

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee	
LOCATION:	Wongawilli Room, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, North Wollongong NSW 2500	
DATE:	17:30, Thursday 19 November 2020	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson Community Representatives Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Representatives (IMC)	Mike Archer (MA) Phil Diamond (PD) Phil Grant (PG) Phil Clunas (PC) Jenny Evans (JE) [online] Alex Beccari (AB) [online] Ron Zwicker (RZ) (Wollongong City Council) Noel Lowry (NL) (Wollondilly Shire Council) Viv Twyford (VT) Ben Fitzsimmons (BF) Chris Schultz (CS)
APOLOGIES:	Neville McAlary (NMCA)	

1	PURPOSE
	<p>The purpose of the DCCC is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of Dendrobium Mine, the community, the relevant councils and other stakeholders on issues directly relating to the mine's operations, environmental performance and community relations, and to keep the community informed on these matters. The meeting also includes a discussion on the progress of the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project development application.</p>
2	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of Country • Welcome/Apologies • Declaration of Pecuniary Interests • Acceptance of minutes of last meeting • Business Arising • Approvals Update • Operational Update • Environmental Update • Community Update • Member Updates • General Business
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

	We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging .
3	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	Mike Archer (MA) welcomed all members present to the Regulatory Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) meeting, both in person and online. MA issued an apology for those not in attendance.
4	DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS
	MA declared a pecuniary interest, advising that in his role as Independent Chairperson, he is paid for his time by South32.
5	PREVIOUS MINUTES
	<p>Approval of the minutes from DCCC meeting (July 2020) were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Moved: VT; Seconded; PC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the committee raised concerns regarding the use of the phrase “<i>positive contributor</i>”. The member believes the phrase does not represent the impact of underground mining on the water catchment. BF explained that the phrase was used to articulate the Project’s commitment to work in partnership with the NSW Government, paying for the volume of surface water which would be impacted by Project-related subsidence. • A member of the committee questioned why the payment for water had increased significantly from what was proposed in the EIS (i.e. \$100,000). BF clarified that the two payments were different, the first being payment for water diverted by Project related subsidence, facilitated through the establishment of a planning agreement with the Minister for Water, and the second being a payment to WaterNSW for bulk water which would no longer be available for sale to customers.
5A	BUSINESS ARISING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: CS to discuss the specialist advice once the elevated Electrical Conductivity levels is received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>A report will be completed as part of the LW16 End of Panel report, to be completed within 4 months of the completion of LW16. (NB: LW16 was completed on the 4 November 2020.)</i> • ACTION: NMCA to report on what bushfire preparations are underway at Dendrobium Mine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Checked and cleared fire trails at Stones Road, Stage 3 pathway, Dendrobium (cat 7 only) and Mt Kembla Ring Track.</i> ○ <i>Completed Asset Protection Zones (APZ) clearing work around Kembla Heights.</i> • ACTION: BF to report on WaterNSW bushfire preparations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>WaterNSW are active members of the relevant Bush Fire Management Committees.</i> ○ <i>WaterNSW have developed a comprehensive hazard reduction program, coordinated hazard reduction activities, have attended fire towers strategically located to detect</i>

early signs of fire and ensure rapid suppression and have maintained fire trail networks and APZ's within catchment areas.

- WaterNSW maintain an effective partnership with relevant firefighting agencies. (NSW Bushfire Inquiry)
- A committee member raised the issue of drying swamps and vegetation within water catchment areas, and that this increased the risk of bushfire in the catchment. Another member noted burnt swamps in the Newnes Plateau which had been previously impacted by mining and were significantly burnt during the 2019/20 bushfires. The comments were noted by the Chair.
- **ACTION:** CS to include a plan showing the noise monitoring locations in the presentation.
- **ACTION:** Report to the committee on the outcomes of the Kemira Valley investigation. *NB: this was communicated to the committee on a Commercial in Confidence basis.*
- **ACTION:** Ben to report on alternate options for virtual meetings.
 - With COVID restrictions slowly relaxing, face to face meetings will be the preferred option for the DCCC. Dial in details will continue to be provided for those who may be unable to make the meetings.
- **ACTION:** Ben to report on feedback from discussion with local Indigenous representative.
 - Discussion was held with a local Indigenous representative. They were asked if they would like to attend an upcoming DCCC meeting, to which they politely declined. Discussed their sentiment toward mining operations in the catchment and interaction with Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. Discussed potential opportunities to promote Aboriginal awareness through site visits and education within the local community.
 - MA added that there are many different Aboriginal groups in the Illawarra with an interest in, or are impacted by, our mining operations. Therefore, comprehensive engagement with the Indigenous groups requires broad consultation with many representatives to ensure the majority of viewpoints are heard and understood.

