

# MEETING MINUTES



## SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 49

LOCATION: Douglas Park Hall

DATE: 29 September 2020

ATTENDEES:

Mike Archer (MA - Chair)  
Shane Simpson (SS)  
Sharyn Cullis (SC)  
Sam Davis (SD)  
Danny Stewart (DS)  
Barry Durham (BD)  
Peter Chaffer (PC)

ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL:

Amanda Blunt (AB – South32 Community)  
Rhiannon Wright (RW – South32 Community)  
Chris Schultz (CS - South32 Environment)  
Jerom Fox (JF – South32 Directional Studies)  
Simon Pigozzo (SP - South32 Environment  
Observer)

APOLOGIES:

Michael McGrath (MM)  
Noel Lowry (NL)

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 (IMC), 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, Acknowledgment of Country and apologies</li> <li>• Declaration of Interests</li> <li>• Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes / Business Arising from previous Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Questions on Notice Tracker</li> <li>• Update from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mining Operations Plan</li> <li>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Appin Ventilation and Mine Access</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EPBC Bill</li> <li>○ Subsidence</li> <li>○ Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility</li> <li>○ 2020 meeting dates</li> <li>○ Round the table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting close</li> </ul>
3	<b>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</b>
	<p>MA opened the meeting at 4.05pm, noted apologies from MM and NL, and welcomed guests JF and SP. MA provided the Acknowledgement to Country – “Illawarra Metallurgical Coal and the Community would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet this evening, the Dharawal People, and pay our respects to Elders past and present and emerging.”</p>
4	<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</b>
	<p>MA declared he receives payment from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) 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. No further declarations were noted by the committee.</p>
5	<b>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</b>

Previous meeting minutes were accepted. Moved SD and 2<sup>nd</sup> BD.

RW provided comments from previous meeting minutes and action arising:

**Q:** Is the whole Mountbatten property, including the homestead and other buildings, safe? Can we confirm there is no damage to roofs or leaks?

**Response:** There are no changes to the condition of the house. Internal support is still sound with no evidence of water leaks, and pest management is completed periodically.

**Q:** Can the CCC receive an update on the progress of the Mountbatten property every 6 months? The next update being due January 2021.

**Response:** Yes, this will be kept on the question on notice tracker for future meetings.

**Q:** Has there been any subsidence damage at the truck stop on Hume Highway from Area 7 mining activities?

**Response:** Yes, cracking occurred to the pavement and kerbing in the Partridge Area Rest Stop during the mining of Longwall 707B. The rest stop will be influenced again by the mining of Longwall in 708B from late this year onwards. Any damage attributable to mining will be rehabilitated following the completion of Longwall 708B.

**Q:** Were there any active gas zones in Nepean River before mining commenced in Area 9?

**Response:** There weren't any existing gas zones in the section of Nepean River adjacent to Area 9 prior to Area 9 operations. There were gas zones downstream on the River, adjacent to Area 7, however these have not been active for some years now.

**Q:** Request for further information to be provided on the ventilation shaft location close to Mountbatten House. What has changed, what are the new location choices and what will happen to Ventilation Shaft No. 6?

**Response:** As you are aware we have conducted a review of the Appin Mine Plan which resulted in a change in the required location for a ventilation shaft. Further information on the future ventilation requirements of Appin Mine was presented at the meeting. The existing Ventilation Shaft No.6 on the Mountbatten property will continue to operate as it is moving forward.

**Q:** Is it possible to have a look at the Georges River remediation plan?

**Response:** CS advised the plan is approved as part of the Mining Operations Plan approval which has been received. More information on the remediation was presented at the meeting.

July minutes were accepted by SD and seconded by PC.

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## *SOUTH32 UPDATES*

### **Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Update**

#### Mountbatten House

- RW presented on the Mountbatten property and advised there are no changes to the condition of the house and internal support is still sound. There is no evidence of water leaks, and pest management is completed periodically.
- The Mountbatten Group Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was approved on 14 August 2020 and is available on the website [https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/management-plans/development-consent/bulli-seam-operations-project-heritage-management-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=adb23aea\\_9](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/management-plans/development-consent/bulli-seam-operations-project-heritage-management-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=adb23aea_9)
- Regarding the works of Mountbatten church/stable, the approval of the builder's proposals

is still in progress and pending approval. IMC intend to have a timeframe for the works available at the next meeting.

