

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee MINUTES (FINAL)



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	Dendrobium Nebo Room	
DATE:	17:30, Thursday 7 December 2023	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson	Mike Archer (MA)
	Independent Secretary	Yvonne Walker (YW)
	Community Representatives	Vivien Twyford (VT) Phil Diamond (PD) Phil Grant (PG)
	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Representatives (IMC)	Simon Thomas (ST) General Manager Dendrobium Gary Brassington (GB) – Approvals Manager – <i>online</i> Chris Schultz (CS) Environment Superintendent Rod Mapstone – (RM) Principal Community
APOLOGIES:	Community Representatives	Phil Clunas (PC) Jenny Evans (JE) Anita Mulrooney (AM) Alex Beccari (AB)
	Wollongong City Council	Ron Zwicker (RZ) Wollongong City Council
	Wollondilly Shire Council	Michael Banasik (MB)

	PURPOSE
	<p>The purpose of the DCCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of Dendrobium Mine, the Community, the relevant councils, and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the mine's operations, environmental performance, and community relations, and to keep the community informed on these matters.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>MA provided Acknowledgement of Country – <i>“We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet this evening, the Dharawal People, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging”.</i></p>
	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Apologies and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests • Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting • Questions on Notice, and Business Arising • IMC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operations Update – Simon Thomas ○ Approvals Update – Gary Brassington ○ Environment Update – Chris Schultz ○ Community Update – Rod Mapstone • General Business • Member Updates
	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	<p>Meeting opened at 5:30 pm.</p> <p>MA welcomed all members and introduced YW as the minute taker.</p>
	DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS
	<p>MA declared a pecuniary interest, advising that in his role as Independent Chairperson, he is paid for his time by South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. YW is paid as minute taker by MA and the cost is recovered from South32 IMC.</p> <p>There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</p>
	PREVIOUS MINUTES
	<p>Meeting minutes of DCCC from Thursday 12 October 2023 were endorsed as a fair and accurate summary of the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: PD Seconded: RM</p>
	PREVIOUS ACTIONS, BUSINESS ARISING, AND QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
	<p>RM to arrange visit to WC21 to view rehabilitation works</p> <p>Waiting for more rainfall.</p>
	<p>MA to invite DP&E officer to early 2024 meeting</p> <p>Will organise when the department comes back from their Christmas break</p>

	<p>AM has requested (on behalf of a community member) if IMC can survey another track from the village for use as an emergency evacuation exit during bushfires - the “kerosene track”.</p> <p>CS – IMC has done some investigation on the path. It goes through our operational land which means it is not possible to reinstate it as depicted at this time. It could be revisited in the future when mining operations cease.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>OPERATIONS UPDATE</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW19A commenced 2nd November 2023 • Development continuing at TG22, MG22 and Pioneer Mains • Slope movement stabilised in car park – car park remediation work (micropiles and resurfacing) scheduled to commence in January 2024. Will be done progressively. Likely to run through till around the end of April. • Kemira Valley Stockpile wall temporary repairs completed in October. Existing wall will be reinstated with additional supports to provide greater rigidity. Work likely to be finished in February. • Gas Drainage Plant construction continuing at VS2/3 – planned completion March 2024. • Incident onsite – employee found unresponsive underground, was unfortunately unable to be revived.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>APPROVALS UPDATE</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall 19 SMP approved 11 March 2021 • Longwall 19A SMP approved 11 August 2023 • Longwall 20 SMP – not currently progressing an application for this longwall • Longwall 21 SMP approved 19 December 2019 • Longwall 21A SMP submitted 16 November 2023 • LW19A & LW21A improve longwall continuity by allowing additional gas drainage time for high gas areas • Longwall 22 and 23 SMP approved 20 December 2022 - developing a variation application for LW23 to take Aboriginal cultural heritage sites into account • Dendrobium Area 3 Gas Management Plant – approved by DPE 8 July 2022 <p>https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-9-gas-management- infrastructure</p> <p>PD asked for clarification on the width of LW21A. GB advised the width is constrained by geology at 256m VT asked for an overview of LW24 and GB gave a brief overview; it is still not finalised. PD asked for the timeframe when LW24 would be under extraction. ST – extraction approximately 4 years from now.</p> <p>Action: ST to provide details on width of LW21A – 256m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ENVIRONMENT UPDATE</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground water balance has remained steady. • LDP 5 flow in November was an average of 8.5 ML/day (max: 10.08ML/d and min: 7.03 ML/d) which is consistent with previous months. • Allans Creek monitoring program and brine study was submitted to EPA and is being reviewed by the technical team.

- Independent Environmental Audit report received and reviewed. Response to recommendations being developed
- PD asked about the recommendations.
- CS advised the independent audit team are conducting this on behalf of the Department – they are not working for IMC. More information will be provided as received.
- Site inspection by EPA of DCPP on 13 November 2023.
- KVCLF powerline relocation design still underway. Belt removal on O'Briens Drift commenced in November.

PD asked whether material is being removed by train or truck

ST – most likely by truck.

