

## Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

<b>Meeting</b>	Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee	<b>Date</b>	8 August 2024
		<b>Time</b>	5pm – 6:30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Menangle RFS 90 Menangle Road, Menangle		
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Deborah Palmer (DP)		
<b>Attendees</b>	Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative Michael McGrath (MM), Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative Antony Leone (AL), Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Chris Schultz (CS), Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Ashley Chilcott (AC), Minutes	<b>Apologies</b>	Barbara Weber, Community Representative Barry Durman, Community Representative Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council Andy Hyslop, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Rod Mapstone, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Circulate amended minutes from June CCC meeting	DP
2	Coordinate site inspection of Vent Shafts 7 and 8	AL
3	Confirm what responsibility South32 has for maintaining trees in the biobank area	CS
4	Confirm number of subsidence damage claims made to date	AL
5	Include a link to panel reports in minutes	AL/DP
6	Confirm why the zone of influence is a 'weird' shape	AL
7	Representative from the Subsidence Advisory to present at the next CCC meeting around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the assessment / inspection process and assessment of liability</li> <li>○ how the recent amendments to the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017 will be implemented by Subsidence Advisory</li> </ul>	AL
8	Provide written endorsement of the comments made by the committee on the Heritage Management Plan to South32	DP

9	Confirm duration of vent placement in the VAM Abatement project	AL
10	Confirm what funds remain for community investment from the 2024 Community Partnership Program	AL

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed all CCC Members and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.</li> <li>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and appreciated their attendance.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Representatives: Barbara Weber, Barry Durman.</li> <li>Wollondilly Shire Council: Cr Matthew Deeth.</li> <li>Illawarra Metallurgical Coal: Andy Hyslop, Rod Mapstone.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Declaration of interests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising her time as Independent Chairperson, is paid for by South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal.</li> <li>The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.</li> <li>There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Endorsement of previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS requested amendments to the previous minutes recorded.</li> <li>DP will recirculate the minutes once amended. <b>Action 1</b></li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Questions on notice and actions arising from previous minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request was made for South32 to facilitate a site inspection to Vent Shafts 7 and 8. <b>Action 2</b></li> </ul> <p><b>1. Arrange tours of old growth trees, Nepean River Biobanking site and North Cliff rehabilitation site.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>North Cliff rehabilitation site toured on 19 July.</b></li> <li><b>Old Growth Trees and biobanking site toured on 25 July.</b></li> <li>JS noted that it was disappointing to see that fences around the trees were damaged and that horses continue to damage the trees.</li> <li>CS noted that there had been heavy winds recently and the fences were in the process of being repaired.</li> <li>JS noted that the biobank tour was interesting but also stated that the planting done in 2018 has been a failure, which is very disappointing. JS noted the size of the corflute that has been erected to protect the trees from goats was an issue and suggested a better way to protect the trees would be to erect temporary fencing and the planting should have been in sections.</li> <li>SD queried what responsibility South32 have for maintaining the trees and keeping them alive.</li> <li>CS advised that he would take the question on notice. <b>Action 3</b></li> <li>DP thanked the South32 team for organising the tours.</li> <li>JS further commented that the trees are significant and considered vulnerable.</li> </ul>

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2. **DP to share article provided by JS regarding grant given to Razorback Landcare.**
    - DP has forwarded the article to the CCC members.
  3. **DP to share Appin CCC annual report live on DPHI website.**  
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/appin-ccc-annual-report-fy-23-24.pdf>
  4. **Updated Nepean River Gas Zone Plan to be bought to the August ACCC.**  
Included in the presentation.
  5. **DS asked for the distance between the longwall and active gas zones**
    - Included in presentation.
  6. **SD asked if the CCC would be given the opportunity to review the Heritage Management Plan.**
    - Circulated for review.
  7. **MD asked how far the seismic survey extended along Remembrance Drive.**
    - 2D seismic line extended from the Camden Valley Inn to ~240m beyond Finns Road roundabout.
  8. **DP to review and circulate updated Terms of Reference.**
    - Awaiting further advice from the DPHI.
    - DP will have the updated Terms of Reference for next meeting.
  9. **MM Confirm availability of the Menangle RFS for the August meeting.**
    - Confirmed.

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## 6. Correspondence

- Rod Mapstone wrote to the ACCC on 9 July seeking comments on the:
  - Appin Mine Heritage Management Plan
  - Conservation Management Plan – Mountbatten
- On 1 August the deadline for comments was extended to 9 August.
- A response was drafted by SD on 1 August and circulated to the ACCC members. This response was supported by other members. Further detail is outlined in section 7.3 of these minutes.

