

# MEETING MINUTES



## SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 50

LOCATION: Douglas Park Hall

DATE: 17 November 2020

ATTENDEES:

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

ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL:

Rhiannon Wright (RW – South32 Community)  
Chris Schultz (CS - South32 Environment)  
Simon Pigozzo (SP - South32 Environment  
Observer)  
Matt Johnson (MJ – South32 Infrastructure)  
James Barbato (JB – MSEC Consultant)

APOLOGIES:

None

<b>1</b>	<b><i>PURPOSE</i></b>
	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.
<b>2</b>	<b><i>AGENDA</i></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>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Appin Ventilation and Mine Access</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ventilation Shaft 6 testing</li> <li>○ End of year function</li> <li>○ 2021 meeting dates</li> <li>○ Round the table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting close</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i></b>
	MA opened the meeting at 4:05pm and welcomed guests MJ and JB. 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."
<b>4</b>	<b><i>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</i></b>
	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.
<b>5</b>	<b><i>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</i></b>

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

RW provided comments from previous meeting minutes and Questions on Notice Tracker:

**Q:** A community member has just contacted SC to say that DPIE have claimed that the Appin Mines are 'unprofitable' and that is why South 32 are so enthusiastically pursuing an approval for Dendrobium. What is the South32 position on that? Have you taken that position to your shareholders?

**Response (RW):** Dendrobium Project proposes a continuation of mining and is forecast to deliver a net benefit of \$2.8 billion to the New South Wales economy and ensure the continuation of 500 jobs at the Mine and a further 200 jobs generated during construction. It will also ensure the continued supply of metallurgical coal for domestic and international use – a critical ingredient in steelmaking. Appin Mine remains profitable and will continue to grow also. We are continuing with our exploration activities and will commence in the recently approved exploration licence area (EL8972) as of early 2021 and this will guide our Appin mine planning. We continue to pursue the Appin Ventilation and Mine Access Project along with investigating options for the Appin Extraction Plans within our approved mining lease. SC didn't feel this response was adequate, given a document she had read from a government department in relation to the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project. RW asked if she could forward the document she referred to, so greater context can be given. DS asked what areas are being extracted within the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project; CS noted it would be across both the Bulli and Wongawilli seams.

**Q:** Does the Government Cumberland Plain proposal impact the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project?

**Response (RW):** The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan does not impact the proposed Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project.

**Q:** What order of creek is Foot Onslow Creek? (Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project)

**Response (RW):** The Creek is Order 3 at 345 Menangle Road. Extract from Department of Primary Industries: "Minimal Fish Habitat: Named or unnamed waterway with intermittent flow and potential refuge, breeding or feeding areas for some aquatic fauna (e.g. fish, yabbies). Semi-permanent pools form within the waterway or adjacent wetlands after a rain event. Otherwise, any minor waterway that interconnects with wetlands or recognised aquatic habitats."

**Q:** Please share the progress of the Appin Water Treatment Plant at every meeting, providing milestones at the November meeting which must be met.

**Response (CS):** CS to provide update in presentation and this has also been noted in the QoN tracker

**Q:** 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.

**Response (JB):** Underground mining can result in movements within valleys (referred to as valley-related effects) that are located outside the mining area. These movements depend on their distance from active mining and the depth of the valley. Movements have been measured between the Nepean River valley sides during LW903 and these can cause gas release within the river bed due to changes in rock stress. Properties (i.e. building structures, services, etc.) that are located outside the angle of draw and not within valleys are unlikely to experience impacts due to mining. The reason for this is that impacts to building structures are typically caused by differential ground movements e.g. strains. These movements are generally restricted to within the angle of draw. SC asked if JB was aware of other cases where gas bubbling was observed at similar distances from mining. JB responded that he was not aware of other cases he could share at the time.

SD asked, what was the furthest distance that impacts (i.e. fracturing of bedrock) has been observed outside mining and JB responded that the furthest known fracturing outside of longwall mining in the Southern Coalfield is approximately 400 m which occurred along the Cataract River.

