

MEETING MINUTES



SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 52

LOCATION: Menangle Fire Station

DATE: 9 March 2021

ATTENDEES:

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

ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL:

Rhiannon Wright (RW – South32 Community)
Liam Stower (LS – South32 Community)
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment)
Simon Pigozzo (SP – South32 Environment)

APOLOGIES:

Noel Lowry (NL – Council Representative)
Brad Watson (BW – Appin General Manager)

1	<i>PURPOSE</i>
	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.
2	<i>AGENDA</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country and apologies • Declaration of Interests • Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes / Business Arising from previous Meeting Minutes • Questions on Notice Tracker • Update from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mountbatten Property ▪ Dendrobium Mine Extension Project ○ Infrastructure ○ Environment ○ Appin Ventilation and Mine Access ○ Community • General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2021 meeting dates • Meeting close
3	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	MA opened the meeting at 4:00pm, welcoming Liam Stower as the new Corporate Affairs Manager at IMC, and noting an apology from Brad Watson. 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."
4	<i>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</i>
	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.
5	<i>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING</i>

Previous meeting minutes were accepted. Moved by SC and 2nd by SS.

- RW advised that a tour to the Nepean Biobanking site is to be arranged for the committee based on previous feedback. The committee agreed to have the tour during the next meeting in May and agreed an earlier start date is viable. RW to provide an update prior to meeting.
- MA raised the suggestion of reviewing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee as they have not been reviewed since 2017. The committee agreed to review the ToR, Government Guidelines and Code of Conduct and provide feedback to MA for discussion at an appropriate time. Due to the next meeting involving a tour, it was suggested the review be on hold until the following regular meeting in July.

Questions on Notice

Q. Please provide a map of exactly where the mining at North Cliff occurred before it was gazetted?



Q. Are there places in Dharawal National park where gas is flowing or leaking out of the ground because of preparatory 'degassing' horizontal long-hole drilling, that was done up to 1000m ahead of the face or from exploration drilling before the area was gazetted?

R. There are no identified locations where gas emissions are occurring in Dharawal National Park associated with horizontal long hole drilling or exploration. There are limited gas emissions from the ventilation shaft located on the North Cliff Pit Top.

Q. Will Northcliff be adequately remediated in 10 years' time when the lease finishes?

R. While the current expiry date on CCL 724 is 18 December 2031, an application for renewal may be submitted to extend this date. Planning is underway to progress the rehabilitation of the North Cliff site within the next 10 years.

Q. What happens then if there is still gas pouring out?

R. The old ventilation shaft site at North Cliff will be rehabilitated. The rehabilitation of the site will address gas emissions from the ventilation shaft.

Q. What can we do to make sure the mines pay for this remediation?

R. IMC has an obligation under the mining lease to undertake rehabilitation of the North Cliff site.

Q. If this is the damage we can see in Dharawal National park (where mining was halted very early on), is it possible that the recent devastating catchment fires were made worse because of flammable gases leaking out from previous mining?

R. Mining has only been undertaken under an extremely small area that was affected by the extensive bushfires that occurred across Australia in 2019/2020, and therefore any possible link is unreasonable.

Q. Stage 3 of the Waste emplacement at Appin appears to be near capacity. Stage 4 will replace an additional 76 ha of wild bushland of high quality and endangered species, with a coal dump of maximum height of 365m which is 65m above the surrounding landscape and involves 88m of infill.

R. Stage 3 still has approximately 25 Mt of future capacity. Stage 4 will have a maximum disturbance footprint of 60 hectares. The Stage 4 emplacement will have a maximum height of 331 m (Australian Height Datum).

Q. Stage 4 Waste capacity is 40 Mt, is that correct (BSO Approval) but wasn't that to accommodate just the fill of the approved Appin Mines? What was the waste estimate for the BSO and existing Dendrobium approval, that would go to Stage 4?

R. Stage 4 emplacement capacity is 26 Mt. Stage 3 and 4 emplacement areas have capacity for both predicted coal wash generation from Appin and Dendrobium mines.

Q. The current Dendrobium approval was for 9.4mt of waste, which was to be dumped at Stage 3 and 4, some of that is still to be dumped at the Appin dump, is that correct?

R. The remaining predicted volume of coal wash from Area 3 is 9.4 Mt. Coal wash may be emplaced should beneficial uses not be available.

Q. The rejected Dendrobium proposal was for an additional 15.2 tonnes of waste, with no guarantee of any alternative destinations, other than the Appin dump. Would that 'fit' into Stage 4? How could any further application improve on that so as to avoid going ahead with Stage 4, so as to protect the threatened plant and animal species?

R. Yes. Without identifying alternative beneficial uses, the predicted coal wash volume from Areas 5 and 6 would be able to be emplaced.

Q. How much of that site contains koala habitat?

R. Stage 4 of the coal wash emplacement area does not fall within the definition of either core or potential koala habitat.

