

# MEETING MINUTES



## SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 46

LOCATION: By Videoconference

DATE: 24 March 2020

ATTENDEES:

Mike Archer (MA - Chair)  
Barry Durham (BD)  
Sharyn Cullis (SC)  
Noel Lowry (NL)  
Amanda Blunt (AB – South32 Community)  
Rhiannon Wright (RW – South32 Community)  
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment)

APOLOGIES:

Sam Davis (SD) – he did attend albeit late  
Michael McGrath (MM)  
Craig Manz (CM – South32 Appin General Manager)  
Danny Stewart (DS)  
Peter Chaffer (PC)  
Shane Simpson (SS)

**NOTE:** The minutes of the March 2020 meeting of the Illawarra Coal Community Consultative Committee (IC CCC) (Appin Mine) are a record of topics discussed, and information imparted, during the meeting but do not record all of the comments offered by committee members at the meeting

1	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<p>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.</p>
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 Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2020 meeting dates</li> <li>○ Round the table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting close</li> </ul>
3	<b>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MA opened the meeting at 4.00pm and noted apologies from MM, SM, SS, DS, PS and CM.</li> <li>• MA welcomed BG and RW to the meeting. RW has recently joined the South32 Community team and will manage the meetings moving forward.</li> </ul>
4	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</b>
	<p>MA declared he receives payment from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal 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.</p>
5	<b>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</b>
	<p>AB provided comment from previous meeting minutes (January 2020). The previous meeting minutes were approved by SC and seconded by NL.</p> <p>AB noted a draft plan for the site visits to West Cliff Emplacement Area, Underground and George's River was completed. The plan has been placed on hold with COVID-19 requirements restricting access to the sites at this time. This would be reviewed in line with COVID-19 requirements relaxing.</p>

Environment update**Environmental Improvement Plan (water)**

- Variation to EPL has been received.
- Meeting held with EPA on 24 February 2020 to provide an update on water treatment projects. It was noted that the Appin West water treatment plant project is running slightly behind schedule, however this is due to the mine plan review which may affect the water balance and therefore water availability for treatment. It is still anticipated that the date for compliance with water quality limits at LDP24 will be met.
- Prefeasibility/feasibility studies continuing for Appin West and Appin North. Appin North is the current priority.
- Feasibility funding approved for Appin North.
- Final Brine study submitted to EPA (LDP5). Feedback received. Requirement to monitor Allans Creek to verify modelling results.
- CSIRO aquatic health monitoring report expected end of March 2020 for submission to EPA.

**Non-compliances and reporting**

- Noise non-compliance recorded during February monitoring at AE-NS5 (45 dBA vs limit of 40 dBA LAeq). Investigations being undertaken. Works undertaken since last monitoring include replacing gearboxes, sound attenuators and variable inlet vanes.
- Power failure of air quality monitoring equipment at Appin East due to rainfall.
- Biochemical oxygen demand exceedance at LDP3 (Appin North Sewage Treatment Plant).
- Insulation failure occurred at the old air quality monitoring station at Douglas Park. Given the cost to repair and the age of the equipment within the station, it is planned to decommission this unit and replace it with current particulate matter monitoring technology. The air quality consultant who is doing the review of the data from the five air quality monitoring stations at Douglas Park has been requested to provide a recommendation of a replacement.

**Georges River Remediation Plan**

- Plan submitted to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- Feedback was received and a further response was submitted.
- Inspection undertaken of creek remediation works at Tahmoor.
- Monthly post-mining inspections of the Georges River are completed, with fortnight targeted inspections when pools exhibit below baseline water levels.
- Water quality, surface water levels and surface water flow are measured, and recorded with photographic and observational information.
- During the March inspection, changes to two historical gas release zones were identified:
  - Both impact feature *GR\_Pool 28*.
  - The impact of each is 5-10 gas releases within a 10 metre stretch of the river.
  - No associated water quality or ecological impacts are currently evident as a result of the releases.
  - The releases are 120 m and 170m from LW29.
  - Both are a Level 1 Trigger as per the Georges River Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP)

**Brennans Creek Dam**

- Discharge ceased from Brennans Creek Dam on 23 December 2019. Discharge recommenced on 10 February 2020 following rainfall.
- Dam continued to spill due to ongoing rainfall. Spilling has now ceased.
- It was discussed that the level in the dam prior to the rainfall event was at a very low level and the rainfall that occurred was an extraordinary event that would not have been contained in the dam even if it had been empty. It is not possible to treat water in the dam during such large rainfall events. As a result, turbid water did spill over the spillway during the event.

**Nepean Biobanking site**

- Tree maintenance had been undertaken over the drought period. Watering occurred on at least four occasions. It was noted that there was some loss of plants (approximately 50%

survivability) however it was not practical to do additional watering over this period.

## **Koalas**

### Emplacement

- CS spoke about stage 4; emplacement was comprehensively surveyed and there was no evidence of koalas.
- Stage 4 is not in the area of identified core or potential koala habitats.
- Clearance of vegetation in the area is progressive and not believed to impact on the koala population.
- While koalas have been observed around Appin North and Appin East, no koalas have ever been observed by site personnel in the active emplacement or approved Stage 4 emplacement area.

### Mountbatten House

- AB noted they have received 3 proposals/quotes from builders for the work recently. These will be reviewed over the next few weeks and we will select a preferred builder. Then the final repair plans can be submitted to govt and then shared with you. The Conservation Management Plan will be submitted for government approval at the same time.

