

## Appin Community Consultative Committee Minutes (FINAL)

**Meeting** Appin Community Consultative Committee **Date** 16 October 2024  
**Time** 5:00pm – 6:30pm

**Venue** Menangle RFS

**Independent Chair** Deborah Palmer

**Attendees**

- Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative
- Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative
- Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative
- Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative
- Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council
- Chris Schultz, GM<sup>3</sup>
- Rod Mapstone, GM<sup>3</sup>
- Sandra Monero, GM<sup>3</sup>

**Apologies**

- Michael McGrath, Community Representative
- Barbara Weber, Community Representative
- Barry Durman, Community Representative
- Andy Hyslop, GM<sup>3</sup>

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Confirm site inspection of Vent shafts 7 and 8 to go ahead on 25 October 2024	RM
2	Provide further detail about the total number of subsidence claims for LW 709 and LW710A.	RM
3	Consider including ongoing reporting of overview of subsidence claims to the ACCC.	RM
4	Circulate the approved ToR to the CCC once finalised.	DP
5	Consider if a council officer from Wollondilly Shire Council attend the meetings as an observer and to act as the alternate.	DP
6	Provide hard copies of the presentation to CCC members at each of the meetings.	RM
7	ACCC members to RSVP to the end of year dinner by 14 November	All

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 noted an invitation has been sent to Wollondilly Shire Council inviting them to confirm their representative following the September local government elections. Cr Deeth will attend the committee until the governing body resolves councillor representation on statutory and external committees.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael McGrath</li> <li>• Barbara Weber</li> <li>• Barry Durman</li> <li>• Andy Hyslop</li> </ul>

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**3. Declaration of interests**

- The Chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson is paid for by GM<sup>3</sup>.
- The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.
- There were no other declarations made at the meeting.

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**4. Subsidence Advisory NSW**

- Meeting held on Monday 14 October 2024. A meeting note was distributed to the ACCC on 16 October 2024. Further detail provided in the actions arising 7 below.

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**5. Endorsement of previous minutes**

- Meeting minutes of ACCC from 8 August 2024 were endorsed as a fair and accurate summary of the meeting.

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**6. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted during the meeting. Below is a summary of correspondence since the previous meeting:

- 8 August 2024 – email from the Chairperson to RM – Appin CCC comments on the Heritage Management Plan
- 19 August 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – draft August minutes for comments and final June minutes
- 27 August 2024 – email from SD amendments to draft August minutes
- 29 August 2024 – email from Chairperson to Subsidence Advisory to attend the 16 October Appin CCC meeting
- 30 August 2024 – email from AL to Appin CCC – Sale completion
- 6 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC - Tour of the AMVA site on 25 October – seeking RSVPs by 4 October
- 6 September – email from DS to Chairperson and RM confirming availability for the AMVA tour
- 8 September 2024 – email from JS to Chairperson and RM confirming availability for AMVA tour
- 9 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – Subsidence Advisory to attend 16 October meeting
- 9 September 2024 – email from SD to the Appin CCC – notification of changes to the coal mine subsidence compensation framework
- 13 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – final draft minutes
- 18 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – call for questions on notice or apologies
- 18 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – draft agenda for the October meeting
- 19 September 2024 – email from SD to Appin CCC seeking response from GM3 on a development application from Walker Corporation close to the site
- 20 September 2024 – email from RM to Appin noting GM3 Response to the development application will be shared with the CCC in due course
- 22 September 2024 – email from Chairperson to the Appin CCC – notification of Subsidence Advisory consultation
- 24 September 2024 – email from JS to the Appin CCC – questions on notice
- 25 September 2024 – email from RM to the Appin CCC - AMVA Project: commencement of VS8 main sink