### **COVID-19 controls**

- RW provided an update on IMC's current COVID-19 controls; The business is focused on safety as the key priority and conducting business as usual. This includes keeping our people safe and well, maintaining safe and reliable operations, and supporting our communities.
- IMC has retained staggered shifts on sites, however office employees returned to offices from 21 September 2020.
- Additional cleaning measures are in place and we continue to follow Government advice.

### **Appin Area 9 update**

- RW advised Longwall 903 commenced 1 November 2019. As at 27 September 2020 the longwall had progressed approximately 1,508 metres.

### **Appin Area 7 update**

- RW advised that mining had commenced at Longwall 708B in late April 2020. It had progressed approximately 840 metres as at 27 September 2020.
- Longwall 708B is proposed to be extended an extra 94m. Based on an external consultant report there is no reported change in predicted subsidence effects as a result of the extension.
- IMC continue to engage with residents in the area.

### **Impacts update**

- RW presented on environmental impacts and provided an update on gas releases in the Nepean River.
- No new gas releases have been identified since 10 September 2020.
- There are 10 existing active gas zones on the Area 9 end of the Nepean River i.e. upstream of Douglas Park Weir.
- DS noted gas bubbling in the River has occurred from mine operations in Area 9 from Longwalls 901, 902 and 903. He made the assumption that if there is impacts to the River from Longwall 903 which is some distance away, then you would expect the same possibility of impacts to structures at the same distance from the operating area. This was taken as a Question on Notice.

### Infrastructure:

- Weekly surveys of Menangle Road continue in line with Longwall 903 and Longwall 708B extraction. Visual inspections are occurring weekly.
- The condition of the cutting on Menangle Road (near 850 Menangle Rd) adjacent to Longwall 903 was improved by scaling and re-profiling works in early April 2020.
- Weekly rail surveys commenced in line with Longwall 903. Visual inspections occur daily.
- Hume Motorway and Main Southern Railway preparations are underway to support Longwall 708B. For the Hume Highway this involves cutting compression slots in the pavement and installing sensors connected to a real time monitoring system to monitor pavement movement. Drainage works have commenced on the Main Southern Railway 69km embankment.
- SD requested an explanation of the role and responsibility of South32 mining operations on the Harris Creek Cliff Line matter, in particular how potential damage due to mining is distinguished from other causes.

- RW provided a response based on feedback from IMC Infrastructure Protection team; Appin Mine's approvals require IMC to manage any mining related impacts to Harris Creek Cliff Line and associated sections of Douglas Park Drive. As part of the risk management process detailed pre-mining condition mapping was undertaken. The pre-mining condition mapping in conjunction with survey monitoring, routine geotechnical inspections and instrumented geotechnical monitoring boreholes are used to differentiate between natural and mining induced changes in the Cliff Line. The data from these inputs is reviewed and actioned by a technical committee that includes representatives from Wollondilly Shire Council, IMC and external geotechnical consultants that represent both IMC and Wollondilly Shire Council.
- AB noted the inclusion of the monitoring in the approval was based on risk to the public. SC contributed to the discussion noting the risk-based approach makes sense.  
SD requested additional information on why monitoring of properties in close proximity to the Cliff Line is not also completed, given the government believe there is risk in the area and enforcing monitoring of the Cliff Line.

## **Environment**

- CS provided an update on waste management at Appin Mine. Used conveyor belt will be recycled through provision to local farmers and transport companies, reducing the amount of rubbish entering landfill. To date 23 tonnes of conveyor belt has been diverted from landfill, with an additional 80 tonnes planned to be recycled in coming months.
- CS also noted an improved dosing system was installed at Appin East.

## Environmental Water Project Update

- CS provided an update on the Environmental Water Project advising of delays. IMC is required to submit a request for an extension to complete the Project to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). It is also anticipated that there will be delays for the provision of equipment from China, US and Brazil as a result of COVID-19.
- The Aquatic Health Monitoring Program has been approved by the EPA and will continue in Spring 2020.
- The Water Management Plan has been approved by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The plan requires resubmission by 31 July 2021 to reflect the changed water management at Appin North.
- The Georges River Action Group meeting will be scheduled for mid-October.
- PC questioned if the Appin West Water Treatment Plant was fully operational. CS advised it was.
- SC expressed that the community concerns associated with poor water quality being discharged to the Georges River were raised in 2012 and projects to remedy this issue are still ongoing in 2020. She mentioned IMC had committed to completing the Plant by 31 December 2020 when it was issued with a requirement to do so by the EPA. This will not be met. SC questioned how far behind the project was. CS advised it was significantly behind schedule.
- BD requested an update on the commencement of the Georges River Remediation. CS advised landholder access agreements are required to be able to access areas of the river to complete the work; IMC have commenced seeking the land access agreements.
- BD would like to visit the river prior to remediation works commencing, which was promised prior to COVID-19. CS advised this request would be taken on notice.