Q. How will the development of Stage 4, given that it will generate a huge new surface disturbance, and involve the infill of some of Brennan's Ck dam, affect the capacity and effectiveness of the new Reverse Osmosis water treatment facility with respect to water quality. How will it affect the volumes of surface flow and the capacity of Brennan's Ck dam to absorb rather than overspill in high rainfall events, given the fact its area will be reduced?

R. Stage 4 detailed design has not yet been undertaken. These issues will be addressed in the detailed design. The revised design under the PPR does not infill any of BCD. The water treatment plant has not been constructed or designed to treat water from Brennans Creek Dam.

Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Update

Mountbatten House

- RW provided an update on Mountbatten House and Stable works. RW commented on the process which will include the stonemason working on the main house after completing work on the stable. RW also noted the builders are currently working on the piling work and will move onto the main house when this is complete.
- Work started in late January and should take 12-14 weeks to complete.
- Completed scope of works:
 - Remove the shipping container and vegetation
 - Removal of dilapidated modern awning, which is a later addition of intrusive heritage value
 - Install scaffolding around the building to provide access for removal of roof
 - Stabilise/deconstruct the roof, gable, dilapidated sandstone and make safe for repair works
 - Removal of scaffolding to allow for underpinning
- Current scope of works:
 - The Appin Men's Shed are working to restore the timber doors and windows
 - Excavation around the building
 - Selection of new sandstone and grout by stonemason
- Future scope of works:
 - Installation of scaffolding
 - Rebuild the collapsed gables
 - Remove floor, reconstruct upper wall segments, repair cracking in western wall
 - Repoint sandstone walls and floor as required
 - Rebuild the roof structure, re-roof and revegetate surrounding areas with grass.
- RW commented that there will be a time-lapse video available to share with the community into future works. SD commented that it was requested by the committee to have the main house painted. RW suggested this is in discussion with future works and will also provide an update on how the property will be utilised once restored.

Dendrobium Mine Extension Project

- RW provided an update on the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.
- Following the decision from the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to refuse the approval of the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project, IMC is considering numerous options, including:
 - Appealing the Independent Planning Commission decision; considering alternative approval pathways; resubmitting a revised mine plan; or accepting the decision.
- South32 is in the process of working through each option in order to understand the subsequent work involved and decide on the best approach moving forward. As part of the review, we are engaging with a number of key stakeholders including key government agencies and representatives and local industry associations to assist in progressing this work.
- RW advised committee should there be any major developments prior to the next meeting a notification will be provided to the CCC. MA confirmed this was all the information currently available to all committees within IMC.

Appin Area 7 update

- RW advised that mining of Longwall 708B commenced in late April 2020. It had progressed about 1,328 metres as at 28 February 2021. There is approximately 859 metres until completion expected in Q4 2021.

Appin Area 9 update

- RW advised mining of Longwall 903 commenced 1 November 2019. As at 28 February 2021 it had progressed about 2,220 metres. There is approximately 112 metres remaining which is due to be complete Q1 2021.
- RW advised on Thursday 4th March, there was a fall of roof in a travel road underground at Appin North. No injuries occurred, and all employees were evacuated as per the operations Incident Management protocol. An internal investigation has commenced into the cause of the incident, and an update can be provided once available.

Impacts update

- RW presented on environmental impacts and provided an update on gas releases in the Nepean River. As at the inspection on 24th February, there are 12 active gas zones.
- 11 zones on the Area 9 section of river and one on the Area 7 section. This Area 7 gas zone, Gas Zone 10, was last observed to be active more than 2 years ago however was active at the last inspection with 15 individual releases described as light and intermittent. A flow rate calculation for Gas Zone 10 was approximately 10L/min. IMC will continue monitoring the area monthly.

Infrastructure:

- RW provided a road and rail infrastructure update advising that weekly surveys of Menangle Road, M31 Motorway, Camden Road and the Main Southern Motorway are continuing in line with Longwall 903 and Longwall 708B retreat. Visual inspections are occurring weekly.
- There have been no impacts to the safety and serviceability of infrastructure due to mining.
- South32 highlighted the need for track repairs to the Douglas Park Crossing to the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). ARTC is undertaking repair works.

Environment

- CS provided an update on the Appin Environmental Water Project. Construction of the Appin North Water Treatment Plant (WTP) project is progressing. Lengths of pipe have been welded and laid in trenches. WTP containers are being built and the anticipated operation of the permanent plant is by the end of November 2021.
- The temporary WTP is being progressed and is anticipated to be operational in April 2021.
- Environmental Protection Authority representatives visited Appin North on 3 March 2021.
- Licence variation request has been submitted for extension through to November 2021.
- Georges River Stakeholder Group Meeting planned for April 2021.

