

Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee Minutes (FINAL)

Meeting Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee **Date** 11 December 2024
Time 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Venue Menangle RFS

Independent Chair Deborah Palmer

Attendees Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative
 Michael McGrath, Community Representative
 Barry Durman, Community Representative
 Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative
 Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative
 Barbara Weber, Community Representative
 Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council
 Chris Schultz (CS), GM³
 Sandra Moreno (SM), GM³

Apologies
 Andy Hyslop, GM³
 Shane Simpson (SS),
 Community Representative

Invitees Antony Leone, GM³ – left meeting at 5:45pm
 Melynda Kensey, GM³
 James Alchin, GM³

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Site inspection of Vent shafts 7 and 8 to be scheduled in 2025. Update to be provided at the February meeting.	SM
2	GM ³ submission on the Walker Corporation development application to be shared with the ACCC once it is made public as part of the Council assessment process.	SM
3	Update on compressors used at vent shaft 6.	SM
4	Provide exact location of the helipad being built as part of the AMVA project.	SM
5	CCC to be notified when public exhibition of the Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Project commences.	SM
6	GM ³ to provide an update about request from the CPP in relation to increase fund from 3c to equal what is paid into the Dendrobium scheme. Update to be provided at the February meeting.	SM
7	GM ³ to consider a request for the provision of funding to the ACCC in line with section 4.10 funding provisions	AL

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all CCC Members and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Hyslop, GM³ Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative

3. Declaration of interests

- The Chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson is paid for by GM³.
- The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.
- There were no other declarations made at the meeting.

4. Correspondence

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

- 10/12/24 – Email from Chairperson to SD – response to available funding to the CCC
- 9/12/24 – Email from Chairperson to MD – permission to have a council officer as an observer at the ACCC
- 4/12/24 – Email from Chairperson to members – Agenda and Terms of Reference
- 26/11/24 – Email from Chairperson to BB – background information on the Appin CCC and request to complete forms
- 19/11/24 – Email from Chairperson to SD – checking to see if email from 21/10/24 to RM had received a response
- 26/11/24 – Email from JS to the Chairperson – QON – fencing of old growth trees. Return acknowledgement from the Chairperson
- 19/11/24 – Email from SD to the Chairperson – QON – additional information on emissions
- 18/11/24 – Email from JS to the Chairperson – QON – methane emissions. Return acknowledgement from the Chairperson
- 18/11/24 – Email from the Chairperson to members – Terms of Reference
- 20/11/24 – Email from DPHI to Chairperson – response on available funding to the CCC
- 18/11/24 – Email from Chairperson to DPHI – available funding to the CCC
- 13/11/24 – Email from Chairperson to members – draft agenda for comment
- 12/11/24 – Email from Wollondilly Shire Council – nomination of Council representatives to the ACCC
- 30/10/24 – Email from the Chairperson to members – final minutes
- 30/10/24 – Email from Chairperson to SD – response to available funding for the CCC
- 28/10/24 – Email from SD to Chairperson – available funding to the CCC
- 23/10/24 – Email from Chairperson to SD – response to query on TARP levels
- 21/10/24 – Email from SD to Chairperson – TARP levels
- 21/10/24 – Email from Chairperson to members – draft minutes for review
- 21/10/24 – Email from SD to RM – 3 queries
- 17/10/24 – Email from RM to members – AMVA Project: commencement of VS8 main sink
- 17/10/24 – Email from RM to members – AMVA site tour on 25/10 postponed

5. Business update

- Ownership transition:
 - On 29 February 2024, South32 entered a binding agreement to sell IMC to Golden Energy and Resources Pte Ltd and M Resources Pty Ltd.
 - The sale was completed on 29 August 2024.
 - Currently in a Transitional Services Agreement period with South32 (ending February 2024) to ensure a smooth transition.
- Community team changes:
 - Rod Mapstone has left the business, and Melynda Kensey is introduced as Principal, Corporate Affairs.
 - Sandra Moreno will now lead the Appin CCC and handle all community-related matters for Appin Mine
 - Antony Leone continues as Manager, Corporate Affairs.
 - Appin Mine's operational representative is to be confirmed.

6. Actions arising from the previous minutes and question on notice**Actions arising**

1. **Vent Shaft 7 and 8 inspection:** Originally planned for October 2024; to be rescheduled to 2025. SM to provide updates at the next meeting. **Action 1**

2. **Subsidence claims for LW709 and LW710A:**

It was noted that claims cannot always be attributed to a single longwall due to overlapping impacts from multiple longwalls on a property.

Claim status from last meeting:

- 30 claims in October 2024.
- 23 on hold
- Determinations issued: 5, one of those not-mine related.
- Resolved and paid: 2
- 28 current claims as December 2024

Closed.

3. **Ongoing reporting of subsidence claims:** GM³ propose to provide a claim status report as per item 2, including claims per suburb. Agreed. Closed.
4. **Terms of Reference (ToR):** Update copy provided to members. Closed.
5. **Council representation:** Confirmed as Cr Deeth and Cr Banasik as the alternative. Wollondilly Shire Council invited to bring a Council Officer observer to the meeting. Closed.
6. **Presentation distribution:** Hard copies provided during the meeting. Ongoing action. Closed.
7. **End of year dinner:** Appreciation for the dinner expressed by members. Noise at the venue noted to be avoided at future events. Closed.

