

# MEETING MINUTES



## ILLAWARRA COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 40

LOCATION: Douglas Park Community Hall

DATE: 16 April 2019

### ATTENDEES:



Mike Archer (MA - Chair)  
Peter Chaffer (PC)  
Barry Durham (BD)  
Noel Lowry (NL)  
Sam Davis (SD)  
Danny Stewart (DS)  
Sharyn Cullis (SC)  
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment) -  
*Present from 5.20pm*  
Amanda Blunt (AB – South32 Community)  
Richard Walsh (RW – South32 Exploration)

### APOLOGIES:

Michael McGrath (MM)  
Craig Manz (CM – South32 Appin General Manager)

### ABSENT:

1	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	The purpose of the Community Consultative Committee is to facilitate and maintain two-way communication between Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, key stakeholders and local residents. It is to promote open discussion on the activities of Illawarra 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	<b>AGENDA</b>
	<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 Coal, including an update on exploration activities and the Georges River incident</li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 2019 meeting dates</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting close</li> </ul>
	<b>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MA opened the meeting at 4.00pm and noted apologies from MM and CM. CS was also noted to be attending late.</li> <li>• MA welcomed South32 exploration representative, Richard Walsh, to the meeting as a guest.</li> </ul>
4	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</b>
	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	<b>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</b>
	<p>Previous meeting minutes (January 2019) were approved by SD and seconded by DS.</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting (January 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB advised there is no further update on the exploration licence covering the Mt Gilead area, and RW will cover this in his exploration update later in the meeting.</li> <li>• CS will provide an update on the Georges River incident at this meeting. The EPA investigation is now closed.</li> <li>• AB updated the complaints graph used in the South32 update to include a larger legend.</li> <li>• AB will share the selection criteria used to determine the successful UNSW Scholarship students in the meeting.</li> <li>• RW will provide a detailed presentation on exploration activities, mine leases and exploration licences later in the meeting. This will include a map of the relinquished mine lease in Area 8.</li> <li>• AB provided longwall map with clearer detail however the Committee requested further updates and clarity. To remain an action for the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: AB to prepare longwall progress map with clearer detail for future meetings – show the three longwalls only and include the public roads.</b></p>
6	<b>SOUTH32 UPDATES</b>
	<p><u>Illawarra Coal update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB shared that the Appin Trades and Operator EBA was agreed in March.</li> <li>• Extraction of Longwall 902 was complete, and we are focused on Longwall 708A. Extraction of the coal from Longwall 708A commenced 3 April 2019.</li> <li>• AB advised the Mountbatten stable/church renovations had progressed, with preliminary approvals for the work received from the Department of Planning and Environment. The heritage structural assessments are in progress with final reports pending. When the reports are received the heritage builder will be able to determine the work to be completed.</li> <li>• AB advised there will be activity around Mountbatten House as the maintenance program is</li> </ul>

continued. The Committee requested it be minuted that the Douglas Park community is most interested what the long-term plans are for Mountbatten House and Cleary's property (access to river).

#### Appin Area 9 update

- AB advised Longwall 902 was complete. Longwall 903 would commence when Longwall 708A was completed, currently planned for October 2019.

#### Appin Area 7 update

- AB noted Longwall 708A commenced 3 April 2019.
- The Committee referred to the progress map and questioned if properties above the dyke would experience subsidence given there is no mining directly under them. RW advised properties above the dyke would still experience some subsidence from the surrounding extraction activities.

#### Impacts update

- AB advised there was one new gas release identified since the January 2019 meeting. 10 previously active zones are active, and 19 previously identified zones remain inactive.
- Menangle Road surveys commenced in line with Longwall 708A.
- Hume Highway resurfacing works were underway by RMS in the northern and southern lanes.
- There are no new impacts to report on the rail. Monitoring will continue for at least one month following the completion of Longwall 902, with slight residual subsidence movements relating to Longwall 902 expected to occur from this point forward.
- ARTC is planning major re-railing work 10 – 13 May. The works involve the replacement of all rail track and other upgrades not related to mining impacts or activities.

#### Community Complaints

- AB noted two community complaints had been received since the last meeting.
- One complaint was due to the delivery of our Community Newsletter to a No Junk Mail household. The delivery contractor was notified and has reminded his staff not to deliver to No Junk Mail households. The complaint was anonymous.
- One complaint was in relation to noise from Ventilation Shaft 6 which was caused by temporary diesel air compressors in use at the site. Swift action was taken, and noise walls were placed around the compressors. The use of the compressors was also limited to only when necessary. The resident was satisfied with this approach.

#### Community Support

- AB outlined the plan to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Appin Mine disaster. South32 is seeking Expressions of Interest from artists to create a major public infrastructure artwork for permanent installation at the Appin Sportsground. Expressions of Interest close 5 May. The Committee shared comments about the cause of the Appin Mine Disaster and commended South32 for its plan to recognize those that lost their lives.
- AB shared the latest activities the Community Partnership Program has committed to supporting.
  - Douglas Park Little Athletics Club was provided \$80,000 toward the construction of a multi-purpose storage shed. The support was announced at its annual awards ceremony earlier in April.
  - Douglas Park Fire Brigade was provided \$8,000 toward the concreting surrounding its offices. This will provide area for hose drying, training and equipment maintenance.
  - Lifeline Macarthur will receive \$30,000 to support the training of telephone responders.
  - Stewart House was provided \$4,680 to support the attendance of three Appin Public School students to its respite centre.
- AB presented the selection criteria used to determine the successful UNSW scholarship students.