- 2 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – October meeting agenda
- 2 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to Wollondilly Shire Council – Invitation for Council Representation on the Dendrobium and Appin Community Consultative Committees
- 2 October 2024 email from Chairperson to Campbelltown City Council Shire Council – Invitation for Council Representation on the Appin Community Consultative Committee
- 3 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – October meeting agenda with location corrected
- 3 October 2024 – email from MD noting apology for October meeting. Wollondilly Shire Council representative to be confirmed following first Council meeting
- 7 October 2024 – email from SD noting fire
- 7 October 2024 – email from SD to Appin CCC noting Guardian article
- 8 October 2024 – email from RM to the Appin CCC - VS6 fire
- 8 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to the Appin CCC noting Guardian article will be discussed by GM3 at October meeting
- 8 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – draft Terms of Reference
- 9 October 2024 – email from RM – invitation to end of year dinner
- 9 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to the Appin CCC – alternative time to meet with Subsidence Advisory
- 9 October 2024 – email from MM to Chairperson – apology for 16 October meeting
- 9-10 October 2024 – email correspondence between Chairperson and individual members about availability for rescheduled Subsidence Advisory meeting
- 11 October 2024 – invitation from Chairperson for the Subsidence Advisory meeting on 14 October sent
- 14 October 2024 – email from Wollondilly Shire Council – representation to be confirmed
- 15 October 2024 – email from RM to Appin CCC - Appin Mine Ventilation and Access (AMVA) Project - changes to blasting regime
- 16 October 2024 – email from Chairperson to Appin CCC – meeting note from meeting with Subsidence Advisory NSW
- 16 October 2024 – email from Wollondilly Shire Council- Cr Matthew Deeth to attend until member is confirmed by Council.

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## 7. Question on notice and actions arising from the previous minutes

### Actions arising

1. DP to circulate amended minutes from June meeting – email sent 19 August 2024. Closed.
2. AL Coordinate site inspection of Vent Shaft 7 and 8. Proposed for 25 October.  
**Action 1: RM to confirm site inspection date as 25 October 2024.**
3. CS to confirm what responsibility GM<sup>3</sup> has for maintaining trees in the Nepean biobanking site. Response below. Closed.
  - GM<sup>3</sup> is accountable for maintaining trees within the biobanking site. Records of survivability must be maintained, and tree guards need to be in place until the trees are sufficiently established.
  - Success rate in the survivability of canopy and shrub layer species planted in June 2020 in MZ1 and MZ2 (eastern section) is about 90%. In the western

section of MZ1 (planted in Autumn 2019), the survivability is about 50%, following the drought in 2019. Mammal guards are being investigated for more established trees.

- The Annual Report for the biobanking site has been submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and is available in Appendix 8 of the Annual Review, available on the GM<sup>3</sup> website: <https://gm-3.com.au/appin-mine/>.

The CCC discussed the features and placement of the mammal guards. There was support for the approach being adopted, including the spacing of the guards, which will be designed to naturally align with the way trees grow in the area and focus on the healthiest trees. It was noted that the installation of the mammal guards will be carried out by Landcare.

The group also agreed to visit the site at a future date, once there had been time for the trees to grow further, to observe the progress and effectiveness of the installation.

4. AL to confirm the number of subsidence damage claims made to date. Response below. Closed.

- 30 active claims.

SD requested further information about these claims be provided (such as type, value).

**Action 2: RM to provide further detail about the total number of subsidence claims for LW 709 and LW710A.**

**Action 3: GM<sup>3</sup> to consider including ongoing reporting of overview of subsidence claims to the CCC.**

5. DP to include a link to the panel reports in the minutes – sent with minutes. Closed.
6. AL to confirm why the zone of influence is a weird shape. Response below. Closed.

[www.community.gm-3.com.au/appin-mine-plan](http://www.community.gm-3.com.au/appin-mine-plan)

- The active subsidence area represents 150 meters in advance and 450 meters past the current longwall mining operations.
- The 20mm subsidence boundary for LW710A and LW710B determines the shape of the boundary.
- The subsidence boundary shows the predicted area with potential effects due to mining. Engagement with landholders inside the area occurs before, during, and after mining. Their eligibility to make a claim is assessed accordingly.