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## 7. Company and other reports

### 7.1 Sale update

- On 29 February 2024, South32 announced that it had entered into a binding agreement to sell IMC to an entity owned by Golden Energy and Resources Pte Ltd and M Resources Pty Ltd.
  - On 29 July 2024, South32 announced that all conditions precedent to the sale have been satisfied.
  - The sale is expected to complete on or around 2 September 2024. New name will be advised around this time.
  - South32 will continue to own and operate IMC until completion and has agreed to provide transitional services to IMC for up to six months following completion of the transaction.
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- Details of the announcement can be found here:  
<https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/exchange-releases/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-sale-unconditional-0xbffca83e023bbf8.pdf>

## 7.2 Operations

- LW710A
  - Commenced 1 November 2023
  - Completed on 14 June 2024
- LW710B
  - Commenced on 18 June 2024
  - 316m extracted; length 2,521m (as of 5 August 2024)
  - Completion planned Q2 2025
- SD questioned what sort of subsidence damage has been identified between LW709 and 710.
- AL advised that there are approximately 73 properties that will be linked with LW 710B. AL will confirm total number of subsidence damage claims. **Action 4**
- SD asked whether anyone on the northern edge of LW711 have put in claims.
- AL advised that he is not aware of any claims made from that area.
- JS questioned whether slippage would be expected when a slope is steep.
- AL advised teams go out and monitor steep slopes and any change in landscape is notified to the government. He further advised that it is sometimes hard to correlate after heavy rain if changes are from mine activity.
- SD noted that it would be interesting to see how the nature of the terrain is affecting the predictions and what happens when it drops. SD also asked if the bridge going into Burrells Lane had been affected and further suggested that it would be beneficial to see a time lap series.
- AL advised that the detail of actual vs predicted is provided in End of Panel reports.
- South32 will include a link to End of Panel reports in minutes for ease of reference. **Action 5**
  - [Appin Mine documents \(south32.net\)](#) (scroll down to End of Panel Reports. LW709 was the most recent End of Panel Report).
- SD questioned why the zone of influence being discussed is a 'weird' shape.
- AL will take an action to confirm why the zone is that shape. **Action 6**
- JS queried how early people are being asked to take pre-mining inspections (PMIs)
- AL advised 12 months before longwall is expected to start. PMIs occur as early as possible and engagement with impacted residents happens as early as possible.
- A request was made to have a representative from the Subsidence Advisory NSW present at the next CCC meeting around:
  - the assessment / inspection process and assessment of liability
  - how the recent amendments to the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017 will be implemented by Subsidence Advisory**Action 7**

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## 7.3 Environment

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### **Brennans Creek Dam**

- Dam level – 12.1m.
- pH 8.4 and EC 1.3 mS/cm.
- Discharge from BCD approximately 3.5 ML/day, although has been varied due to remediation works being done in the Georges River

### **Appin North Water Treatment Plant**

- 740 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (46 ML in June and 48.9 ML in July).
- Engineering continues for pre-treatment plant.

### **Water quality exceedances**

- Elevated Biochemical Oxygen Demand result of 70 mg/L and 69 mg/L recorded at LDP 38 in June and July 2024 respectively.
- Engaged wastewater consultant to give advice on how to handle the exceedance.
- Possible through sampling there has been some algae in the water which could affect the result.

### **Brine Discharge**

- Meeting held with EPA to discuss brine discharge report.
- EPA have been undertaking their own monitoring and are looking to undertake some sediment sampling.

### **Georges River Rehabilitation Project**

- Grouting is complete at Rockbar 40.
- Beginning sealing of surface fractures on Rockbar 39.
- DS questioned whether these will be revisited to ensure that the ground hasn't been impacted.
- CS advised that these will be monitored and evaluated as to whether they should go back in to do further grouting or not.

### **Nepean River gas zones**

- Six recorded since May – up by 2.
  - No new gas zones.
  - CS explained that the current mining is not creating new gas zones.
  - DS queried whether fracturing is caused from works at West Cliff.
  - CS advised that no new fracturing is occurring, all gas zones have been reported previously, some are dormant and then reactivate. No new gas zones have been reported in years.
  - JS queried when gas zones 901 and 702 were reported.
  - CS advised those gas zones were likely reported in 2016.
  - DP summarised that ACCC members are concerned about gas zones and how these have been communicated in the past. There is further dissatisfaction with the regulatory body and requirements for reporting.
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- CS advised that that the Department has assessed an acceptable level of environmental impact, an EIS was undertaken and mining has been undertaken accordingly with approval from the Department of Planning.

#### **North Cliff Rehabilitation**

- Inspection undertaken with regulatory agencies on 27 June.
- Shaft sealing risk assessment and application to seal shaft has been discussed with Mines Inspectorate.
- REF for power line removal has been submitted to NPWS for their approval. NPWS is reviewing.

#### **Appin Road Coal Residue**

- Notification received from EPA regarding coal residue on Appin Road.

#### **Reporting**

- Annual Reviews and Annual Returns being prepared.