Questions on notice (QON)

- **Methane emissions:**

- Reporting methodology changed from Continuous Emissions Monitoring (CEM) to a hybrid of CEM and Periodic Emissions Monitoring (PEM). South32 identified that this was a more accurate methodology for calculating emissions, noting that both methodologies had been approved by the Clean Energy Regulator.
- FY24 emissions reported as 1,833,982 tonnes CO2 equivalent under PEM.

Discussion:

- SD asked whether previous data could be reviewed and extrapolated using the same methodology. CS confirmed that there are several variables that need to be considered in any recalculation. SD also inquired whether other sites might have been underreporting. GM³ stated that they were unable to provide a comment on this matter.

- **Old Growth trees at Douglas Park fencing:** Repairs completed. No significant damage from recent storms. Monitoring systems are in place to ensure ongoing protection.

- **Acoustic testing:** Results consistent with consent conditions. GM³ clarified no intent to comment on media coverage linking blasting to seismic activity. Results provided in line with operational transparency to Menangle Advisory Panel.
 - **GM³ submission to the Walker Corporation development application:** GM³ noted their submission objects the development application. The application lists the reasons for objection including concerns of more housing close to operations. GM³ have recommend that there is no housing within 450 m of the operations unless adequate consideration to its concerns are addressed. Submissions will be made public as part of the Council assessment process and GM³ will share once made public. **Action 2**
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7. GM³ update

7.1 Operations

- **Longwall Mining:**
 - LW710B: 1,388 m extracted; 1,132 m remaining; completion by Q2 2025.
 - LW711: Planned start Q2 2025; completion Q4 2026.
- **Vent Shaft 6 Incident:**
 - Temporary diesel compressors in use following a fire at compressor shed located at VS6 – Douglas Park. Permanent replacements pending. Sourcing temporary electrical compressors. There may be a temporary change in noise generated from the site over three months. Noise barriers were installed to mitigate impact during the interim period. Investigation into the cause identified bearing failure.

Discussion:

BW noted that have experienced increase noise. GM³ noted a letterbox drop has occurred notifying of the update, mitigation actions a 1800 contact number and community email for any enquiries. Update about the compressors will be provided at the February meeting.

Action 3

7.2 Environment

- **Brennans Creek Dam:** Current level at 10.9 m; no discharge since 8 October 2024. Regular monitoring continues to ensure compliance.
- **Appin North Water Treatment Plant:** 910.2 ML discharged via LDP40 (October: 44.7 ML; November: 37.8 ML). Efforts ongoing to enhance pre-treatment processes.
- **Nepean Gas Zones:** Nine active zones observed on last inspection on 28 November 2024; no new zones reported. Likely increase due to lower water level and less turbidity.
- **Bushfire management:** Asset protection zone works undertaken around the sites in preparation for bushfire season.
- **North Cliff rehabilitation:**
 - Shaft sealing risk assessment approved by the Mines Inspectorate. Detailed costings are now being prepared for funding approval in 2025.
 - Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for power line removal has been submitted to NPWS for approval. Currently under review.
 - Planning for coal wash stockpile removal. Ongoing collaboration with regulatory bodies.

Discussion:

GM³ noted the historical piles of coal wash in the Dharawal National Park that were identified following a complaint from the Environmental Defenders Office. GM³ have agreed to assist with removing them and will work with NPWS to do this.

• Monitoring:

- Spring monitoring of the emplacement area and aquatic health monitoring have been conducted.
- Preliminary results from rehabilitation monitoring show:
 - Use of majority of installed nest boxes by fauna, including species such as possums.
 - High activity at bee hotels, with significant use by native bee species like resin bees and cellophane bees.
- The Saving Our Species team assessed the Biobanking Area near Appin West and identified multiple individuals of two native species, *Hibbertia fumana* and *Epacris purpurascens*.

• Georges River rehabilitation:

- Rockbar 39 grouting complete; Rockbar 36 rehabilitation underway.
- Scoping for next rehabilitation site nearing completion.
- Track upgrades to the next site (Rockbar 45 and 49) are required.

• Haul Road sealing:

- A section of the Haul Road at Appin North, extending from Wedderburn Road to the coal bins, has been sealed.
- This sealing is expected to result in decreased dust emissions on-site.

• Nepean BioBanking site:

- Plant guards have been purchased and are ready for installation.
- Installation of the plant guards is planned for December 2024.

• Dust complaints:

- Two complaints were received via the EPA from a resident in Douglas Park concerning dust emissions from Ventilation Shaft 6:
 - Event 1: Maintenance activities at Ventilation Shaft 2 caused ventilation to be redirected to Ventilation Shaft 6. This change resulted in increased airflow and a change in dust direction.
 - Event 2: Wet stone dusting was being conducted underground near Ventilation Shaft 6. The activity caused loose stone dust to be released from the rib (walls).
- GM³ has provided a response to the EPA on both events.

