

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee – Plan for the Future Working Group	
LOCATION:	Dendrobium Mine meeting room, Mount Kembla	
DATE:	16 May 2019, 5:30pm	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson Community Representatives Illawarra Coal Representatives Observer	Mike Archer (MA) Vivien Twyford (VT) Jenny Evans (JE) Phil Clunas (PC) Phil Diamond (PD) Councillor Noel Lowry (NL) (Wollondilly Shire Council) Ben Fitzsimmons (Illawarra Coal) Gary Brassington (Illawarra Coal) David Henry (Wollondilly Shire Council)
APOLOGIES:		Alex Beccari (AB) Phil Grant (PG) Ron Zwicker (RZ) (Wollongong City Council)

1	<i>PURPOSE</i>
	Illawarra Coal commenced engagement with the DCCC on the Dendrobium Plan for the Future Project in August 2016. The Committee currently meets bi-monthly to discuss this Project.
2	<i>AGENDA</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome/Apologies • DCCC Plan for the Future Update / Working Group discussion • General Business • Next Meeting
3	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	MA welcomed all members present to the Extraordinary May meeting of the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Working Group, including welcoming an observer from Wollondilly Shire Council, David Henry and from Illawarra Coal, Approvals Superintendent Gary Brassington. MA noted apologies from Ron Zwicker, Alex Beccari and Phil Grant.
4	<i>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE</i>

	Nil
5	PREVIOUS MINUTES
	Due to the lack of a Working Group meeting in March, no minutes had been distributed. A discussion regarding the Dendrobium – Plan for the Future project was held at the end of the May Regulatory meeting and will be recorded in the minutes dated 2 May 2019.
5A	BUSINESS ARISING
	Nil
6	PLAN FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE
	<p>Environmental Studies Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BF advised that the studies and reports which make up the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) had now been completed and the document was currently being reviewed internally by South32. • BF advised the committee of the planning process from here, and as milestones are achieved, the DCCC will continually be updated. • ACTION: BF to provide the DCCC with an electronic copy of the EIS once on public exhibition. • Question on Notice: MA asked if the DCCC would be afforded the opportunity to view the EIS prior to its public exhibition, on a confidential basis. • PD asked if the company had modelled longwalls that were thinner (i.e. < 305m width) than what is currently being developed and mined at Dendrobium. • GB advised that sensitivities regarding longwall width had been examined during the development of the EIS. Dendrobium will lodge the EIS with longwalls widths consistent with current approved mining at Dendrobium, understanding that ongoing consultation with stakeholders and regulators will determine the final approved longwall widths in Areas 5 & 6, should mining approval be granted in these future domains. • NL asked when the EIS would be lodged. BF advised that the EIS would be lodged with the NSW government in the coming weeks, however this is dependent on the progress of the internal approvals process. • South32 is working on a range of communication tools which compliment the EIS. This includes a webpage specific to the project, factsheets, summaries, etc. • VT asked if the website could include links to important sources of information including the major projects planning portal, Independent Expert Panel reports, etc. • ACTION: BF to ensure that relevant links are included on the project specific website. • VT highlighted that in the Sydney Morning Herald, a recent article highlighted the concerns of WaterNSW regarding underground mining in the water catchment areas. • VT asked who the decision maker was in the state's planning process and would WaterNSW concerns be considered in any decision-making process?

- BF advised that the NSW planning process for state significant developments considers commentary and assessments from all stakeholders, including key agencies and regulators (incl. WaterNSW).
- NL asked who the ultimate decision maker was for this project.
- GB advised that the project is considered a state significant development and the Minister of Planning is the determining authority, however GB explained that it is highly likely the project will be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) by the Planning Minister, thereby delegating determining authority to the IPC.
- MA asked what federal approval, if any, was required?
- GB explained that the project has been referred to the Commonwealth Government and has been determined a 'controlled action' in accordance with the EPBC Act 1999. Therefore, federal approval is required from the Minister for the Environment.
- PD asked if either approval overrode the authority of another (i.e. did Federal approval mean state approval was redundant?)
- GB explained that both approvals were independent of each other, neither being less important than the other, and the project could not proceed without both state and federal approval.
- PD asked if South32 would appeal a determination not in favour of mining approval.
- GB explained that any appeal was a business decision approached on a case by case basis.
- NL asked if the project satisfied the Federal 'water trigger'?
- GB advised that the project was deemed a 'controlled action' by the Federal government on the basis of listed species, vegetation communities and water.
- VT asked if the mine was facing any possibility of mining activities being halted at Dendrobium should there be a delay in obtaining approvals to mine in Areas 5 and 6?
- GB advised that Dendrobium had identified some additional longwall panels within the approved mining domain, between Areas 3B and 3C (Longwalls 20 and 21). Should mining not be approved in Areas 5 and 6 this would reduce the life of mining at Dendrobium.