**Q:** Requested a more technical response to how the difference between natural movement and mine induced movement is determined i.e Harris Creek Cliff Line.

**Response (JB):** High resolution monitoring lines have been established across Harris Creek to measure changes in distance between the two valley sides. These monitoring lines were established in early-2013 approximately three years before mining commenced in Area 9. It was identified that natural opening and closure movements occurred across Harris Creek that were related to seasonal changes in ambient temperature and rainfall events. The interpretation of the movements measured across Harris Creek during mining consider the natural valley movements observed prior to mining. DS asked if the subsidence predictions can be exceeded outside the mining area and near the angle of draw. JB responded that the subsidence predictions can be exceeded as the low-level movements can be affected by factors including surface topography. However, the potential for impacts do not occur due to absolute vertical subsidence but from differential horizontal movements, referred to as strain. Predicted strains are determined based on analyses of ground monitoring data to provide confidence intervals on the expected movements.

**Q:** 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)?

**Response (JB):** Valley closure has been measured across the Nepean River (west of the causeway) during the mining in Area 9. The maximum measured closure movement to date (latest survey on 23 September 2020) across the Nepean River Valley is 286 millimetres. This movement was measured along a monitoring line located approximately 400 metres east of the confluence with Allens Creek. Valley closure has been measured across Harris Creek with a max value of 41 millimetres. The greatest movements occur near the confluence near the Nepean River and reduce towards Blades Bridge. JB advised a member of council attends the Technical Committee meetings for Harris Creek Cliff Line where the monitoring results are reviewed.

**Q:** Can IMC please provide the readings from the geotechnical monitoring boreholes along Harris Creek Cliff Line?

**Response (MJ):** There are 3 x 100 metres deep geotechnical boreholes that continuously record movement and groundwater pressure at Harris Creek Cliff Line. Movements are recorded by two independent instruments in each hole and in two directions. Both devices (manual and automated) are in general agreement in terms of magnitude and direction. Movement mainly horizontal and less than 10 millimetres in total (manual instrument plots shown on section: scale +/-10 millimetres). Trigger is based on a maximum 5 millimetres shear movement on any single horizon – current maximum shear movements are:

- BH3: 0.87 mm (based on the higher accuracy manual instrument)
- BH4: 0.85 mm (based on the higher accuracy manual instrument)
- BH5: 4.7 mm (based on the lower accuracy automated instrument)

The monitoring for the Harris Creek Cliff Line includes:

- High-resolution monitoring lines across Harris Creek
- Monitoring lines across the Nepean River
- Far-field 3D monitoring points
- Manual inclinometers
- SAA (Shape Array Accelerometers)
- Piezometers
- TDR (Time Domain Reflectometry) in the boreholes and along Douglas Park Drive
- Continuity Loop along Douglas Park Drive
- Visual inspections

## **Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Update**

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### Mountbatten House

- RW provided an update on Mountbatten House. Further monitoring has taken place and it was noted there has been some deterioration to the western end of the stone stable. This area has been captured in dilapidation surveys and is within scope for repairs.
- The recommended builder and scope of works has now been approved.
- Meetings are currently taking place with the builder and IMC hope to commence work in Q1 2021.
- The Appin's Men's shed have offered to assist in the restoration works at the stable. They will assist with the doors and windows primarily. A contracted builder would complete the onsite removal and installation such that the window / door restoration could be done at the Men's Shed premises. RW also advised that IMC will discuss the works with Menangle Men's shed.
- SC and SD would like to know if the works happening in Q1 involve any of the house or just the stable. The committee provided their feedback on the length of time it has taken to commence works and would like this escalated and updated at each meeting.
- 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)

### Exploration

- RW continues to have ongoing discussions with landowners within the Western Exploration Area (EL8972) for work to commence in 2021.
- The in-seam rig located at a Menangle property is expected to be completed this week (mid-November); There were some delays due to inclement weather and rig maintenance. This rig will then be moved to Razorback.
- Two rigs to be placed on Menangle property this month for geotechnical works associated with the Appin Mine Access Project. An additional rig is also being mobilised to Razorback to be completed prior to Christmas.