During the ACCC discussion, the group noted how the boundary was determined, specifically addressing how properties qualify for inclusion within the subsidence zone. SM explained that if any structure on a property is located within the active subsidence area, the entire property qualifies for inclusion in the area and will be eligible for assessments.

SD acknowledged the logic behind the boundary and expressed concern that property owners outside of the area might not be eligible for the same protections or assistance as those within the boundary.

Further, SD raised a concern about potential claims being closed too early, suggesting that some subsidence impacts might not be fully realised by the time claims are settled. SM clarified that properties in the active subsidence area will still have their claims investigated and that while early settlement of subsidence may occur, each case is treated individually.

Members also questioned how long a property will be impacted. SM advised that properties could have potential subsidence for around four longwalls. Duration will depend on the mining progress and the location of the property.

GM<sup>3</sup> clarified that planned longwall operations are moving to the north west.

7. DP to invite a representative from Subsidence Advisory to present at the next meeting – invitation sent 29 August 2024. Detail below. Closed.
  - Teams meeting held on 14 October
  - SANSW representatives:
    - Georgia Mellick – Principal Manager, Strategy & Policy
    - Rhea Stevenson – Senior Advisor, Community and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Meeting included a presentation on changes to legislation, including approved procedures for dealing with compensation claims and pre-mining inspections.
  - Community consultation has now been extended to 24 October 2024.
  - Visit the Subsidence Advisory NSW website for information on how to make a submission or complete a survey  
<https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/coal-mine-subsidence-approved-procedures>
  - Meeting note sent to the ACCC on 16 October 2024.
8. Provide written endorsement of the comments made by the ACCC on the Heritage Management Plan to GM3 – email sent on 8 August 2024. Closed.
9. RM to confirm duration of VAM Abatement Project. Discussed below under Projects. Closed.
10. RM to confirm remaining funds in the CPP for FY2024. Discussed below under Community. Closed.

### Questions on notice

1. JS: NRAR Enforceable Undertaking can we have a link to the final proposal as mentioned in the minutes?
    - GM<sup>3</sup> understands that the NRAR will post the proposal to their website once approved. GM<sup>3</sup> will provide the link when available.
  2. JS: Apart from Russell Vale, what other coal sources would be utilised for the Third Party Coal Processing Project?
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- To date no other sources have yet been identified. It was noted that Russell Vale was the original source and the approved modification application was amended to accept coal from other sources.
3. JS: Has the potential fire hazard from fugitive methane emissions at North Cliff been assessed? Has the amount of methane ever been measured?
- The fire hazard has been assessed. The area around the shafts is maintained to provide an asset protection zone to reduce the chance of ignition. The fence restricts access to the public.
  - The gas could potentially be ignited, appearing as a small flame, like a gas BBQ, but the rate of emission would determine whether the flame would be sustained.
  - A bag sample collected showed 50% methane concentration. Emissions reporting follows the National Greenhouse Energy Reporting methodology.
- JS asked whether there had been a 53% increase in methane emissions during FY23. CS clarified that there had been an increase in emissions in FY24 due to a change in the reporting methodology. The methane emission figures are included in the Annual Review.
- CS advised that the site will undergo proper rehabilitation in the future, at which time the methane emissions will be tested.
- SD noted methane can be explosive at low concentrations.

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## 8. GM<sup>3</sup> update

### 8.1 Operations

The operations update was provided by RM.

- LW710B:
  - Commenced: June 2024
  - Extracted: 1682m
  - Planned completion: May 2025

Upcoming anticipated schedule:

- LW710A: Q4 2023 – Q2 2024
- LW710B: Q3 2024 – Q1 2025
- LW711: Q1 2025 – Q4 2026

### 8.2 Environment

The environment update was provided by CS.

