

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee MINUTES (FINAL)



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	Dendrobium Nebo Room	
DATE:	Thursday, 12 October 2023 @ 5:30pm	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson	Mike Archer (MA)
	Independent Secretary	Yvonne Walker (YW)
	Community Representatives	Jenny Evans (JE)
		Phil Clunas (PC)
		Phil Diamond (PD)
	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
	Wollongong City Council	Ron Zwicker (RZ) Wollongong City Council – <i>online</i>
	Wollondilly Shire Council	Michael Banasik (MB) - <i>online</i>
APOLOGIES:		Vivien Tywford (VT)
		Phil Grant (PG)
		Alex Beccari (AB)
		Anita Mulrooney (AM)

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 MA provided Acknowledgement of Country – “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”.</p>

<i>AGENDA</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Apologies and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests • Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting • Previous Actions, Questions on Notice, and Business Arising • IMC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operations Update ○ Approvals Update ○ Environment Update ○ Community Update • General Business • Member Updates
1	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	<p>Meeting opened at 5:30 pm. MA welcomed all members and introduced YW as the minute taker. MA issued apologies for Vivien Twyford, Phil Grant, Anita Mulrooney, and Alex Beccari.</p>
2	<i>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</i>
	<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. There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</p>
3	<i>PREVIOUS MINUTES</i>
	<p>Meeting minutes of DCCC from Thursday, 18 August 2023 were endorsed as a fair and accurate summary of the meeting. Moved: PD (with amendment as below) Seconded: JE</p> <p>PD noted one thing missing – debris banked up against the bridge at the bottom of Mt Kembla Village. August minutes will be amended.</p>
4	<i>BUSINESS ARISING – PREVIOUS ACTIONS</i>
	<p>PD to provide a map of area of dispute around the motor bikes and mountain cycle area. PD showed CS/RM the map he had meant, in a report about mountain bike riding. PD – tabled a map that shows a particular area as national park but discussions in this forum suggest that it may be owned by South32. MA – have had discussions with IMC and they have advised they will not be providing a map as requested. PD – Quite important that we understand which land is owned by whom and what the intentions are for its use.</p> <p>RM to arrange future visit to catchment to check on trial “fix” CS - Work on the trial has been completed but there has been little rain since. The committee is welcome to see what has been done, but lack of rain means there is little to see – need sustained rain to be able to see the results. PD – Is it an expensive thing to do? i.e. can you just expand it beyond the trial? Is there a budget? GB – Yes, it is costly, because it’s in the catchment. We have a budget for rehabilitation, and this would be included.</p> <p>ST to provide update on train screeching complaint – has it been rectified? ST – The work was managed by Bloor Rail, a specialised rail contractor. Sometimes there is bedding in after the work has been done but typically this would subside after a while. PD – Once the rail movements resume, noise will be the focus.</p>

OPERATIONS UPDATE

- LW21 finished 7th August 2023
- LQ19A planned commencement 27th October 2023 (extra truck movements due to roofing parts)

PD - How many roof supports do you have?

ST - 170. We've done 50 this time.

- Development continuing at TG22, MG22 and Pioneer Mains
- Surface slope stability works adjacent to operations building have been completed.
- Slope movement stabilised in car park appointment – further remediation planned to commence in the next 6 months.
- Kemira Valley Stockpile – eastern wall failed on 1st September 2023 – resulted in loss of coal fines and water. Spill was contained within the bunded area on site. No environmental harm. Replacement wall built and procedures changed to prevent material buildup.

PD – did you have to notify EPA?

ST – Yes, EPA and Mines Regulator.

CS – There was no exceedance or escape but part of our licence is that we must notify of any potential breaches as well. The EPA was not concerned.

APPROVALS UPDATE

- Longwall 19A SMP approved 11 August 2023
- LW19A & LW21A improves longwall continuity by allowing additional gas drainage time for high gas areas.
- LW19A SMP approval condition required a further setback from Swamp 15A to 120m and we have been implementing this.

Discussion amongst the group relating to:

- the swamp setback and history of previous setbacks.
- Current and future longwall widths
- Developing a modification application for LW23 to reduce impacts to an identified cultural heritage site.
- Longwall 20 Subsidence Management Plan – further approval required
- Longwall 21 Subsidence Management Plan approved 19 December 2019
- Longwall 21A Subsidence Management Plan studies underway
- Longwall 22 and 23 Subsidence Management Plan approved 20 December 2022
- Dendrobium Area 3 Gas Management Plan – approved by DPE 8 July 2023

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-9-gas-management- infrastructure>

PD – query gas extraction and gas flaring location.

ST indicated location on the map.

PC - How much gas is emitted? What if you were standing right next to it, would you notice?

ST - It's coming out of a riser so it's above head height, you would not notice it. Very low proportions of mostly CO₂ released to the atmosphere.

PD – Fires very likely this year. What protection is there around gas drainage areas?

ST – We have water tanks that rural fire service can access.

