

MEETING MINUTES



SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 44

LOCATION: Douglas Park Community Hall

DATE: 10 December 2019

ATTENDEES:

Mike Archer (MA - Chair)
Danny Stewart (DS)
Sam Davis (SD)
Barry Durham (BD)
Sharyn Cullis (SC)
Peter Chaffer (PC)
Shane Simpson (SS)
Glenn Phillips (GP – South32 Appin Engineering,
Maintenance and Surface Infrastructure)
Amanda Blunt (AB – South32 Community)
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment)
Jenny White (JW – South32 Community)

APOLOGIES:

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

ABSENT:

DRAFT

1	PURPOSE
	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	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and apologies • Declaration of Interests • Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes / Business Arising from previous Meeting Minutes • Questions of Notice Tracker • Update from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment ○ Operations ○ Community • General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2020 meeting dates • Meeting close
	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA opened the meeting at 4.05pm and noted apologies from MM, NL and CM. • MA welcomed GP to the meeting in the absence of CM.
4	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE
	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	PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING
	<p>Previous meeting minutes (October 2019) were approved by SD and seconded by SC. Actions from the previous meeting (October 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA to make further contact with ERM to advise additional CCC concerns/comments. Completed. • AB to investigate visit to fenced Menangle Road trees. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update in the meeting. • CS to investigate if South32 planted trees on Shiels Hill. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update in the meeting. • CS to investigate if further remediation work is planned on Cataract River. Included in the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal update in the meeting. • AB to follow up on request to share presentation slides with the Committee. Presentation slides will be shared with the Committee at the meeting and attached to the minutes in the future. • CS to provide a plan/map of the area when the Georges River Remediation Plan is approved. Plan is not approved yet. • AB and CS to plan field visits to Georges River pre and post remediation. To be planned for 2020. • AB to investigate opportunity to host once off community event at Mountbatten after the chapel works are complete. Investigation yet to occur. • AB to provide detailed map of Area 10, including Mine Subsidence Districts. Map provided at the meeting.
6	SOUTH32 UPDATES
	<p><u>Environment update</u> Environmental Improvement Plan (water)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS indicated the plan to meet water quality concentration limits has been submitted to the EPA, and feedback is pending.

- Prefeasibility/feasibility studies are continuing for the Appin West and Appin North water filtration plant.
- An expression of interest has been sent to water treatment suppliers for Appin North. Responses have been received and are being evaluated. It is anticipated that recommendations will be finalised in December and submitted for internal approval.
- Brine study at the water discharge point at Marley Place has been submitted to the EPA and feedback supplied.
- Macro vertebrate monitoring in the Georges River occurred in November. The results from the monitoring will be available in February 2020.

Non-compliances and reporting

- CS reported on 1 non-compliance over the last 2 months:
- Effluent sample returned BOD result of 137 mg/L above 100 percentile limit of 50 mg/L at LDP 22 at Appin West.
- CS advised the Independent Environmental Audit Report is complete. It is to be submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for feedback. The report will be available on the South32 website after this feedback is received.
- CS advised the Annual Environmental Review has been accepted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Georges River Remediation Plan

- CS advised the Georges River Remediation Plan has been submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Feedback is pending.

Brennans Creek Dam

- CS advised the dam level is at 9.2 metres; discharge is approximately 1-1.5ML/day.
- SC questioned how much Sydney Water was included in the discharge. CS advised Sydney Water is used to dilute the discharge and it accounts for about half of the amount.
- CS advised that the discharge would cease if the dam level drops to 9 metres.
- There was some discussion about the impact of tightening water restrictions and if that would impact South32 operations. CS advised at this stage industrial operations were not impacted.

ABC news article on metallic sludge (question on notice)

- CS advised South32 does not mine beneath Cordeaux or Avon Lakes. On further questioning from DS, CS clarified South32 did not conduct *longwall* mining beneath the Lakes.
- Comprehensive monitoring is in place at Dendrobium Mine that includes detailed analysis of surface water upstream, within and downstream of mining areas. Monitoring is carried out at 104 sites, including within Lakes Cordeaux and Avon.
- Potential water quality impacts as a result of mine subsidence are localized to the mining area.
- Water treatment plants designed to offset potential water quality impacts.
- Drought has impacted the water quality in the catchment. These variations are a common and natural occurrence.

Old Growth Trees on South32 property

- AB advised South32 is aware of the concern from local environmental groups about the damage to Old Growth Trees on property we own.
- We are investigating options to reduce the impact with external experts. This includes tar treatment, hessian bagging or fencing.
- Results from the investigation will be shared with the CCC and concerned local groups when available.

Operations 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. The Committee requested input into the Plan.
 - South32 is meeting requirements of the current CMP which focuses on maintaining the structural integrity of the buildings. This year we have had a structural engineer to the

property to check its integrity and have recently propped the roof to enable the ceiling cavity to be physically inspected. The ceiling cavity has been inspected by the structural engineer and the recommended pest inspection completed; there was no evidence of active termite activity.