### Dendrobium Mine Extension Project:

- RW provided an update on the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project. Earlier this month, the Project was referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) who will determine the outcome of our application to continue our operations well into the future.
- If approved, the Project would support the continuation of an existing 400 jobs at Dendrobium and a further 100 personnel once the project is in operation. An additional 200 jobs would be created during the construction and development phase. The project is forecast to deliver a net benefit of \$2.8 billion to the New South Wales economy and ensure a continued supply of metallurgical coal to Australian and international steelmakers.
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) have released their Assessment Report, recommending approval of the Project.

### Appin Area 9 update

- RW advised longwall 903 commenced 1 November 2019. As at 15 November the longwall had progressed about 1,780 metres.
- Approximately 552 metres remaining with expected completion date of Q1 2021.

### Appin Area 7 update

- RW advised that mining had commenced in late April 2020. It had progressed about 1,087 metres as at 15 November 2020.
- Approximately 1,100 metres remaining until completion with expected completion date of Q4 2021.

### **Impacts update**

- RW presented on environmental impacts and provided an update on gas releases in the Nepean River. As of the inspection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, there were 15 active gas zones.
- 14 zones on the Area 9 section of river and one on the Area 7 section. The AA7 zone - Gas Zone 10, hasn't been observed to be active in over two years however was active as of the last inspection. We will continue monitoring at the location on at least a monthly basis to monitor the site.
- SD would like to note that at previous meetings it was spoken about gas zones releasing within as little as 900metres from a longwall.
- RW advised the 14 zones within Area 9 ranged from a distance of 1260 metres to 1980 metres from Longwall 903; and Area 7 (Gas Zone 10)' is 2310 m from longwall 708B.
- The Committee would like to be advised of an outcome into the monitoring of Area 7, Gas Zone 10. once available.

### Infrastructure:

- MJ provided an update on current infrastructure impacts; Menangle Road and railway surveys continuing in-line with longwall 903 and longwall 708B retreat. Hume Motorway surveys commenced in November.
- Hume Motorway preparations underway to support longwall 708B – longwall 708B currently 450m away from the Motorway.
- Longwall 708B is currently under the Main Southern Rail Line. No adverse subsidence impacts noted to date.

### **Environment**

- CS provided an update on the Appin Environmental Water Project. Delays to the Appin North Water Treatment Plant Project have occurred. A request will be submitted to the EPA for an extension of time when revised completion timeframes are confirmed. Currently the contract has been executed and buried services investigations are occurring. The Plant and equipment also arrived this week.
- Options for the installation of a temporary water treatment plant are being investigated.
- Spring monitoring under the Aquatic Health Monitoring Program has been undertaken. Brine study identified that while some chemical species may precipitate out of solution, there is limited bioavailability of pollutants and a limited to low risk to aquatic fauna. A monitoring program has commenced.

### Brennans Creek Dam

- CS provided an update on current dam level, which was noted at 12.2 metres. Discharge is approximately 3 ML/day.
- Conductivity is currently around 1.5 mS/cm (1500 uS/cm).
- Modelling indicates increased spillway overflow events following implementation of water treatment plant.

### Georges River Remediation

- CS advised that landholders along the Georges River where access for tracks and staging areas may be required have been contacted to seek access to their land.

- IMC is seeking approval and making preparations to undertake a grouting trial in the Dendrobium mining area. This trial is assessing the effectiveness of a new type of grout product (PUR), as well as grouting and monitoring methodology. It is anticipated the learnings from this trial will inform rehabilitation at Georges River.