1. Brennans Creek Dam
  - Current dam level: 11.2 meters
  - pH: 8.7
  - Electrical Conductivity (EC): 1.6 mS/cm

- Discharge from BCD ceased on 8 October 2024.
2. Appin North Water Treatment Plant
    - 827.6 ML discharged via LDP 40 in total (48.4 ML in August and 38.4 ML in September).
    - Engineering for pre-treatment plant continues.
  3. Active Gas Zones (Nepean River)
    - Four active zones as of 30 September 2024.
    - No new gas zones.
  4. North Cliff rehabilitation
    - Risk assessment for shaft sealing has been submitted to the Mines Inspectorate.
    - REF for power line removal submitted to NPWS for approval.
  5. Georges River rehabilitation
    - Grouting at Rockbar 39 is ongoing. Sealing of surface fractures is complete.
    - Track upgrades to Rockbar 36 are complete, and it will be the next rehabilitation site after Rockbar 39.
  6. Reporting
    - Annual Review and Annual Return for Appin Mine has been submitted. The Annual Return is included as Appendix 1 in the Annual Review, available on the GM<sup>3</sup> website: <https://gm-3.com.au/appin-mine/>

In addition, CS advised that an advisory letter had been received from the EPA regarding a loss of containment (approximately 50 litres) on the surface at Appin West. The substance was solcenic, which is used in the longwall chocks underground. Solcenic contains fluorescein, which is a bright green dye.

The dye was detected in a nearby pond, and the incident was notified to the EPA.

Fluorescein is highly visible and can colour a water source with only small amounts. It is nontoxic and causes no environmental harm.

7. Investigation into cause of toxicity – LDP 24 (near Appin West Water Treatment Plant) and LDP 40 (near Appin North Water Treatment Plant)
  - Data has been provided to the EPA and is currently being assessed.
  - Blending with other sources of water is proposed to decrease toxicity and still meet water quality concentration limits.
8. Management plans

- Water Management Plan submitted for approval but was withdrawn, re-reviewed and resubmitted.
  - Adaptive Management Plan for EPBC Listed Species has been approved.
  - Coal Wash Emplacement Area MP and Broad-headed Snake and Southern Brown Bandicoot MP submitted for approval. Still under assessment.
  - Heritage Management Plan remains under review.
9. Personnel changes
- Hubert Mhangami has left the business.
  - James Alchin has transferred from Dendrobium to undertake the role.
10. Impacts and triggers
- There have been three trigger events of gas release near private underground boreholes. The events were on 21 August 2024, 23 August 2024, and 11 September 2024.
  - The groundwater bores are located above LW709 and LW710B. Gas samples were collected and identified as methane.
  - The events were classified as a Level 3 TARP which is where mining results in groundwater bores unsafe, unserviceable, or damaged.
- JS questioned how soon after mining these occur. CS noted that mining in this area commenced in June 2024, so the period between the mining and the triggers was short. CS advised that compensatory water was being provided where required and that this would continue until the issue resolved.
11. Sandy Creek 21 Aboriginal Heritage Site (Dendrobium)
- During an inspection undertaken on 26 March 2024, an additional rock fracture and associated rockfall were identified at the Sandy Creek 21 Aboriginal heritage site. The Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and government agencies were notified in accordance with reporting procedures. GM<sup>3</sup> is currently co-developing a specific site management plan in collaboration with the RAPs and the landowner, WaterNSW.

### **8.3 Exploration**

The exploration update was provided by RM.

1. Drilling
  - 2 rigs are currently in operation.
  - Drilling continues at EMAI, with the second rig located on private property.
2. Seismic Survey:
  - 3D seismic survey: Phases 1 and 2 have been completed.
  - 2D seismic survey:
    - Phase 1: Completed
    - Phase 2: Upcoming, proposed to commence in early 2025 (specific details and dates are yet to be confirmed).
    - The survey will involve public roads and some private properties



## 8.4 Projects

The projects update was provided by RM.

### 1. Appin Mine Ventilation & Access (AMVA) Project

#### Siteworks

- Tree planting along Menangle Road boundary is being maintained, with 10% losses being replaced.
- 4 boreholes for electrical power and compressed air completed.
- Switching yard insulation progressing and is being commissions.