PD – Maintenance of fire trails in catchment – does South32 need to maintain them to a particular standard?

ST – Fire trails are shared usage, however South32 does commit to assisting with maintenance.

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

- Underground water balance has increased slightly in August / September due to reduced pumping

and maintenance activities.

- LDP 5 flow in September was an average of 7.92 ML/day (max: 8.38ML/d and min: 5.37 ML/d)
- Allans Creek monitoring program and brine study completed. This was part of our EPL. Concentrations of the bioavailable forms of copper, nickel and zinc are generally very low and pose minimal risk to aquatic organisms. Report submitted to EPA this week.

PD – It is the discharge point for Dendrobium but also Appin. Is it broken down – can you differentiate between discharge from either mine?

CS – We sample brine from Appin West and Appin North so we know the brine levels entering from there. We have a sampling point on the pipeline from which dewatering water can be sampled and then we take an end of pipeline sample. So, we have an idea of all inputs.

- Rehabilitation objectives approved by Resources Regulator. Rehabilitation criteria to be developed. We are in the process of doing this but can't submit yet due to some internal issues with the regulator in relation to how submissions are made.
- The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan and Water Management Plan have been approved and are available on the IMC website.

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

PD enquiry relating to offsetting CO2 and discussions around current South32 abatements.

PD – Are you still using methane to generate power?

CS – Yes. We're also looking at a catalytic converter to break down methane at VS2 at Appin .

- Independent Environmental Audit was completed yesterday. Went to a range of sites on Tuesday.
- Report expected to be provided in December and it will be available on the website as well. Should be available by the next meeting.
- Annual Review submitted and available on IMC website. Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program also submitted.

Below is the link to the Dendrobium Mine Annual Review:

[south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-mine/documents/dendrobium/annual-reviews/dendrobium-mine-and-cordeaux-colliery-annual-review-fy23.pdf?sfvrsn=5d15ea50_1](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-mine/documents/dendrobium/annual-reviews/dendrobium-mine-and-cordeaux-colliery-annual-review-fy23.pdf?sfvrsn=5d15ea50_1)

- Design submitted to Endeavour Energy for KVCLF powerline relocation. Tenders distributed and site visit undertaken for redundant infrastructure demolition campaign.

Dendrobium Water Balance and LDP 5 Discharge

Presentation on water balance and water discharge.

Dendrobium Area 3A/3C Impacts

Presentation on impacts.

Dendrobium Impacts and Triggers

Presentation on impacts and triggers.

PD sought clarification on Level 3 triggers – discussions around TARP process.

Area 3A Swamps 12, 15a and 15b Soil Moisture

- Baseline soil moisture monitoring for Area 3A swamps has occurred during a period of unusually high rainfall in 2021 and 2022.
- In contrast, 2023 has been the driest year during the monitored period and the third driest year-to-date in the 22 years of rainfall records from Cordeaux Colliery.
- There were no impacts recorded when the soil moisture probes were within the Longwall 19 active

mining area, however recently the average soil moisture value in these sites recessed below the lowest level recorded before mining.

- Soil moisture triggers for these sites were recorded and reported according to the Longwall 19 Swamp Impact, Monitoring, Management and Contingency Plan.

Area 3A Swamp 34 Groundwater and Soil Moisture

- The site is located 365m south of LW19.
- Shallow groundwater monitoring began in August 2021.
- The groundwater responds to rainfall events. After a very “wet” year of 2022, when the site was saturated, groundwater behaviour returned to the pre-2022 patterns.
- Soil moisture probe was installed on site in May 2021.
- Recent records show that the average soil moisture data after the completion of extraction is now lower than the lowest data recorded during the baseline period.
- The soil moisture trigger was recorded and reported according to the Longwall 19 Swamp Impact, Monitoring, Management and Contingency Plan.

Area 3 Swamps 153 and 154 Soil Moisture

- Soil moisture monitoring of swamps 153 and 154 began in 2022.
- The soil moisture probe S153_01 is located over 800m north and probe S154_01 over 1500m east of the of the LW21 block.
- Recent data shows that both probes recorded their lowest average soil moisture values.

PROJECTS

Third Party Coal Processing

- Wollongong Resources owns the Russell Vale Colliery.
- The CPP at RVC ceased operating in March 2003.
- Coal from the RVC is approved to be transported to the PKCT via public roads.
- WR is seeking to improve their product quality through the use of the Dendrobium CPP.
- WR is seeking to transport coal from the PKCT to the Dendrobium CPP via private roads at BlueScope.
- South32 would wash RVC coal within existing approved Dendrobium CPP throughput capacity.
- Coal wash would be emplaced at the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area or for beneficial use.
- South32 will seek modifications to the Dendrobium and Appin Consents via a Modification Report.
- WR will seek modification to Russell Vale Consent.

MB – You mentioned road transport – will there be extra movements along Appin Road? Currently at capacity.