- Waste audit undertaken of Cleanaway facilities this is part of due diligence to ensure how all of our waste is being managed.
- IMC Website has been updated for easier navigation to find documents, plans, reports, and audits. CCC Minutes are found under “Community Documents”. Dendrobium Mine documents are located under the Dendrobium Mine tab:

<https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents/dendrobium>

Dendrobium Water Balance and LDP 5 Discharge

Presentation on water balance and discharge

Dendrobium Area 3A/3C Impacts

Presentation on impacts

Dendrobium Impacts and Triggers

Presentation on impacts and triggers

Area 3A Swamps 15a Soil Moisture

- Average soil moisture data at these three locations dropped below baseline levels following the start of LW19A.
- Soil moisture triggers sites were recorded and reported according to the LW19A Swamp Impact, Monitoring, Management and Contingency Plan
- Baseline monitoring for these sites has predominantly occurred during a period of unusually high rainfall in 2021 and 2022
- The below baseline values reported occurred as a continuation of the downward trend which began prior to the commencement of LW19A
- Average soil moisture values at all three sites recovered above the baseline following rainfall on 5-6 November 2023
- Previously, soil moisture triggers for S15a_07 and S15a_15 were reported in August 2023 in accordance with the SIMMCP for LW19.

Area 3A Swamps 15a Groundwater

- Groundwater monitoring sites 15a_08 and 15a_12 are located at distances of 387m and 640m from LW19A at their closest point. Recent analysis of Swamp 15a groundwater data identified that the groundwater level at these locations receded at a rate greater than baseline levels following the start of LW19A extraction.

PD asked what would cause the groundwater recession.

CS indicated that it could be climatic as the baseline monitoring period was during the wet period, the same recession has occurred in other monitoring locations that are not adjacent to LW19A, and all sites have responded to recent rainfall.

- Site 15a_08 rate of recession exceeded the 95th percentile of baseline, thus contributing to a Level 3 trigger according to the LW19A SIMMCP. Site 15a_12 rate of recession exceeded the 90th percentile of baseline, thus contributing to a Level 2 trigger according to the Longwall 19A SIMMCP.

Area 3A: Sandy Creek / SC10 Water Quality and Pool Levels

- Recent analysis of pool water levels in tributary SC10 identified that the median rate of recession in SC10_Pool 26a and SC10_Pool 29 were greater than the 80th percentile of the baseline rate of recession following the start of LW19A extraction. This contributes to a Level 1 trigger according to the LW19A SIMMCP.

Area 3 Swamps 153 and 154 Soil Moisture

- Soil moisture probes in Swamps S153 and S154 are well outside of mining influence, S153_01 is located over 800m north and probe S154_01 over 1500m east of the closest mined longwall block. Monitoring began here in 2022.
- Recent data shows continuation of soil moisture recession.

PD asked what the impact is likely to be on Swamp 7.

GB indicated that the impacts are expected to be consistent with other swamps IMC has mined directly under.

Longwall 21 End of Panel Report

A presentation was provided on the LW21 End of Panel Report. The report can be found on the IMC website [here](#).

PD expressed concern about the number and level of triggers.

CS advised that the number of monitoring sites in each swamp (i.e. due to its size etc) can impact the TARP level. For example, if a small swamp only has one monitoring device which shows a change then it automatically goes to Level 3 (100%) of sites showing change. This means that overall higher level triggers will be recorded – Swamp 09 has two monitoring sites, so only Level 2 or 3 triggers will be recorded, and Swamps 144 and 145 each have only one monitoring site, so only a Level 3 trigger can be recorded. Irrespective, the TARP triggers are there to indicate a change in conditions. As soon as any level trigger is reached (1, 2 or 3) an assessment of the impact mining had on that trigger (if any) is assessed and reported.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Cultural Heritage

- During the extraction of LW21, no cultural heritage sites were impacted.
- Two cultural heritage sites were inspected as part of the LW21 End of Panel Assessment.
- Site visits were undertaken with a heritage consultant and Aboriginal community representatives. The findings from these visits demonstrated that neither site had been

	impacted by the extraction of LW21.
	<p>Third Party Coal Processing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification applications have been submitted and uploaded – open for public exhibition, submissions close on 12 December 2023. • The applications seek to modify both Dendrobium (washing of the coal) and Appin (receiving the coal wash material) • Submissions will be invited from DPE; IMC will be required to respond to any submissions. • IMC placed Public Notices in the Illawarra Mercury, Sydney Morning Herald, and Wollondilly Express. • Documents related to the Modification Applications are available on the DPE Portal. <p>RM gave an overview of the project for VT.</p>
	<p>Complaints</p> <p>No complaints since last meeting.</p>
	<p>Community Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadly Science – Indigenous STEM programs at Picton High School, Dapto High School, and Corrimal High School. • Football South Coast – school holiday camp for 100 children to participate free of charge. <p>DCEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current balance \$314,465 • Next meeting – 13 February 2024 • Kembla Heights Bowling Club – New Year’s Eve fun day <p>Indigenous Grants Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications remain open
6	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<p>Round Table</p> <p>VT expressed appreciation for the updates and indicated that she is considering standing down from the Committee. Would like to understand the process to replace community members.</p> <p>MA advised that the process would be to resign in writing, then South32 would advertise for a replacement. MA would review applications and make a recommendation, but all applications would be sent through to the Department who would ultimately make the decision and provide feedback to all applicants.</p> <p>PG indicated that there had previously been some interest in setting up an industrial museum on the mine site; but now that the Steelworks has unveiled its plans for an industrial park there has been discussion that it may be implemented there instead.</p> <p>PG advised that Andy Hubscher is working on compiling a book on each of the portals – currently in draft form. Want to make sure it is recorded for history.</p> <p>PD asked about work going on down at Matthews Flat – what is being done?</p> <p>CS advised that IMC organised signage but has limited knowledge of the work itself.</p>

ST advised this may have been general maintenance around the track and CS confirmed that Bloor Rail are now doing weed maintenance as part of track maintenance within the IMC property boundary.

MA wished the Committee a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING

Meeting close: 6:25pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 1 February 2024 (Dendrobium Nebo Room)

Time: 5.30 pm

Actions:

- ST to provide details on width of LW21A - 256m.