#### Leases and exploration update

- RW presented a map of mining leases, exploration license, proposed exploration licences, mining areas and longwall mine plans.
- An exploration licence is first granted and provides the proponent with the right to explore within

the boundaries of the licence. A mine lease can then be applied for following the Development Application process, which provides the proponent the right to mine and explore. In some cases, the exploration licence remains and overlaps with mine leases.

- SC questioned the relinquished area to create Dharawal National Park. RW confirmed mine lease was relinquished to allow for the creation of the National Park.
- SD commented it is best for the state to allow mining prior to development as it receives the mine royalties. RW responded that it is South32's position to mine prior to development.
- BD referred to the State Government's Vision 2040 document which has mine leases relinquished to allow for development. RW advised South32 was in discussion with the relevant government departments and these discussions remain confidential. He confirmed the only mine lease relinquished was part of Area 8 which allowed for the Wilton development. Agreements may exist in other areas however lease is only considered relinquished when the government remove the mine lease.
- RW presented a map of the relinquished lease of Area 8.
  
- RW advised exploration activities will ramp up over the next five years in the Bulli Seam Operations footprint. Majority of the activities will be on private property.
- We expect the next two years to be focused on Area 10, and potentially the Western Exploration Area if the government grants the exploration licence.
- Exploration activities include seismic, borehole drilling and aeromagnetic survey.

**Action: AB to include a link to the Wilton Growth Area in the minutes.**

Wilton Growth Area Documentation – page 5 re agreements [https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Reports/Wilton-2040/wilton-2040-a-plan-for-wilton-growth-area-finalisation-report-september-2018\\_11-10-2018.pdf](https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Reports/Wilton-2040/wilton-2040-a-plan-for-wilton-growth-area-finalisation-report-september-2018_11-10-2018.pdf)

**Action: AB to share the Mining Lease Numbers and the maps in the minutes. SD requested the map showing leases and licences include the Mine Subsidence Districts after the meeting.**

The Common Ground tool on the Department's website shows all exploration & mining tenure in any area <https://www.resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au/landholders-and-community/minerals-and-coal/common-ground>

All lease information for Appin is available on the South32 website in the Mining Operations Plan document. <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/places-we-work/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>

Environment update

- CS presented on a water licence variation submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The EPA provided draft Special Conditions that South32 considered were not consistent with the discussions by the Georges River Stakeholder Group, and the limits proposed were not able to be met by South32. South32 provided a response to the EPA.
- SC and BD noted there was no agreement reached at the previous Georges River Stakeholder Group meeting, with the company and stakeholder positions different. CS was not present at the meeting so could not comment and advised another Georges River Stakeholder Group meeting will be scheduled.
- CS noted the Georges River remediation trial was completed a month ago and results are still to be analysed. BS said the local community noticed the water level in the river to drop and aquatic life being impacted. CS advised that checks were completed by the Environmental Field Crew every day during the trial and no observable impacts to fauna were noted.
- CS advised South32 is investigating options for additional water management measures. The water generated from mine operations and the discharge amount need to be balanced.
- The Water Filtration Plant has been commissioned and is in the production proving period. No significant issues with its operation have been identified.
  
- CS closed out the detail of the Georges River incident on 18 October 2018, where a chemical was released into the Georges River.
- The event was investigated by the EPA. South32 was issued with two penalty notices in the

	<p>amount of \$15,000 each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to maintain equipment; and</li> <li>○ Pollution of waters</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Control measures have been implemented to prevent a reoccurrence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: CS provide an update on the water licence variation at the next meeting.</b>  <b>Action: CS provide the outcome of the Georges River remediation trial at the next meeting.</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SC would like to understand the end result on water quality for the Georges River and Nepean River following the agreement with the EPA regarding water quality limits and discharge volumes. It will need to be communicated to the public.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: CS to provide an update on Georges River and Nepean River at the next meeting.</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Action: AB to prepare longwall progress map with clearer detail for future meetings – show the three longwalls only and include the public roads.</li> <li>● Action: AB to include a link to the Wilton Growth Area detail in the minutes.</li> <li>● Action: AB to share the Mining Lease Numbers and the maps in the minutes. <i>SD requested the map showing leases and licences include the Mine Subsidence Districts after the meeting.</i></li> <li>● Action: CS provide an update on the water licence variation at the next meeting.</li> <li>● Action: CS provide the outcome of the Georges River remediation trial at the next meeting.</li> <li>● Action: CS to provide an update on Georges River and Nepean River at the next meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>CLOSE OF MEETING</b>
	<p>Close of meeting at 6.20pm.  Next meeting: Tuesday 18 June, 4.00pm – 6.00pm at Douglas Park Community Hall.</p>