

# MEETING MINUTES



## SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 43

LOCATION: Douglas Park Community Hall

DATE: 22 October 2019

ATTENDEES:

Mike Archer (MA - Chair)  
Noel Lowry (NL) – *present from 4.53pm*  
Danny Stewart (DS)  
Sam Davis (SD)  
Barry Durham (BD)  
Sharyn Cullis (SC)  
Michael McGrath (MM) – *present from 5.15pm*  
Craig Manz (CM – South32 Appin General Manager)  
Amanda Blunt (AB – South32 Community)  
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment)  
Shane Simpson (SS – observer)

APOLOGIES:

Peter Chaffer (PC)

ABSENT:

1	<i>PURPOSE</i>
	The purpose of the Community Consultative Committee is to facilitate and maintain two-way communication between South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, key stakeholders and local residents. It is to promote open discussion on the activities of South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's Bulli Seam Operations, including underground mining and surface operations of Appin; environmental performance and community relations; and to keep all stakeholders informed on these matters.
2	<i>AGENDA</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and apologies</li> <li>• Declaration of Interests</li> <li>• Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes / Business Arising from previous Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Questions of Notice Tracker</li> <li>• Update from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environment, including water</li> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2019 meeting dates</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting close</li> </ul>
	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MA opened the meeting at 4.02pm and noted apologies from PC.</li> <li>• MA welcomed SS as an observer to the meeting. SS has an interest in joining the Committee.</li> </ul>
4	<i>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</i>
	MA declared he receives payment from South32 to fulfil the role of Independent Chair. It is a requirement of the Government CCC Guidelines that this be noted and stated in the minutes at every meeting.
5	<i>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</i>
	<p>Previous meeting minutes (extraordinary meeting July 2019) were approved by DS and seconded by SC.</p> <p>Previous meeting minutes (August 2019) were approved by DS and seconded by SC.</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting (August 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CS to provide further update on the Georges River remediation trial. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update later in the meeting.</li> <li>• AB to report on the number of closed and accepted claims. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update later in the meeting.</li> <li>• AB to provide detail on work being done on private water borehole monitoring. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update later in the meeting.</li> <li>• CS to provide an update on the water licence variation. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update later in the meeting.</li> <li>• AB to investigate what stratigraphic column specific to the Douglas Park area can be provided. AB provided large copies of the stratigraphic column to the CCC.</li> </ul>
6	<i>GENERAL BUSINESS</i>

- MA shared correspondence with an auditor (Nicole at ERM) conducting the Independent Environmental Audit of Illawarra Coal. The audit is conducted every 3 years.
- Key issues for the Committee shared by MA included subsidence impacts, air quality, water quality, water management, noise and Mountbatten Property management.
- The Committee raised concerns about not being contacted earlier by the auditor. It requested the remediation of North Cliff mine be added to the list of concerns. CS advised that the audit was still being undertaken and any additional concerns that the committee would like to flag with the audit team through the Chair could still be made.
- SC raised interest from local landcare group of the fenced trees on Menangle Road; could they have a follow up inspection? AB advised she would investigate a site visit in 2020.
- DS questioned if South32 planted trees on Shiels Hill. CS to follow up.
- SC noted the koala corridor that extends through the South32 Emplacement Area. Questioned if koala movements have been tracked. CS advised that annual monitoring of the emplacement area is undertaken. A copy of the Monitoring Report – Emplacement Rehabilitation Year 8 is provided as Appendix A of the Annual Review, available on the South32 website.
- DS questioned if there is any further remediation work planned on Cataract River. This question was taken on notice.
- DS requested copies of the presentation provided to the Committee. AB to investigate and advise.
- DS questioned if the Spray Seal Compound south of Appin West was owned by South32. CM advised it was not owned by South32.
- DS noted dust from the Emplacement Area could be seen on Saturday 19 October; it looked like smoke from a fire. He questioned if open areas could be sealed. CS advised the amount of areas exposed is minimised where practical, with a large portion covered with topsoil in preparation for rehabilitation.

**Action: MA to make further contact with ERM to advise additional CCC concerns/comments.**

**Action: AB to investigate visit to the fenced Menangle Road trees. Local landcare group to be invited.**

**Action: CS to investigate if South32 planted trees on Shiels Hill.**

**Action: CS to investigate if further remediation work is planned on Cataract River.**

**Action: AB to follow up on request to share presentation slides with the Committee.**

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## **SOUTH32 UPDATES**

### Environment update

#### **Bulli Seam Operations Annual Review**

- CS noted the Bulli Seam Operations Annual Review for FY19 was submitted to the Department. It is available on the South32 website [https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/annual-review/bso-annual-review---fy19---with-appendices.pdf?sfvrsn=63b1a45e\\_10](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/annual-review/bso-annual-review---fy19---with-appendices.pdf?sfvrsn=63b1a45e_10). It was noted that this version of the document may change if feedback is received from the Department requiring it to be amended following their review.