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ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Approvals (BF)

- Approvals within existing mining area:
 - Longwall 17 Subsidence Management Plan approved. Dam Safety Committee (DSC) extraction plan endorsed.
 - Longwall 18 Subsidence Management Plan submitted 12 August. Application referred to Independent Assessment Panel (IAP).
 - Longwall 19 Subsidence Management Plan submitted - 16 March 2020
 - Longwall 21 Subsidence Management Plan approved - 19 December 2019
 - Longwall 20 Subsidence Management Plan – further approval required.
 - Longwall 22 and 23 Subsidence Management Plan – currently being prepared.
- Dendrobium Mine Extension Project
 - Independent Advisory Panel on Underground Mining have reviewed the Project.

- DPIE has completed Assessment Report and referred the Project to the Independent Planning Commission for determination.

Operational Update (BF) – NMcA an apology

- Longwall (LW) 16 was completed on the Wednesday 4th November 2020.
- Relocation of the machinery and equipment to LW17 currently underway and is expected to be completed on 4th December 2020.
- Associated with the LW relocation, there will be increased traffic with machinery leaving site for necessary maintenance, including 26 Underground Powered Roof Supports which are being transported offsite for servicing.
- Development is continuing in maingate (MG) 18 Panel, Corrimal Mains and the Avondale Mains. There is currently reduced activity in MG19 due to labour allocation to support the LW changeout.
- Planned infrastructure maintenance on Kemira Valley rill tower, reclaim tunnel chutes and conveyor gantry will be completed during the LW relocation.
- Scheduled rail grinding along the Kemira Valley rail line will commence on 23 November. This should be completed within the week.
- A committee member asked if the report regarding the Kemira Valley incident had been provided to Wollongong City Council. BF advised that the report had been provided to representatives at Wollongong City Council.
- Two committee members noted that a truck transporting a longwall chock was moving slowly through the village, causing some traffic to build behind the slow-moving vehicle.

Environment Update (CS)

- Underground water balance is still experiencing an increase due to multiple heavy rainfall events over the previous months. Water volume accounting for Area 3C is now being undertaken and development advances in Corrimal Mains.
- Licence Discharge Point (LDP) 5 water flow in October was an average of 6.42 mega litres per day (ML/d) (max: 7.61 ML/d and min: 2.32 ML/d).
- Directional noise monitor is being progressed. Equipment has been ordered (delivery from Poland) and we are awaiting delivery. It is expected the equipment would be ready for install in Q1 2021.
- Quarterly noise monitoring undertaken 10/11 November. Results not yet received from the noise consultant. These will be uploaded to the 14 day report when received.
- Annual Review was submitted to the relevant stakeholders and is now available on the South32 website.
- Exceedance of TSS limit (30 mg/L) recorded at LDP 5 (34 mg/L).
- A plan was included in the presentation showing the noise monitoring locations surrounding the Dendrobium pit top area.

- CS provided an update on the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility findings. The information was provided to the group on a confidential basis in their capacity as the DCCC.
- A committee member requested that the DCCC be provided an opportunity to inspect Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility (KVCLF).
- **ACTION:** BF to arrange for an inspection of KVCLF in early 2021.

NOTE: environmental data can be viewed online by downloading the [Dendrobium 14 Day Report](#).