Brennans Creek Dam

- CS noted current dam level, which was noted at 10.8 metres. Discharge is approximately 1.5 ML/day.
- Conductivity is currently around 1750 uS/cm.

Management Plans Approved

- The Biodiversity Management Plan has been approved. All approved management plans are available on the website: [Illawarra Coal documents \(south32.net\)](http://Illawarra Coal documents (south32.net))

Persoonia hirsuta

- A second translocation trial is planned to be undertaken in May 2021
- The tubestock will be planted in Stage 2 emplacement rehabilitation
- A paper summarizing the results of research to date is being developed

Georges River Remediation Plan

- CS advised IMC are still seeking approval for access and will provide an update when available.

Aquatic Health Monitoring Program

- Divers for pool level monitoring have been installed
- Ecotox samples have been collected for analysis

Nepean Stewardship Site

- Site is looking good considering the conditions changed from drought to high moisture levels
- Significant weed growth requiring control
- Survivability has been excellent – 90% on eastern side and 65% on western side
- Goats are present on the site which has impacted some seedlings –sustainable options for removal are being investigated

Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project

- RW provided a recap 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.
- IMC 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 in October 2020 and are expected to take approximately 6-8 months to complete. These assessments include noise, air quality, traffic, cultural heritage and geotechnical assessments.
- RW provided an update of the activities that have occurred at the property and those scheduled for the near future. This included Aboriginal Heritage assessments, where an archaeological dig along the creek line to recover artefacts was occurring for approximately two weeks, and geotechnical assessments which were continuing. Future activities expected at the property include:
 - Slashing and weed management along the Menangle Road fence line. This is in preparation for tree planting along the boundary.
 - Trees will be planted along the boundary in April 2021 when the weather is more suitable. The tree species will be Australian natives consisting of shrubs to trees to provide the best screening. The committee were happy with the visual representation of what the trees will look like and await feedback from when planting occurs.
 - A watering program is planned to occur for the first few months after the trees are planted to encourage growth and establishment.
 - Slashing and weed management of the property in general is expected in 2021.
- The proposed Outer Sydney Orbital corridor has been announced, however to date it has not been gazetted. IMC are engaging with Transport NSW in relation to the proposed OSO corridor and the proposed project coexisting at 345 Menangle Road. Transport for NSW will be provided formal feedback on our proposed project through the NSW Government modification application process.

Community Complaints

- RW reported there were no community complaints in February.

Community Support

- RW presented on a recent community Investment to Healthy Cities, who held their First Cultural Capacity Workshop that Healthy Cities Illawarra has organised with SCARF Refugee Support providing training to their staff and volunteers. IMC provide the food to training and education programs.
- Douglas Park Wilton Football Club and IMC are in discussions to understand how we can continue support. At the next meeting we aim to share the outcome of these discussions.

Community Partnership Program (CPP)

- RW advised the next Committee meeting is later this week at the Menangle Rural Fire Brigade
- Two applications have been received for review:
 - Rural Fire Service – weather station. The RFS has requested \$30,000 toward the purchase and install of a weather station which will provide vital data during firefighting efforts. The weather station will cover the Wollondilly Shire and some further areas. At the moment there is a black spot in data in some areas of the Wollondilly Shire.
 - Life Education – subsidised school program. Life Education is requesting \$35,000 over the next 3 years toward the school program in the communities of Appin, Wilton, Douglas Park and Cawdor. The CPP has been a keen supporter of the program providing more than \$150,000 since 2008 so students can take part in the program at no cost to families.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Questions on Notice

- What is the approval process for Mount Batten House scope of works?
- How much coal from the Bulli Seam Operations and Dendrobium Operations is provided to BlueScope.

General Business

- RW noted IMC participated in Clean up Australia Day on 2nd March
- DS would like to advise IMC that trust has been lost regarding the Appin Ventilation and Mine Access Project. He raised the issue of the previous site being nominated at Douglas Park was essential at the time and now the project is being proposed for Menangle. DS would like an explanation of the change. CS and RW did note that IMC understand the frustration with the location change, however it was spoken about at a previous CCC and previous minutes noted below:
 - *CCC Minutes September 2020 - 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.*
- RW acknowledged at times, plans can change and there are reasonings behind the change. However, take on the feedback from DS to provide clear communication in future as to avoid any miscommunication regarding project changes.

	<p><u>Meeting dates 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 May • 13 July • 14 September • 16 November
8	<i>ACTIONS</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RW to advise the committee of upcoming tour details to the Nepean Biobanking Site. • RW to send out ToR, Government Guidelines and Code of Conduct for review by Committee at the July meeting. • RW to provide confirmation on the Mount Batten house consent and what it means for future use.
9	<i>CLOSE OF MEETING</i>
	<p>Close of meeting at 5:45pm. Next meeting Tuesday 11 May 2021. Location and time to be confirmed based on tour requirements.</p>