### Exploration

- AB noted we continue exploration activities in future mine areas, with the majority of activity out near Cawdor.
- Exploration is required to assist in future mine planning, providing data about the ore quality and strata/faults.
- We expect to commence the 2D seismic and aeromagnetic surveys in FY2021.

### Proposed ventilation shaft

- There is no further update from the previous meeting in January. A review of the mine plan is continuing. As soon as new information is available it will be shared.
- The 5 air quality monitors in Douglas Park were to remain in place for 3 months (until February) with the monitoring program to include sampling and analysis of particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5). The monitoring period has been extended now until April 2020 given the failure of one or more monitors for a short period. This ensures continuity in the monitoring results.

### Coal Reserves

- Coal Reserves for the Bulli seam reduced by 22Mt to 14Mt on 31 May 2019.
- The decrease relates to the partial relinquishment of Consolidated Coal Lease 767 from the Appin area of the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal project and modifications to the mine layout. The partial lease relinquishment was the result of a commercial arrangement with a landholder within the lease area.

### Appin Area 9 update

- LW903 commenced 1 November 2019. As at 12 March 2020 we had progressed about 920 metres.
- We are continuing to engage with residents in the subsidence area for LW903.
- LW903 face is about 1.1km from Nepean River.

### Appin Area 7 update

- On track to commence LW708B in the last quarter of FY20 (so April – June 2020).
- LW708A is about 2kms from Nepean River.

### Impacts update

- No new gas releases in the Nepean River have been identified since the previous meeting.
- 12 previously identified zones are currently active. 22 previously identified zones are inactive.

- Monthly inspections are completed. It is worth noting the sites are not active all the time and can fluctuate between active and non-active for a period of time. The information is current as on the day of inspection
- Weekly surveys of Menangle Road continue in line with Longwall 903. On 13 January 2020 ripples in the pavement were detected. Subsidence in the area is complete however daily visual inspections are continuing to ensure safety and serviceability of the road. Maintenance has been planned for the coming months to fix the rippled section of road.
- Weekly railway surveys continue in line with LW903, including daily visual inspections. There are no recorded impacts to the rail from LW903.

#### Community Complaints

- No complaints received since the previous meeting.

#### Community Support

- AB advised we had established a fundraising page where our employees and contractors could donate to either the Australian Red Cross, WIRES or Buy a Bale. We raised \$90k which was matched by South32, bringing the fundraising total to \$180k.
- We also let you know that our Community Investment Plan had been finalised and we have commenced the roll out of the plan.
- Principal sponsor of the Women's Illawarra Division Rugby League Sponsorship – \$50k.
- Science Centre - \$200k. Part of a three year partnership with the University of Wollongong Science Centre to improve the learning space for students and teachers, and offer an outreach program to schools in our local communities, such as Douglas Park.
- South West Sydney Academy of Sport - \$20k.
- The Appin Mine Memorial is progressing well. Construction at the Appin Sportsground will commence in the coming weeks and be completed in time for the next Appin Mine Disaster Anniversary in July.

#### **Community Partnership Program**

- There has been two Board meetings since the last CCC meeting.
- At the January meeting we welcomed 4 new members to the Board who will complement the existing membership:
  - Matt Deeth (Menangle)
  - Daryl Chipperfield (Menangle)
  - Shamika Almeida (Wilton)
  - Kim Chapman (Appin)
- There are 3 existing members on the Board from Douglas Park (Max Strassmeir, Christine Towndrow and Noleen Jessup).
- The Board voted to offer 5 local RFS brigades up to \$10k each to supply fire fighting equipment and supplies. We are working with each brigade to progress this; to date all have taken or are taking the opportunity to RFS meetings for discussion.
- At the meeting last week the Board considered applications from Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled, and Stewart House Respite.
- The Board also heard from Appin Scouts Group on its CPP funded renovations at its hall. Members also attended the Annual Lifeline Macarthur Dinner earlier this month celebrating 10 years of partnership. CPP has donated more than \$220,000 toward the telephone crisis line training over this period. A short video will be produced shortly on the partnership.
- The next meeting is planned 14 May.

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**Meeting dates 2020:**

- Tuesday, 19 May
- Tuesday, 14 July
- Tuesday, 15 September
- Tuesday, 17 November

Note: The next meeting in May will be by Skype for Business, should you have any questions about the app or attending please speak to RW.

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**ACTIONS**

- **Action:** CS to provide a plan/map of the area when the Georges River Remediation Plan is approved. This has yet to be signed off as of March meeting.
- **Action:** MA to contact the Department and arrange representative attendance at a meeting in 2020. No site visits will happen in the coming months due to Covid-19
- **Action:** RW and CS to plan field visits to Georges River pre and post remediation.
- **Action:** RW to arrange underground tour for Committee in 2020.
- **Action:** RW to arrange a site visit to the West Cliff Emplacement in 2020.
- **Action:** RW to investigate opportunity to host once off community event at Mountbatten after the chapel works are complete.
- **Action:** CS to provide a list of the seeds/species used in the rehabilitation at the West Cliff Emplacement. Included in presentation. CLOSED
- **Action:** Sharyn wanted to know the condition that related to Mountbatten House. This is Condition 24 of Schedule 4 of Project Approval 08\_0150, which requires us to update the approved Heritage Management Plan.

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**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Close of meeting at 5.40pm.

- Next meeting: Tuesday, 19 May, 4.00pm – 6.00pm Skype for Business