#### **Emplacement monitoring**

- Drone being used for fixed photo points.
- CS advised that these photos are taken quarterly.
- SD suggested these photos could be brought together into a video.

#### **Investigation into cause of toxicity – LDP 24 and LDP 40**

- Meeting held with EPA.
- Blending trials are being undertaken.
- Ecotoxicity monitoring is ceasing at this time.

#### **Management Plans**

- Water Management Plan submitted for approval.
- Adaptive Management Plan for EPBC Listed Species submitted to DCCEEW. Comments addressed.
- Coal Wash Emplacement Area MP and Broad-headed Snake and Southern Brown Bandicoot MP submitted for approval.
- Heritage Management Plan is under review.
- The ACCC agreed a response to the Heritage Management Plan review.
- DP to provide South32 with a copy of the written response. **Action 8**

#### **7.4 Exploration**

- Currently operating 1 x rig.
- Located within EL4470.
- Drilling to continue on Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute property.

#### **Seismic Survey**

3D – Phase 1 & 2: Completed

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- Phase 1 completed in September 2023 (Menangle).
  - Phase 2 completed in April 2024 (Cawdor).
  - Private properties only.

#### 2D – Phase 1: Completed

- Completed in May 2024.
- Public roads and some private properties.
- Letters sent to all landholders within 50m of public roads
- LAA in place where required

#### 2D- Phase 2: Upcoming

- Proposed to commence in late 2024 – details and dates to be confirmed.
- Public roads and some private properties.

## 7.5 Projects

### AMVA Project

#### Siteworks

- Tree planting along Menangle Road boundary maintained and establishing well.
- 2 x boreholes for electrical power down to 560m and third hole being drilled.
- Switchyard installation progressing and continuing
- SD questioned whether the temporary towers are higher than the final planned towers
- AL advised that yes, there is approximately 13m<sup>1</sup> difference. The final installations is planned to be 25m when finished whereas the temporary ones are closer to 40m.
- A question was raised as to whether blasting will be allowed 24 hours a day.
- AL advised blasting is planned to resume in late September and will be undertaken within current approved timings of 9am-5pm. Some extended blasting hours have been requested for a variety of reasons, these extended hours might continue until 10pm before going 24/7. As blasts go deeper, the noise will diminish.

#### VS7

- Pre-sink works completed in early July. Activities are focused on preparing for the main sink using the winders.
- VS7 winder shed cladding being finalised.
- Headframe assembly commenced.
- Sinking stage has been put into the shaft barrel.
- First headframe module installed over shaft.
- Main sink due to commence in Late December 2024.

#### VS8

- Acoustic cladding installed on headframe.
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<sup>1</sup> Confirmed after meeting

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- Pre-commissioning of winders ongoing.
  - Main sink due to commence in late September/October 2024.

### **Third Party Coal Processing**

- No update from last meeting regarding this Modification Application.

### **NRAR Enforceable Undertaking**

<https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance/regulatory-responses/enforceable-undertakings/illawarra-coal-holdings-dendrobium-mine>

- IMC has had detailed discussions with WaterNSW, ILALC and NRAR to prepare a final community project proposal submitted to NRAR 26 July.
- The Project focuses on Wingecarribee Swamp Rehabilitation.
- Incidental surface water licensing for Dendrobium is in place.

### **Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project**

- Proposal to construct and operate a VAM abatement demonstration plant using a Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) adjacent to VS6 in Douglas Park.
- Specialist assessments have commenced to inform the design, construction, and operation of the plant.
- Community consultation has commenced, and a community information session was held on 27 June 2024. No one attended. Another session can be coordinated if there is community interest.
- A Modification Application will be submitted to the DPHI and will go on public exhibition for comment.
- DS questioned the trial duration for the project on diagram (page 21 of presentation) will be in place.
- AL will confirm the duration and report back to the CCC. **Action 9**

## **7.5 Community**

Since our last meeting...

- 0 x complaints
- 0 x non-complaints
- 10 x enquiries
- 5 x IMC property access
- 4 x Appin Memorial
- 1 x exploration

## **7.6 Community Investment**

### **Illawarra Metallurgical Coal**

- On July 24, we joined the community to remember the victims of the Appin Mine Disaster 45 years ago.

### **Community Partnership Program 2024**

- ~\$181,000 invested, including
  - Lifeline Macarthur
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- Appin Rotary
  - Picton Swim School
  - River Road Creative
  - Douglas Park Wilton Football Club
  - Douglas Park PS
  - Wollondilly RFS
  - Douglas Park Community Centre
  - Douglas Park Wilton Athletics Club
  - AL will confirm what funds remain for community investment in from the 2024 Community Partnership Program. **Action 10**
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8. **General Business**

Suggestions were made to hold the ACCC Christmas catch up at either Campbelltown Catholic Club or Camden Valley Inn.

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9. **Next meeting**

Wednesday, 16 October 2024 @ 5pm

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