roma, Mitchell and St George.

ABOVE: New Hope’s support for CareFlight paid off during the recent weather crisis.

BARRACUDAS MAKE A SPLASH

New Hope Group is diving headlong into 2013 by supporting the Oakey and District Amateur Swimming Club—known as the Barracudas.

The latest allocation will go towards uniforms, equipment and repairs to the club house.

Barracudas President Liz Cass said: “It will be great to have a uniform, as it brings a bit of unity to the club.”

“When we travel to swimming carnivals it also helps identify who we are and where we come from, and we really appreciate New Hope’s support.”

RIGHT: Stars of the future at the Oakey and District Amateur Swimming Club.



FOSSILS FEATURE IN COMMUNITY CENTRE

A new display in New Hope’s Community Information Centre in Oakey offers an insight into when the local area featured volcanoes, inland lakes, swamps

with thick ferns and possibly even dinosaurs wandering around.

Put together by New Hope’s exploration team, the new display is an interesting addition to the dinosaur footprint which has been attracting visitors to the centre for some time.

New Hope’s Community Liaison Officer Helen Braithwaite said the new display was a big hit.

“I think what makes it really interesting is that they are all samples from this area and they give an insight into the inland lakes and marsh areas that were here millions of years ago,” she said.

“It has been attracting visitors to the centre for some time”



TEAMWORK REWARDED

Congratulations to the New Hope-sponsored Oakey Reconciliation Red Belly Blacks rugby league team for their strong showing in the Indigenous Knockout Carnival in Toowoomba recently.

Team organiser and Oakey Reconciliation Group Chairperson Jodie Collins said the team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous players did Oakey proud.

“Although the boys were a bit disappointed with their results this year, the main aim is to bring together people from different

backgrounds to play football,” she said.

“I’d like to thank the New Hope Group for their assistance again this year as we would not be able to take part in this competition without the help of our sponsors.”

LEFT: The Oakey Reconciliation Red Belly Blacks work hard in defence.



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