## Air Quality Monitoring

- CS advised an air quality monitoring review was completed which resulted in the removal of the dust deposition gauges (many are not in suitable locations and they do not provide real time information), and the relocation of the dust monitor at Appin East to a more representative location.

### Mining Operations Plan

- CS advised the Mining Operations Plan was approved by the Resources Regulator for a limited period.
- The Resources Regulator was not satisfied with the post mining land use for the Appin North site, noting it should be returned to bushland. An amended MOP to incorporate this feedback has been submitted.
- Additional consultation requirements with the IC CCC will be considered as part of the next Mining Operations Plan review in 2024.

### Brennans Creek Dam

- CS noted overflow from the spillway occurred over the period 5/08/2020 to 20/08/2020 following over 200 mm of rainfall.
- The current dam level is 11 m with water discharge approximately 2 ML/day.

### Ventilation Shaft 6 dust emission

- CS provided an update regarding the recent Ventilation Shaft 6 dust emission on Saturday 22 August at 9:40am. The cause of the emission was a change in underground ventilation.
- A stopping (an underground barrier) was removed that caused a short circuit in the underground ventilation. This resulted in an increase in velocity of the ventilation air, which removed stone dust from the walls. Stone dust is an inert, non-hazardous material which is used for explosion mitigation underground.
- PC was keen to understand how much stone dust was released and how long it lasted. CS advised we are unsure of the quantity released, however it lasted approximately 1.5 hours.
- SD asked why there was a need for numerous fire trucks on site and if there was a Work Health Safety issue. RW advised that the community contacted the Emergency Services as they believed there was a grass fire due to the visible dust release. RW confirmed there was no Work Health Safety issues as a result of the emission and that personnel had to stop work intimately.

### Noise at Ventilation Shaft 2

- CS informed the committee of noise exceedances recorded at Ventilation Shaft 2.
- Additional investigations are required to determine the sound power levels associated with the ventilation shaft and the power station.
- Following an internal review, IMC has engaged a new noise monitoring consultant from Q1 FY21.

### Annual Review

- The Appin Mine Annual Review is nearing completion and will be submitted to the regulatory agencies by 30 September.

## **Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project**

### Proposed project

- AB updated the committee on proposed ventilation shafts and mine access in Menangle following a recent review of the Appin Mine Plan.
- The review determined one downcast ventilation shaft (draws air into the mine) and one upcast ventilation shaft (draws air out of the mine) is required by 2025 to support the mine.
- The proposed shafts would be known as Ventilation Shaft No. 7 and Ventilation Shaft No. 8 respectively. Mine access and associated facilities are also proposed for the site. Collectively the project is known as the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project. No coal handling facilities are included in the project.
- The proposed location is 345 Menangle Road, Menangle near the intersection of Finns and

Menangle Roads. This location is determined by the ventilation requirements for the mine and the layout of the approved Appin Mine underground workings. It is also determined by features on the surface such as cultural, environmental, community infrastructure and availability of suitable land.

- CCC reviewed the project update collateral presented at the meeting and noted:
  - the name of the project should be Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project, rather than Appin Ventilation and Mine Access Project. The latter could be perceived as the project being in the Appin area. AB accepted this feedback and would alter the name of the project in future communications, however it was too late to alter the information due to be distributed later in the week.
  - Scales should be included on all future maps made public to assist with distance from residential areas
  - A new map of location should be provided on the collateral as the current one is not a true reflection of where the shafts will be located. AB accepted the feedback and explained the map of the area was inset and the area described fell within the property boundary. The feedback will be noted, however, also too late to amend current collateral.
- CCC discussed the proposed location distance from Menangle. AB advised it was about 1.1km from the northern tip of the property to the outskirts of the town, being Durham Green retirement village.
- PC questioned if the Government Cumberland Plain proposal impacted on the project. The detail was not available at the meeting but would be taken as a Question on Notice.
- SD asked if the M9 Orbital would be going through this same area. AB advised that the M9 was yet to be gazetted and the Department of Transport NSW would have an opportunity to provide feedback through the Modification Approval process.