Community Update

- Dendrobium has received 25 complaints since the last meeting. The primary reason for complaints were noise related followed by traffic concerns.
- Noise complaints are being communicated back to the workforce, staff and management at Dendrobium Mine. They are being reminded of their obligations under the Dendrobium Noise Management Plan.
- A committee member asked where the noise monitoring location for noise receiver R6a was located? CS replied that noise monitoring was undertaken from a position along the western boundary of the property. It was previously noted to have been completed from a point on the footpath on Cordeaux Road. After concerns regarding the monitoring location were raised by the resident, the Department reviewed the monitoring locations and determined that there was no material difference between the results from the two locations.
- A committee member asked if the mine was producing more noise than normal? It was discussed by BF and CS that the mine was not undertaking any tasks which were out of the ordinary, however noise complaints indicate that there is an impact on nearby residents. Extensive communication with the workforce continues to educate and remind them of their obligations under the Dendrobium Noise Management Plan.
- Complaints are responded to within 24 hours, investigated and action taken where required.
NOTE: community call line (1800 102 210) is resourced 24/7; complaints and enquiries are also able to be submitted via email to illawarracommunity@south32.net
- Community investment through the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (DCEP) continues:
 - Life Education is being supported for a further three years. The service provides essential drug awareness and health and wellbeing education to primary school students in the Illawarra.
 - Ryan Park playground is being supported by the DCEP to the value of \$108,000. A contribution will also be made by Wollongong City Council.
 - A water bubbler has been installed along the Mount Kembla Mine Memorial Pathway. The DCEP provided over \$11,000 for the installation of the bubbler.
- For more information on the DCEP or how to apply, visit <https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>
- Recent community support through the Illawarra Metallurgical Coal program includes:

- IMC has committed to supporting the Illawarra Women's Rugby League in 2021. Congratulations to the 2020 Premiers, the Corrimal Cougars.
- IMC supports the Healthy Cities Program. The Program for school children around physical activity and healthy nutrition. IMC has provided \$2,000 to fund ingredients for cooking classes.
- Illegal bike jumps have been removed from a section of land owned by South32.
- During the rail maintenance window, work will be undertaken to treat Mysorethorn. Tree plantings will also be completed nearby to the rail crossing.

Dendrobium Mine Extension Project Update

- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has completed their assessment report for the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.
- In their assessment, the Department concluded that:

“The Department has carefully weighed the environmental impacts of the Project against the significance of the Project’s identified coking coal resource and the wider socio-economic benefits associated with continued operation of the Dendrobium Mine for a further 25 years.

“On balance, the Department believes that the Project's benefits significantly outweigh its residual costs, and that it is in the public interest and is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions”

- A committee member raised concerns that the impacts to the water catchment (for example swamps) is catastrophic and the management of these impacts through Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs) is grossly inadequate. The committee member considers the Government’s reliance on TARPs as negligent and stronger management measures (not simply additional monitoring) should be implemented by the Government as soon as possible. The member suggested that consequences for impacts to the environment should be significantly increased. The comments were noted by the Chair.
- A committee member advised that they had been contacted by a Councillor of Wollongong City Council to provide information on the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility and LDP5, located in Unanderra.
- BF noted that the IPC is currently calling for submissions from members of the public, organisations and other interested stakeholders.
- Written submissions will be accepted until 15 December 2020.
- The IPC will hold a number of public hearings from 2 – 4 December 2020. These hearings will be held virtually. PD advised that he has registered to speak at the public hearing. The hearing schedule is yet to be confirmed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee member asked if the DCCC could undertake an inspection of the catchment. One was planned for the end of 2020 however it is likely that this will be postponed until 2021. • A committee member asked what research had been completed on the potential rehabilitation of swamps? This question was taken on notice and will be responded to at the next meeting. • A committee member raised concerns about the dense vegetation on South32 owned land along the escarpment which provides significant fuel load for bushfires. The member believes that the company is not fulfilling its duty to manage weeds across land owned by South32. The member considers this to be disrespectful to those who live nearby the escarpment and puts them at increased risk to fire. The member does not consider evacuate to be a reasonable means of control during a bushfire. • All of the member updates were noted by the Chair.
8	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<p><u>Next Meeting Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 February 2021 • 15 April 2021 • 17 June 2021 • 19 August 2021 • 21 October 2021 • 16 December 2021
9	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: BF to arrange for an inspection of the Water Catchment and KVCLF in early 2021. • ACTION: BF to provide an update on the rehabilitation of swamps. • ACTION: BF to ask if the VPO may attend a meeting in early 2021. • ACTION: BF to work with MA on the proposed DCCC meeting dates in 2021
10	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	<p>Meeting close: 19:40</p> <p>Next Meeting: 18 February 2021</p>