#### **Water licence variation**

- CS provided an update on the water licence variation. South32 met with the EPA in July and the Georges River Working Group in September. The schedule of works required to meet new water concentration limits was provided to the EPA in September. Feedback from the EPA is pending.

**EIP**

- CS advised a Project Manager has been appointed to plan and implement the Appin Water Projects.
- The Water Filtration Plant at Appin West is completing the production proving period.
- A proposal for a containerised water filtration plant at Appin North is undergoing pre-feasibility studies.
- Brine study at the water discharge point at Marley Place has been completed and report drafted. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- Macro vertebrate monitoring in the Georges River is occurring next week.

#### **Appin water projects**

- CS provided an update on projects required to meet water quality concentration criteria proposed by the EPA. These were the Appin North containerised water filtration plant and the Appin West increased water treatment capacity.
- Timeline shared is copied below.

	AN WTP	AW WTP
Pre-feasibility studies	Underway	Underway
Feasibility studies	November 2019 to March 2020	November 2019 to March 2020
Tender process	Commence April 2020	Commence March 2020
Project Execution	July to November 2020	May 2020 to May 2021
Plant Operational	December 2020	June 2021
Proving Period	December 2020 to March 2021	June to July 2021

#### **Water discharge – Brennans Creek Dam**

- CS provided an update on Brennans Creek Dam (BCD). Discharge from BCD ceased 4 September 2019 as the water level in the dam declined to less than 9 metres deep.
- BCD discharge was being diluted with Sydney Water. This dilution also ceased on 4 September 2019.
- The Soil Conservation Service planned unrelated work in the Georges River and requested the discharge remain off until after the work was completed. This proposal was communicated to the EPA and agreed.
- Discharge from BCD recommenced on 4 October 2019 at 1 ML/day. The dam level was 10.1 metres at the time of the CCC meeting.

#### **Non-compliances**

- CS reported on 8 non-compliances recorded over the last 4 months:
  - Non-compliance with the 3000kL discharge volume at LDP24 (Appin West) was recorded 3 and 8 June 2019. The limit has since been increased.
  - Dust suppression gauges were not changed out within the 30+/-2 days as replacement bottles had not been received.
  - Exceedances of noise criteria at the noise monitoring location near Ventilation Shaft 1/2 were recorded in the day and night monitoring periods 13 June 2019.
  - Non-compliance with noise criteria at monitoring location Ventilation Shaft 1/2 were recorded in the evening and night monitoring periods on 10 September 2019.
  - EC probe failed on 15 July 2019 resulting in non-diluted water being discharged from BCD. Discharge of the water ceased until the probe was repaired. This was communicated to the CCC at the time.
  - Theft of trees from Biobanking area adjacent to Appin West on 5 August.
  - Discharge of water at Appin North that did not occur through a licenced discharge point.
  - Effluent sample returned result of 57mg/L above EPL 100 Percentile concentration limit of

50 mg/L at LDP 3/4.

#### **Georges River remediation trial**

- CS provided an update on preparation work for the Georges River Remediation trial. This included:
  - Installing pool loggers at various pools to record water levels on an hourly basis in December 2018. Routine inspections on sites continue fortnightly or monthly with increased monitoring during periods of low – no BCD release.
  - Cessation of release from BCD for 9 days in March 2019 to capture data for modelling pre-grouting of the River. This will enable a comparison post remediation.
  - The latest version of the Georges River Remediation Plan will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment by the end of October.
- CS shared monitoring results from the pools. The Committee questioned where the pools were and suggested a field visit to the area.
- CS clarified the remediation plan will involve the injecting of grout/cement into the cracks. The Committee questioned the success of the Cataract River remediation.

**Action: CS to provide a plan/map of the area when the Georges River Remediation Plan is approved.**

**Action: AB and CS to plan field visit to Georges River pre and post remediation.**

#### Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update

- AB shared an update on Mountbatten House Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
  - The current CMP is undergoing a review. This review is required every 5 years and is being completed by heritage consultants, Niche.
  - South32 is meeting requirements of the current CMP which focuses on maintaining the structural integrity of the buildings.
  - South32 notes it has taken some time to reinstate the stone Chapel roof following the storm damage in 2017. A few designs have been received and the final design will be shared when available. Next step is to go to tender for the builder.
- The Committee noted that the house facade could do with a paint to prevent rot and maintain the structure. South32's current focus is the Chapel.
- The Committee suggested the community be invited to the property for a once off event; possibly a sundowner for Christmas. AB and CM supported the event in principle and would seek appropriate approvals after the chapel works were complete.
- AB advised exploration activities has commenced in Area 10 – the area out near Cawdor bordered by Burraborang Road. The focus would remain in the area for the next two years.
- The Committee noted the map was difficult to interpret and requested a more detailed map for the next meeting. It also wanted to understand where the Mine Subsidence Districts were.