GB – There will be no increased trucking along Appin Road or any public road. The proposal is less than both the approved and actual throughput for Dendrobium. There will be a reduction in trucking movements as we transition from 3B to 3C.

PD – What is the beneficial usage [of the waste product] at the moment?

GB – Construction – Spring Farm housing development; some road construction and some haul road construction planned at Appin North. Some coal wash will be used for agricultural road construction amounts down south as well.

PD – Movement of coal wash to the highlands is it currently on Picton Road or Appin Road?

GB – I’m fairly sure it is Picton Road but will need to confirm.

PD – So, Picton Road will have more truck movements then...

GB – Not as a result of this, because it is already approved as part of existing operations at Dendrobium.

The Modifications would result in no change to the following:

- Dendrobium CPP maximum processing rate (5.2 Mtpa).
- Mining operations at the Dendrobium Mine, RVC and Appin Mine.

- Surface disturbance.
- Mine life(s), employment numbers, mining activities, or other surface activities.
- ROM coal transport route(s), traffic volumes and transport operating hours.
- Product coal transport route(s) from the Dendrobium CPP to the BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks and PKCT.
- Coal wash transport from the Dendrobium CPP to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area.
- Capacity of the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area, i.e. the area has sufficient approved capacity to accommodate coal wash from the processing of RVC ROM coal.

JW – how does RV coal currently get prepared and where?

GB – currently goes to PKCT along Memorial Drive. Coal can be moved to Dendrobium from PKCT by private road – no extra public road traffic.

NRAR Enforceable Undertaking Project

- IMC will contribute more than \$2.8 million for a community project that will improve the health or waterways and/or restore wetlands.
- Consultation with local Aboriginal communities connected to the project area was a high focus.
- ILALC will deliver the project and submitted a proposal to the NRAR on 29th September 2023.
- Proposal includes:
 - Environmental conservation and biodiversity conservation, preservation, and protection
 - Improvement management of natural resources, including land, water, and biodiversity
 - Enhanced conservation of ecosystems and threatened species
 - Implementation of sustainable land and water management practices
 - Cultural preservation and revitalisation
 - Economic empowerment and employment (including training up a number of Aboriginal rangers)
 - Community empowerment and wellbeing
 - Education and knowledge sharing.

PD – This project covers the remaining life of the mine - what happens after the mine closes?

GB – the enforceable undertaking addresses the gap that existed in the NSW water policy. The NSW government also implemented a licensing regime so that operators within the catchment can use surface water under license. When the mine closes, typically the license is relinquished with no compensation to the mine operator. The government retains the value of the license to assist with reconciliation of water following the closure.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints since last meeting: -

- August 2023 – 1 x noise – truck operations
- September 2023 – 2 x noise – rail operations and pit top
- September 2023 – 2 x environmental – coal fines spill on Cordeaux Road and train smoke
- October 2023 – 1 x noise – truck noise (sediment pond)

PD – Regarding trucks braking down the hill – it's really noisy. You've done 50 of the 170 so far – do we have a lot more to go, i.e. a lot more noisy truck movements?

ST – These were the last 50 that required overhaul so we're coming to the end of it.

PD – Are there tracer cars in front of all of these?

ST – Yes, the contract company committed to having a tracer car for each so please let us know if you do see any without.

PD – have heard some big noises coming from the pit top in the very early hours of the morning – thumps and crunches.

CS – if you do hear it note it down and please contact us the next morning.

ST – I'll reiterate with our night shift team – generally we limit the movements between 7pm and 6am because of how much sound carries at night. We can check cameras for a specific incident reported.

	<p><i>COMMUNITY UPDATE</i></p>
	<p>Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Southern Stars Arena Spectacular - \$20000 towards the Indigenous children's dance troupe Symbio Wildlife Park koala conservation commenced, with koalas spotted on the first two nights</p> <p>JW – what is IMC's contribution to the Symbio project? ST – we've effectively funded it.</p> <p>DCEP Current balance ~\$164,768 Next meeting Tuesday 14 November Would encourage local groups to apply.</p> <p>MA – The last meeting approved the highest amount of funding I believe in the last 10 years. Acknowledge the work Mira is doing on this.</p> <p>Indigenous Grants applications Still open</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><i>GENERAL BUSINESS</i></p>
	<p>End of Year Function Invitation to be sent shortly</p> <p>Round Table PD – we were talking about someone from the DPE coming down and participating at one of our meetings. MA – It would need to be early next year rather than December. I will follow up with DP&E.</p> <p>Action: MA to invite DPE officer to early 2024 meeting.</p> <p>MA – sent around some dates for next year – no feedback? Note: No objection from those present to the dates – these will be the dates for next year.</p>
	<p><i>MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING</i></p>
	<p>Meeting close: 6.45pm Next Meeting: Thursday, 7 December 2023 (Dendrobium Nebo Room) Time: 5.30pm</p> <p>Action: MA to invite DPE officer to early 2024 meeting. Action: RM to arrange future visit to catchment to check on trial "fix"</p>