Stakeholder Engagement Activities

- BF explained that significant stakeholder engagement had been undertaken including the briefings with private enterprise, local government and several community information sessions in Unanderra and Kembla Heights.
- BF highlighted that future engagement activities were planned with local business, chambers of commerce, community groups, local government and further community information sessions.
- VT asked what the primary concerns were raised by Wollongong City Council (WCC) during the briefing.
- BF advised that WCC highlighted impacts on local communities as a key area of interest such as traffic and transport, as well as the broader impacts of the mining operation on the

local environment (esp. water catchments). Additionally, an in-depth discussion was held regarding the role of coal in the steel making process.

- PD asked how much of the coal mined by South32 was used locally, and how much was available for export?
- BF highlighted that South32 was the primary supplier of coking coal to the local steelworks (up to 60% of the steelwork's coal requirements). NB: Bluescope notes in its submission to the IEP that it sources 90% of its coal from local mines.
- PD questioned the acceptability of Dendrobium's environmental impact.
- BF discussed that the company's approach to mine design in future mining domains considered past experiences within the catchment and strongly focussed on South32's commitment to the development of sustainable operations.
- PD suggested that it seemed the mine was putting forward the exact same mine proposal for Areas 5 & 6 as it had done for Area 3.
- GB explained that data and understanding of impacts from mining in Area 3 had been integrated into the mine design for future mining domains, including 'set backs' from significant features such as dams, dam walls and surface environmental features, including avoiding longwall mining beneath streams like WC21.
- MA raised the prospect of the CCC meeting with the Department of Planning and Environment, as a follow on from the telecon held in late 2018.
- VT is now following up on the meeting and working on firming up times with DPE representatives. The group suggested that VT propose, as a first preference, a meeting with the Department as soon as possible, potentially on the same scheduled as DCCC meeting.
- MA asked DH to articulate to the group the key aspects of Wollondilly Shire Council's submission to the Independent Expert Panel in response to Terms of Reference 1 report.
- DH described councils focus on water quality and water availability. NL added that the cost of water is increasing and as such Wollondilly Shire Council has adopted a policy which prioritises water security over mining and housing development.
- PC asked if there would be less subsidence impacts in Area 5 due to the reduced mining height and the local topography?
- GB replied that the reduced mining height and nature of the local topography would result in less surface impacts than those experienced in Area 3, however it is unlikely that there would be a material difference in impacts to groundwater.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

The Independent Expert Panel on mining in the water catchment has handed down its report for Term of Reference 1. It can be viewed at

https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/209357/IEPMC-Report_Term-of-Reference-1.pdf

Submissions from government agencies, organisations and the public can be viewed at

<https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/reports/independent-expert-panel-for-mining-in-the-catchment>

	VT asked if South32 was aware of WaterNSW plans to close access into the catchment, beyond the lookout along Cordeaux Road? South32 received the same consultation letter from Wollongong Council as some members of the DCCC received.
8	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: BF to provide the DCCC with an electronic copy of the EIS once on public exhibition. • ACTION: BF to ensure that relevant links are included on the project specific website. • ACTION: BF to distribute links to the Independent Expert Panel report and stakeholder submissions. • ACTION: BF to follow up on the opportunity for the DCCC to participate in a catchment inspection. • ACTION: VT discussing potential meeting dates with Department of Planning and Environment.
9	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	<p>Meeting close: 6:30pm</p> <p>Next regulatory meeting: 20 June 2019, 5:30pm</p> <p>Next working group meeting: 18 July 2019, 5.30pm</p>