#### Mining Operations Plan

- CS advised the Mining Operations Plan was approved and is available on the website. [https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/management-plans/mining-operations-plan/appin-mop---v1-3---submission---with-appendices---all.pdf?sfvrsn=a8219cbb\\_8](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/management-plans/mining-operations-plan/appin-mop---v1-3---submission---with-appendices---all.pdf?sfvrsn=a8219cbb_8)

#### Annual Review

- CS noted the Appin Mine Annual Review was submitted to government and is available on the website.
- Comment has been received from DPIE and no changes were required.
- Current Management Plans under review:
  - Air Quality Management Plan
  - Noise Management Plan
  - Waste Management Plan
  - Coal Wash Emplacement Area Management Plan
  - Adaptive Management Plan
  - Broad Headed Snake and Southern Brown Bandicoot MP

#### Marhynes Hole Weir

- CS provided an update regarding Marhynes Hole Weir. The rehabilitation was designed to ensure water flows over the rockbar and pool water level are maintained.
- The rehabilitation continues to meet this objective and the site will continue to be monitored.

#### Nepean River Biobanking Site

- CS informed the Committee a total of 6,600 tube stock have been planted in Management Zone 1. In Stage 1 (western side), of the 3,300 tubes planted in June 2019 there is approximately 70% survivability, which is excellent considering the drought had a huge impact on the seedlings but they are now actively growing.
- In Stage 2 (behind 1025 Menangle Rd), 3,300 tubes were planted in June 2020, with more than 95% survivability. Soil moisture levels remain excellent and plants are now actively growing.
- Active treatment of weeds across the affected areas in Management Zones 1,2 and 3 has been occurring.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Trust reviewed the site in September and advised that all regeneration works to date are tracking well. SC requested that a site visit would be nice in the New Year. RW noted this will be added to the schedule and update will be provided in 2021, if available.

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

#### Proposed project

- RW provided an update recapped on the previous meeting, that IMC are proposing to construct two ventilation shafts (one upcast; one downcast) and mine access facilities at 345 Menangle Road.
- We remain in the early phases of the project with high level concepts available for sharing at this stage. Assessments required to support the concept commenced last month (October) and are expected to take approx. 6-8 months to complete. These assessments include noise, air quality, traffic, cultural heritage and geotechnical

assessments.

- SD would like a consideration for the application to government be put forward to the CCC for involvement prior to submission.

#### Community feedback

- In October, IMC doorknocked nearby residents to advise of the proposed project. Of those we were able to speak with, few raised concerns about the project.
- Through follow up engagement concerns included air quality, noise and Outer Sydney Orbital location. At this time, we are assessing air quality and noise to understand potential impacts, and we are working with Transport for NSW to have our project and the road coexist at 345 Menangle Road.
- Council and relevant local MP's were offered briefings. One has occurred with Angus Taylor MP and one is scheduled with Nathaniel Smith MP.
- SC and SD noted they feel the project should consider a name change to reflect location in Menangle and this was spoken about in the previous meeting. RW advised this was a discussion and the name did change slightly, however, the location in the name will not change as it is for the 'Appin Mine' and not named to reflect location.

#### Next steps

- Geotechnical assessments continue and are the most visual of the assessments being completed. Preparation for tree planning along Menangle Road will commence in summer (December – February). This includes preparing the area to be planted with trees and fenced.
- Trees will be planted no earlier than March 2021 when the weather is best suited. The species of trees to be planted is yet to be determined. We are seeking formal advice from the NSW Government on the species composition.
- The Committee would like to understand the species and hope that mature plants are considered to assist in a quick growth.

### **Community Complaints**

- RW reported there were three complaints throughout October. These complaints were in relation to a speeding truck and community members receiving newsletters in the mail and how the contractor delivers the newsletters.
- RW also provided an update on the Douglas Park area experiencing ground vibrations over the last week.
- IMC have investigated incidents reported directly to IMC, where dates and times could be provided. The cause of the ground vibration was determined to be minor earthquakes in the Douglas Park area and activities carried out by Holsworthy Barracks.
- Data and interpretation were provided by the Seismology Research Centre in this investigation and will attach a copy of the report to the minutes.
- A breakdown of occurrences are noted below:
  - **Monday, 9 November, 9.10am.** 1.7 Magnitude earthquake recorded near Douglas Park. It was approximately 2 kilometres below ground, 3 times the depth of our mining activities.
  - **Thursday, 12 November, 8.06am.** Holsworthy Barracks confirmed battle noise simulation occurred at this time.
  - **Saturday, 14 November, 11.13am.** 1.2 magnitude earthquake recorded near Douglas Park. It was approximately 2 kilometres below ground.
  - **Sunday, 15 November, 9-10am.** Holsworthy Barracks confirmed activities commend at 9.05am.
- PC asked if the Mine uses any explosives in their operations. CS noted that there is minimal use of explosives for some activities, however not large or noticeable at all.
- DS would like more information on the management of this issue and the correlation the



earthquakes have in relation to the longwalls.