#### Conceptual layout

- AB stressed the proposed project is in early stages with high level concepts available for sharing at this stage only. A number of assessments are required to be completed to support the concept before IMC will be able to share anything concrete.
- The location proposed is evidently visible from some locations in Menangle. Technology has been used to understand the visual impact of the concept design, and as a result strategically placed earth bunding topped with trees is included in the design to limit the visual impact. As the project progresses and the details these visuals will be shared with the committee.
- SC questioned what the project footprint was on the proposed property. JF advised we did not have this detail at the meeting but it would be included in the meeting minutes. *The project footprint is approximately 12 hectares.*
- SD believed the initial reaction from the community will be public outcry due to the visual location. AB reiterated early visual impact modelling had been completed to inform the concept design, which included the strategically placed bunding and trees to reduce the visual nature of the location.
- SD asked if he could see the visual projections. AB advised the visual projections would be shared in the first half of 2021 when details of the proposed project were further refined.
- SD questioned the chosen location and if a more concealed location was considered. AB noted the location is determined by the layout of the existing Appin Mine underground workings and availability of land.

#### Approvals

- AB advised the proposed project will follow the State Government Modification to Consent approvals process. This process typically includes an opportunity for community and stakeholder input via submissions.
- The first step in the process is consulting with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This will occur in mid-October.
- IMC will keep the CCC informed of progress through the approvals process via regular

meeting updates.

#### Engagement and next steps

- AB advised community engagement will commence 30 September 2020, with door knocks to adjacent and nearby residents. Following this, notification to the Douglas Park and Menangle residents will occur via letterbox drops. The local and state governments will also be contacted.
- A Menangle Advisory Panel (MAP) is planned to be formed in 2021 and will act in a similar fashion as the Douglas Park Advisory Panel did during Ventilation Shaft No. 6 construction.
- It will consist of 8-10 community members that reside in Menangle. Residents will need to apply to join the Panel, with applications being made available during engagement.
- Further engineering and environmental assessments are required to confirm the proposed site design and required infrastructure.
- From October 2020 you can expect to see some activity at the proposed location while these assessments are undertaken. These assessments can take up to 8 months to complete.
- The environmental and engineering assessments include:
  - Geotechnical drilling and test pits
  - Heritage surveys, including Aboriginal and European heritage
  - Biodiversity surveys
  - Air quality studies
  - Traffic studies
  - Noise studies
- Information on these assessments will be shared with the community in mid-2021.

#### **Community Complaints**

- RW reported no complaints related to Appin Mine were recorded in August and September.

#### **Community Support**

- RW presented on recent community Investments including:
  - South West Sydney Academy of Sport; Continued support of the Sport Academy Program, contributing a further \$20,000 to its programs. We are also contributing an additional \$4,000 this year to assist in its response to Covid-19.
  - Illawarra Women's Rugby League Final on Saturday 26 September; IMC is the Competition Sponsor.
  - Douglas Park Wilton Football club; IMC are a regular Competition Sponsor.
  - Science Space was also granted \$200,000 for additional programs and STEM activities. SD asked what the Science Space program was. AB advised it was centred on STEM in the classroom and included outreach programs to schools within the Wollondilly Shire.
- RW noted South32 recently launched its 2020-22 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in August. The RAP may be downloaded from [https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/values-and-commitments/south32-innovate-reconciliation-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=c1db638a\\_2](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/values-and-commitments/south32-innovate-reconciliation-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=c1db638a_2). IMC also launched its internal RAP Working Group in September. The purpose of the IMC RAP Working Group is to support the implementation of the RAP across IMC with the aim of facilitating understanding, promoting meaningful engagement and developing employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- AB presented on recent Community Partnership Program initiatives:
  - Local Brigade donations; Many of the Brigades have purchased equipment from CPP funding and IMC will share a media release in the coming weeks with local press featuring Menangle Brigade.