• Investigation into Cause of Toxicity - LDP 24 and LDP 40

- The investigation into the cause of toxicity at LDP 24 and LDP 40 is ongoing.
- Data has been provided to the EPA and is currently under review.
- The EPA is independently monitoring the Georges River to assist in determining the causes and impact of the reported toxicity. No results have been received to date.

- **Management plans:**
 - All management plans are under review because of rebranding and general update.
 - Water Management Plan: Submitted for approval.
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan: Submitted for consultation with the EPA.
 - Environmental Management Strategy: Submitted for consultation with Wollondilly Shire Council.
 - Coal Wash Emplacement Area Management Plan: Submitted for approval; still under assessment.
 - Broad-headed Snake and Southern Brown Bandicoot Management Plan: Submitted for approval; still under assessment.
- Heritage Management Plan: Remains under review. The Conservation Management Plan is being updated and will be appended to the HMP.

7.3 Exploration

- **Drilling:** Two rigs active (EMAI and Finns Rd) focused on borehole exploration.

Discussion:

MM noted that the noise impact has been felt by neighbours. GM³ noted works were almost complete.

Comments made about a drill rig on the corner of Woodbridge Road seems to have impacted the trees. It was noted by the Council that that drill site were undertaken by AGL.

- **Seismic Survey:**
 - 3D: Completed Phases 1 and 2.
 - 2D: Phase 1 completed. Phase 2 planned for 2025, involving public and private properties. Community engagement scheduled prior to commencement.

7.4 Projects

- **Ventilation & Access Project (AMVA):**
 - Siteworks- helipad being shaped and compacted. Visual bund construction has commenced
 - 66kv power poles installed to the new switchyard
 - From mid-January the AMVA contractor will use some land near VS6 for storage.
 - Main sinking operations for VS7 and VS8 progressing; completion scheduled early 2025. Updates on logistical challenges and milestones discussed.

Discussion:

The CCC was interested to understand if residents who neighbour the property will be able to see. GM³ responded it would be possible.

The exact location of the helipad was on interest. MK undertook to provide the exact location.

Action 4

- **Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement:**

- Modification application finalised and will be submitted shortly; construction expected to take six months. Updates on community consultation via public exhibition by DPHI to be shared. **Action 5**

7.5 Community

- **Complaints:**

Since the last meeting:

- Complaints: 0
- Non-complaints: 1 (Reversing alarm noise, investigated, but not GM³)
- Enquiries: 10

Breakdown of Enquiries:

- 5: Subsidence
- 1: Coal Wash
- 1: Contractor
- 1: Employee
- 2: GM³ land maintenance

Discussion:

SM noted a letter about subsidence processes in relation to Longwall 711 has been sent to the community which has increased calls in response to this.

It was confirmed Longwall 711 will start in June 2025

A booklet has been produced about subsidence and is available on the GM³ website at:

[Community.Handbook.pdf](#)

- **Community Investment:** Recent initiatives include:

- Completed projects: Douglas Park facility upgrades finalised for 2025 sporting season.
- Recent CPP grants: Grants to Lifeline Macarthur (2025 counselling assistance) and Carols on the Hill (Menangle production support).
- New grant application site is www.gm-3.smartygrants.com.au
- Call for community projects via community@gm-3.com.au

Discussion:

The CCC support the request from the CPP about an increase in the fund up from 3c and in line with the funding equal to the Dendrobium scheme. SM to provide an update at the February meeting. **Action 6**

8. General business

SD raised a query regarding the opportunity for the CCC to receive funding to engage independent expert advice to support the CCC's functions.

DP outlined referred to sections 4.9 and 4.10 of the DHPI CCC guidelines. DP highlighted potential ambiguity in the guidelines about what funding could be provided to the committee. While the first sentence of section 4.10 clearly allows the committee to seek funding for its functions, the subsequent paragraph complicates the interpretation, particularly regarding the scope of allowable expenses.

SD referenced past communications with the CCC previous CCC chairperson and South 32 indicating that funding for independent expertise was considered out of scope but pointed out that other committees, such as the Tahmoor Coal Community Consultative Committee (TCCC), have successfully used funding for similar purposes. For example, the TCCC used allocated funds to engage legal and research support, which helped inform their committee activities. It was understood that this funding was around \$5k per year. JS noted her experience of using the funding during their time as a member of the TCCC.

SD requested that GM³ consider a request for the provision of funding to the ACCC in line with section 4.10 funding provisions - allowing for engaging independent expertise and under what conditions this might be supported. It was suggested this may be a regular payment or on a case-by-case basis.

Action 7: AL to consider a request for the provision of funding to the ACCC in line with section 4.10 funding provisions.

- **Newsletter Distribution:** SM advised that the Newsletter will be distributed in mid-December. Optimisation to suburbs surrounding operations discussed.
- **Meeting Schedule for 2025:**
 - February 19 proposed change to February 26.
 - April 16 proposed change to April 9. Final dates to be confirmed.

9. Next meeting

Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Time: 5:00 pm

Venue: Menangle RFS

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 6:30 pm.