## **Community Support**

RW presented on recent community Investments including:

- Women in Business – Currently in planning phase of the program and hope to deliver training to women in business early 2021. In the meantime, the website has also been revamped and more information will be shared in the New Year.
- Appin Chamber of Commerce – Commencing a shop locally program for the Wollondilly area. A lot of interest from local shops and an update will be seen publicly within the next month.
- Healthy Cities – The active in between program was unable to run during COVID and now with funding they are able to open back up and in numerous areas within Wollongong and Wollondilly shire. They are utilising the funding to provide fresh produce to children who come together to connect positively with other children within a supportive network. They learn about good health, motor skills, play based learning and how to cook healthy food.

### Community Partnership Program (CPP)

- RW advised a meeting was held last Wednesday at Appin Scouts Hall. Appin Scouts provided a tour of its facility which is partly funded by the CPP. Scouts NSW attended and presented on their request for Mountain Bike Trails at Cataract Scout Camp.
- Applications endorsed by the CPP at the November 2020 meeting were;
  - Cataract Scout Park – Mountain bike trails. \$40,000.
  - Cath's Kindy – defibrillator. \$989.50.
- In the last month the CPP also visited the Menangle Men's Shed to view the kitchen facilities and lighting it supported last year. The group remains in its temporary location and is liaising with Wollondilly Shire Council on a more permanent location in Menangle.

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## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Questions on Notice**

- **DS** – Why is Dendrobium Mine Extension mining in the Bulli Seam?
- **SD** – Can South32 confirm if there were any other options than the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project current proposal under the catchment and if so what were the economic differences?
- **SC** – Will painting be involved in the Mountbatten house or any other areas. Or just the stable?
- **DS** - In relation to the active Gas Zone 10 monitoring; please confirm how much gas is released per minute and the frequency.
- **DS** – Is there a Trigger Action Reporting Point (TARP) for distance of gas zones and what were the predications prior to longwall mining commencing?
- **SD** – Requests the ICCCC be involved in the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project submission to government.
- **SD** – Please provide further information on the protocol South32 intend to take if earthquakes are continued to be reported and how will it continue to effect underground?
- **SD** – Please provide a response on the correlation to longwall mining and earthquakes.
- **PC** - How much electricity is used by the current and future water treatment plants and how does this compare to the electricity generation from the EDL power stations?
- **SC** – requested information regarding a recent incident that took place underground at Appin Mine. This information has now been circulated to the committee.

### **General Business**

- RW advised the committee that underground fan testing near Ventilation Shaft 6 is planned to

	<p>occur 20 and 21 November. The underground roads will be cleaned and wet down to remove as much stone dust as possible prior to the testing, however some dust may be visible as a result of the activity. Personnel will be located at Ventilation Shaft 6 during the testing to monitor for dust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RW advised there will be no end of year function held for the committee or South32 employees, however appreciate everyone's involvement and commitment throughout the year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting dates 2021</b></p> <p>Dates for the new year have been noted below. Should you wish to change any off these dates please let RW know in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 February 2021</li> <li>• 13 April 2021</li> <li>• 15 June 2021</li> <li>• 24 August 2021</li> <li>• 19 October2021</li> <li>• 7 December 2021</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b><i>ACTIONS</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action: RW to investigate if a visit to Georges River, Mountbatten property and Nepean Biobanking Site is now possible and arrange.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b><i>CLOSE OF MEETING</i></b>
	<p>Close of meeting at 6:20pm. Next meeting Tuesday 2 February 2021 at Douglas Park Community Hall, commencing at 4pm.</p>