**Action: AB to investigate opportunity to host once off community event at Mountbatten after the chapel works were completed.**

**Action: AB to provide detailed map of Area 10, including Mine Subsidence Districts.**

#### Appin Area 7 update

- CM advised Longwall 708A was nearing completion. It would be complete in the next 3-4 days.
- Longwall 708B is due to commence in May 2020.
- The Appin operation is planned to return to a two-longwall operation in May 2020; this is when Longwall 708B will commence and Longwall 903 continues.

#### Appin Area 9 update

- CM advised Longwall 903 was due to commence early November 2019.
- Engagement with landholders that are likely to experience subsidence has commenced.

#### Impacts update

- AB advised there was one new gas release identified in August 2019. 9 previously identified zones are active, and 23 previously identified zones remain inactive. It was noted that there is no obvious increase in the size of the active zones.
- Menangle Road surveys are weekly, and these will continue until the end of November. Post November the surveys will be monthly and continue until subsidence movement ceases. Further road repairs were completed on 30 September 2019.
- Daily railway inspections will commence in November in line with the start of Longwall 903.
- Preparation of the Hume Highway for Longwall 708B has commenced. This involves pavement slotting on the Highway to prepare for any movement from subsidence.

#### Subsidence

- AB reported on the number of approved and closed private property subsidence claims.
  - Area 9 – 3 properties have closed claims
  - Area7 – 11 properties have closed claims
- The Committee queried what percentage of homes this was in each area, so it could be determined what the rate for subsidence damage was. AB advised she was unaware of the percentage and it would not be relevant given there are varying factors to subsidence induced damage (such as topography, geology, house building material and house footing type).
- AB described the private water borehole management process.
  - Prior to subsidence we identify registered boreholes, engage landholders, determine a water management plan and start testing/monitoring bore use.
  - During subsidence we implement the water management plan.
  - After subsidence is complete we retest the water bore and determine next steps. The next steps can include configuring the water bore and adding water filtering to the system.

#### Community Complaints

- AB noted one community complaint regarding more dust present on Appin Road was received since the last meeting.
- Dry weather may have contributed to more dust on Appin Road. South32 has dust mitigation measures in place to minimise impacts – includes sweeper trucks and wheel washes.

#### Community Support

- AB provided an update on Illawarra Metallurgical Coal supported events.
  - South West Sydney Academy of Sport – Platinum Sponsor 2019/2020. \$20,000.  
The program assists aspiring athletes in the area take part in the program.  
Recent events attended include the Parliamentary Reception and Graduation Dinner.
  - Illawarra Convoy – 17 November - include donation of \$25,000.  
The event leaves the Appin North offices. Last year it raised more than \$2million for child health in the Illawarra.
  - Women in Resource Awards – Canberra.
- AB noted the Community Partnership Program recently supported the Appin Public School for a new playground (\$43,000) and Menangle Mens Shed for start-up costs (about \$4,000).
- AB advised an underground tour planned for Wollondilly Shire Councilors was postponed. AB offered an underground tour to the Committee in 2020 – all members were supportive.

**Action: AB to arrange underground tour for Committee in 2020.**

- **Action:** MA to make further contact with ERM to advise additional CCC concerns/comments.
- **Action:** AB to investigate visit to fenced Menangle Road trees. Local landcare group to be invited as guest.
- **Action:** CS to investigate if South32 planted trees on Shiels Hill.
- **Action:** CS to investigate if further remediation work is planned on Cataract River.
- **Action:** AB to follow up on request to share presentation slides with the Committee.
- **Action:** CS to provide a plan/map of the area when the Georges River Remediation Plan is approved.
- **Action:** AB and CS to plan field visits to Georges River pre and post remediation.
- **Action:** AB to investigate opportunity to host once off community event at Mountbatten after the chapel works are complete.
- **Action:** AB to provide detailed map of Area 10, including Mine Subsidence Districts.

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*CLOSE OF MEETING*

Close of meeting at 6.06pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10 December, 4.00pm – 6.00pm at Douglas Park Community Hall.