- AB reminded members exploration activities have started in Appin Area 10, with three exploration drill rigs on three properties in Menangle and Cawdor.
- The Committee expressed some concern that exploration was being carried out in non-Mine Subsidence Districts. SD asked if it would be appropriate to write to the Department regarding this apparent anomaly.
- AB stressed that the issuing of an exploration licence does not automatically mean the company will mine in that area, or even explore in that area.
- BD requested a map of the areas covered by exploration licences with key markers such as townships.

Action: AB to understand if the Committee can provide input into the CMP for Mountbatten House.

Appin Area 9 update

- GP advised Longwall 903 commenced on 1 November 2019. As at 5 December it had progressed 150m.
- Engagement with landholders that are likely to experience subsidence is ongoing.

Appin Area 7 update

- GP advised Longwall 708A was completed on 7 November.
- Longwall 708B is due to commence in the last quarter of FY2020.
- 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.
- There was discussion if the current ventilation process was adequate to operate two longwalls. GP advised the current ventilation model and process is adequate for mining both Longwall 903 and Longwall 708B. Another ventilation shaft is required for future operations based on the current mine plan.

Impacts update

- AB advised there was no new gas zones identified in the Nepean River. 5 previously identified zones are active, and 29 previously identified zones remain inactive.
- Menangle Road surveys are now weekly in-line with the start of Longwall 903, and visual inspections are completed twice weekly.
- Weekly railway inspections are conducted in-line with the start of Longwall 903, with daily visual inspections completed.
- Rehabilitation on the Hume Highway above Longwall 905/906 is 90 percent complete. Longwall 708B pavement repairs is planned for this month and slotting on the Highway in early 2020.

Community Complaints

- There were no community complaints reported since the last meeting.

Proposed ventilation shaft

- JW advised there is no further update on the proposed ventilation shaft since the Community Update was delivered to residents in early November stating the company's review of its mine plan was ongoing.
- No update is likely before January and JW confirmed the company would not be submitting an application to the government before Christmas.
- DS questioned if the coffee drop-ins at Lucy's Café would resume after Christmas. JW was not able to confirm if this was the case. DS said the community appreciated the coffee drop-ins which gave easy access to South32 representatives.
- The committee requested the drop-ins resume in the New Year.
- JW advised the five dust monitors had been installed in Douglas Park for the three-month monitoring period. The Committee requested a map showing the locations and questioned if the monitoring period would be extended due to the prolonged bushfire smoke in the area. JW noted

	<p>there is no current plan to extend the monitoring period. Smoke would dominate the measurement and the Company, EMM, would take this into account when reviewing the results.</p> <p><u>Community Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB provided an update on Illawarra Metallurgical Coal supported events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Wollondilly Christmas Lights Competition. \$250 for the best decorated senior citizen house. • AB noted the Community Partnership Program held its last meeting for 2019 in November. An advertisement for new members has resulted in three applications. Applications recently supported and completed included the Cawdor Public School playground (\$20,000) and the Douglas Park Wilton Little Athletics multi-purpose storage shed (\$80,000). • AB advised South32 has donated \$500,000 to the Rural Fire Service Brigades in NSW and QLD to go directly to the effort on the ground. • AB shared that all community committees voted to forego their Christmas Hamper gift from South32 and donate the cost (\$2,000) to the Dilly Drought Drive. AB thanked all members for doing so.
7	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA advised he had contacted auditor (Nicole at ERM) re committee's concerns regarding not being contacted earlier for the Independent Environmental Audit of Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. • SC asked how much Sydney Water South32 uses at the Appin/washery operations and where/how this water is used – is it for drinking, showers, etc. • BD asked is the map of exploration areas can be shared with the committee. • DS requested South32 to resume its coffee shop drop-ins at Lucy's Café in 2020. • MA informed the committee about the recent meeting of Independent Chairs (see attached). Some discussion followed and as a result, the committee would like to invite a representative to attend a meeting in 2020. • SC noted that the CCC works well compared to others and commended Illawarra Metallurgical Coal for sharing information with the group. <p>Action: CS to investigate how much Sydney Water is used at our Appin operation and how it is used (showers, drinking etc).</p> <p>Action: AB to share a map of exploration areas with the Committee. It needs to include townships and other landmarks.</p>
8	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: CS to provide a plan/map of the area when the Georges River Remediation Plan is approved. • Action: AB to understand if the Committee can provide input into the CMP for Mountbatten. • Action: AB to provide detailed map of the exploration leases, including landmarks. • Action: CS to investigate how much Sydney Water is used at our Appin operation and how it is used (showers, drinking etc). • Action: AB to share a map of exploration areas with the Committee. It needs to include townships and other landmarks. • Action: MA to contact the Department and arrange representative attendance at a meeting in 2020. • 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 arrange underground tour for Committee in 2020.
9	CLOSE OF MEETING

Close of meeting at 5.50pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 21 January 2020, 4.00pm – 6.00pm at Douglas Park Community Hall.

DRAFT