#### VS7 and VS8

- Sinking of ventilation shafts is scheduled to continue, with VS7 main sink due to commence in January 2025, and VS8 in mid-October 2024.

#### Modification 6 – changes to blast limits

- On 11 October 2024, the DPHI approved the modification application.
- <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-6-blasting-limits>
- A maximum of two blasts per 24-hour period at each of the ventilation shafts unless an additional blast is required following a misfire.
- Blasting permitted from Monday to Saturday between 7am and 10pm; and Sunday between 8am and 10pm.
- No blasting permitted on public holidays.
- Reduces the duration and severity of blasting impacts on the community.
- Shortens the project schedule.
- Facilitates more efficient blasting cycles, using bench blasting where required.

RM noted email correspondence sent to the CCC and landholders within 1km of the site on 15 October 2024. JS asked if blasts would be felt. RM noted this is unlikely to occur.

### 2. VAM Abatement Project

- The Modification Application has been finalised and will be submitted to the DPHI shortly.
- GM<sup>3</sup> anticipate that it will go on public exhibition for comment. GM<sup>3</sup> will advise the community when this happens.
- Construction activities would occur between 7am and 6pm from Monday to Saturday. No work on Sundays or public holidays.
- GM<sup>3</sup> expect construction to occur over six months and require a short-term construction workforce of up to 30 people.
- Once operational, the VAM unit until would run 24/7 for the approved life of Appin Mine.

The CCC expressed an interest to undertake a site visit of the project once it is approved and established.

## 8.5 Community

The Community update was provided by RM.

### 1. Complaints

- No complaints, non-complaints, or enquiries since the last meeting.

### 2. Community investment

- Douglas Park Community Centre: Change room and canteen upgrades, jointly funded with Wollondilly Council.
- Healthy Harold: Continued partnership for local families.
- Wilton Church: Community fencing upgrade.
- FY24 investment: \$235,409; Current balance: \$5,891.

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## 9. General business

### 9.1 CCC's terms of reference

- The Chair had sought clarification from DPHI as the CCC's Terms of Reference (ToR) deviate from the template provided by the Department. DPHI advised to use the template as much as possible.
- The Chair used the new template and inserted items from the current ToR which were discussed with the ACCC. Changes included:
  - Campbelltown City Council has been noted as an interested party and they have been invited to attend again.
  - The ToR must be reviewed annually.
  - Meetings will continue to be in-person and can be online once IT capabilities at the venue allow for this.
- Items which the ACCC discussed and agree were:
  - Frequency of meeting – CCC community representatives indicated they would like to continue meeting every second month, with the third Wednesday in February to be the first meeting of the year.
  - Approval of minutes via circular resolution (email), rather than at the next meeting. This would allow for approved minutes to be published and made available to the broader community sooner. The ACCC agreed with this.
- The CCC confirmed they were comfortable with the proposed new ToR using the DPHI template.
- MD sought that a council officer from Wollondilly Shire Council attend the meetings as an observer and to act as the alternate.
- **Action 4: Chair to circulate the approved ToR to the CCC once finalised.**
- **Action 5: Chair to consider if a council officer from Wollondilly Shire Council attend the meetings as an observer and to act as the alternate.**

## 9.2 Other business

- Code of Conduct
  - All members present verbally gave commitment to the Code of Conduct for CCC members.
- During the meeting the CCC discussed hard copies of the presentation being made available for members at the meeting.
- **Action 6: GM<sup>3</sup> to consider providing hard copies of the presentation to CCC members at each of the meetings.**
- JS noted they haven't received a hard copy of the community newsletter since 2021. The distribution area for the community newsletter was discussed and RM noted distribution includes Razorback.
- End of year dinner scheduled for 28 November at Camden Valley Inn.
- **Action 7: ACCC members to RSVP to the end of year dinner by 14 November**

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## 10. Next meeting

Next Meeting: Wednesday 11 December 2024 (Menangle RFS)

Time: 5.00pm

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting closed: 6:31pm