- Life Education; The CPP has a long history in supporting the Life Education Program in the Douglas Park, Wilton and Appin communities. Funding provided enables students to take part in the activities at very minimal cost (if any). In the last few months the Life Education Team has visited the Wilton and Appin schools. More than 700 students took part in the Program. We are nearing the end of the current 3-year partnership with a total value of \$34,000. We expect to receive a request for a further 3 years of support in the coming months.
- Menangle projects; At the CPP meeting held earlier this month the members discussed potential projects to be proactive and strategic with the available funds. Members were supportive of investigating a few opportunities in the Menangle area that were raised by a member residing in the community. These included the Menangle Community Hall, Old School Building and the Menangle Mens Shed. We are investigating if any of these are valid ideas that can be progressed.
- Cataract Scout Park; Scouts NSW approached IMC and local Council to share its plans for its Park site near Cataract Dam. It plans to open the facilities to the community and conduct significant renovations. This includes opening a café and developing mountain biking facilities. At this time the CPP members are generally supportive of the idea and will be reviewing an application for funding in the near future. AB asked for feedback from CCC members on the idea.
- SC supported the idea and noted that ongoing maintenance of the tracks will be important to its success. Other members were generally supportive.

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND GENERAL BUSINESS

### Questions on Notice:

- **DS** - Gas bubbling in the river has occurred from mine operations in Area 9 from Longwalls 901, 902 and 903. If there are impacts to the River from Longwall 903, then you would expect the same possibility of impacts to structures at the same distance from the operating area. Please advise.
- **SC** - Please share the progress of the Appin Water Treatment Plant at every meeting, providing milestones at the November meeting which must be met.
- **SD** - requested a more technical response to how the difference between natural movement and mine induced movement is determined i.e Harris Creek Cliff Line
- **DS** - Has there been any cliff closures along the Nepean Gorge west of the causeway and along Harris Creek Douglas Park Drive, as a result of mining (mine subsidence)?
- **DS** - Can IMC please provide the readings from the geotechnical monitoring boreholes along Harris Creek Cliff Line?
- **BD** - What order of creek is Foot Onslow Creek? (Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project)
- **PC** – Does the Government Cumberland Plain proposal impact the Appin Ventilation and Mine Access Project?

### General Business:

- SD requested South32's view of the recent federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Bill which has passed the House of Reps. RW provided feedback from IMC Government Relations advising South32 doesn't have a formal position on the Bill. At times, South32 develops submissions into legislative/policy developments In the instance of the EPBC review and Bill, South32 did not develop its own submission but rather contributed to discussions with our industry associations (e.g. QRC, NSW Minerals Council etc) which provided submissions on behalf of its members.
- SD requested additional information on subsidence regulations and data on impacted properties in the local area. AB explained the subsidence claims process and involvement from IMC and Subsidence Advisory NSW (SA NSW). IMC has not purchased properties as a result of mine subsidence damage however SA NSW has. If IMC purchases property in the future as a result of subsidence, the CCC will be advised (in confidence).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB presented a map highlighting the area that is under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961. Any properties within this area are managed by SA NSW. Claims made from 1 January 2018 outside this area are managed under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017, where SA NSW manage the claim and IMC are the determining body.</li> <li>• SD discussed mine subsidence predictions and actual subsidence outcomes – he questioned where the data is verified. AB advised End of Panel reports are shared with the CCC when available and highlight subsidence data during that period. The predicted impacts for the local area are listed in the Extraction Plan for each longwall which are also available on the South32 website.</li> <li>• AB suggested an IMC representative specialising in subsidence attend the next meeting given the level of questions regarding subsidence. The CCC accepted suggestion.</li> <li>• CS presented on a recent incident within the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility located near Dendrobium Mine, where an uncontrolled release of water containing coal fines occurred from the sediment pond. Although not in the local area for the CCC, IMC thought it important to share this information. On 31 August IMC submitted an Environmental Assessment Report to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). IMC is continuing to work with the community and local residents further clean-up activities occur.</li> <li>• BD noted the rehabilitation completed 12 years ago at Marhynes Waterhole has started to breakdown. He would like IMC to inspect and report back on its condition.</li> <li>• DS questioned if the trees on the Menangle Road property were still doing well. CS advised the trees were going well and survived the drought.</li> <li>• DS asked if there was a new General Manager at Appin Mine as they had not seen the previous Manager for some time. AB confirmed Brad Watson was joining the business next week as Appin Mine General Manager. It is IMC's intention to have Brad join the CCC meetings in the future</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting dates 2020:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday, 10 November</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action: RW to Invite a subsidence specialist to the next CCC meeting.</li> <li>• Action: RW to investigate if a visit to Georges River is now possible and arrange.</li> <li>• Action: RW to provide email address to CCC for SA NSW to raise concern or questions regarding property management.</li> <li>• Action: CS to provide update on Marhynes Waterhole rehabilitation.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>CLOSE OF MEETING</b>
	Close of meeting at 6:20pm.