

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	Microsoft Teams	
DATE:	17:30, Thursday 19 August 2021	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson Community Representatives Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Representatives (IMC)	Mike Archer (MA) Jenny Evans (JE) Viv Twyford (VT) Phil Clunas (PC) Phil Grant (PG) Phil Diamond (PD) Liam Stower (LS) Antony Leone (AL) Chris Schultz (CS) Anna-May Fauconnier (AMF) Kathleen Swinbourne (KS) Alexandra Szalla (AS)
APOLOGIES:		Anita Mulrooney (AM) Alex Beccari (AB) Ron Zwicker (RZ) (Wollongong City Council) Noel Lowry (NL) (Wollondilly Shire Council)

1	PURPOSE
	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.
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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Updates • General Business
	<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</i>
	We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Dharawal People, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.
3	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	<p>Mike Archer (MA) welcomed all members present to the Regulatory Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) meeting. MA issued an apology for AM, AB, RZ, NL</p> <p>AL welcomed Kathleen Swinbourne to the DCCC meeting – Kathleen will be assisting the Community team.</p>
4	<i>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</i>
	<p>MA declared a pecuniary interest, advising that in his role as Independent Chairperson, he is paid for his time by South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal.</p> <p>There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</p>
5	<i>PREVIOUS MINUTES</i>
	The minutes from DCCC meeting (June 2021) were then accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Moved PD; Seconded; PG
5A	<i>BUSINESS ARISING</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Tour of the Sydney Water Catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Due to COVID lockdown, tours will be postponed until restrictions ease.</i> • ACTION: Tour of the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Due to COVID lockdown, tours will be postponed until restrictions ease.</i>
6	<i>ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE</i>
	<p><u>Approvals Update (AL)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further updates since the previous meeting. • Approvals within existing mining area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longwall 18 Subsidence Management Plan. Approved 8 December 2020. ○ Longwall 19 Subsidence Management Plan Approved 11 March 2021. ○ Longwall 20 Subsidence Management Plan – Further approval required. ○ Longwall 21 Subsidence Management Plan. Approved 19 December 2019 ○ Longwall 22 and 23 Subsidence Management Plan – submitted for agency consultation. • Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (LS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work continues to progress the judicial review which was lodged with the NSW Land and Environment Court in May 2021.

- *NB: South32 is NOT appealing the IPC decision, rather requesting a review of the IPC decision making process by the NSW LEC.*
- LS advised the Committee that IMC is also working on an alternative mine plan. LS requested comment from the Committee regarding the potential call for an extraordinary meeting to inform the CCC on the DND proposal for resubmission.
- PD asked if it appeared the Department was becoming stricter on longwall approvals. AL advised that the longwalls are all located within our consent areas and the final approvals have not encountered any delays from the Department.

Operational Update – AMF

- Longwall (LW) 17 continues to progress with approximately 300 metres remaining
- We expect to complete LW17 in September 2021
- Preparation for the longwall change out is planned to commence in late August/September 2021.
- Despite recent challenging conditions in some of the development areas, progress is improving in each of the development panels.
- Works have continued along the Lower Portal Road.
- *NB: The purpose of the Lower Portal Road is to provide a safe and serviceable secondary means of access / egress of the Dendrobium drift portal. The road is currently in poor condition and this upgrade will support continued access to the drift portal. It is not part of the mine extension project.*
- AMF advised that the Lower Portal Road works will cease while the longwall changeout is occurring to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads and impacts to the community.
- PG asked if there were any Aboriginal Heritage projects taking place with all the changes at Dendrobium. LS advised that an advertisement regarding expressions of interest to any local Registered Aboriginal Parties was made public as IMC would like to initiate consultation regarding Aboriginal Heritage sites (initiated via the DND process).

Environment Update – CS

- Underground water balance has been steady.
- LDP 5 flow in July was an average of 7.96 ML/day (max: 9.47 ML/d and min: 5.76 ML/d). This showed a slight reduction from May/June.
- Directional noise monitoring system is being progressed. All five monitors have been installed. Software set up continues.
- Optical photometers were also installed and the DDGs and Hi-vols have been decommissioned. Removal of the DDGs have been slightly delayed due to difficulty encountered during the decommissioning phase.
- Noise monitoring undertaken in July 2021. Non-compliances were recorded at R39a – Kemira Valley. It was identified the noise monitoring location being utilised did not

correspond to the noise monitoring location in the Noise Management Plan. An investigation into noise levels at the two locations is being undertaken.

- CS advised that the Rail Noise Working Group was still meeting to discuss the rail noise. The non-compliances recorded were associated with activities in Kemira Valley and the suspected cause was an infrequently used locomotive being utilised. It has now been swapped out for a frequently used locomotive. It was also noted that new air-compressors at Kemira Valley were louder than expected, and the sound power levels will be further investigated to identify potential noise mitigation measures.
- CS provided the committee with a screenshot showing the new real-time monitoring outputs across the Mount Kembla area. JE questioned if the map could be changed to include Cordeaux Road on it. CS advised this has already been requested and hoped to use of the system at the next meeting. This monitoring system will provide operations the ability to mitigate noise in real-time.
- PD advised that several neighbours in the area have mentioned audible “thumps” at night and asked if it was connected to road works or mine operations. AMF advised that the no works were being completed that were out of the ordinary. AMF requested if Mount Kembla residents could please advise the mine through the Community Call line or email when noise events occur, so IMC is able to complete an investigation immediately after the event.
- Management plan updates:
 - Waste – Available on South32 webpage.
 - Water – Currently being reviewed by NRAR/DPIE
 - Landscape – Available on South32 webpage.
- Rehabilitation Legislative Reform was passed on 2 July 2021. The new conditions will be included in the mining lease and requirements to resubmit Mining Operations Plan as Rehabilitation Management Plan by 2 July 2022.
- Annual Review is currently being developed and will be completed by 30 September 2021.
- PG asked regarding the Rehabilitation Management Plan including whether it included any heritage listed sites, what the plan included and the potential removal of gasses from the area. CS advised that there are heritage buildings on Dendrobium’s site, and they will be included in the plan. PG noted Kemira #1 shaft being demolished with no consideration to the history.
- PD enquired what difference is there in the new Rehabilitation reforms. CS advised the plan includes completing a comprehensive risk assessment and will have a heavy focus on progressive rehabilitation.
- PD noted some feedback from environmental groups and the focus on fugitive/GHG emissions. Does the Rehabilitation Plan take this into consideration? CS noted IMC’s decarbonisation plan will focus on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions; however, the Rehabilitation Management Plan will focus on stabilising the sites, so they are safe and non-polluting.

- PG noted vandalism/damage again at O'Brien's drift.
- Longwall 17 Impacts and Triggers; Rock fracturing, iron staining and soil cracking all observed from Longwall 17.
- Area 3B – Longwall 17 Monitoring
 - Swamp 23 indicated it was impacted by longwall mining showing a steeper regression curve.
 - Swamp 35a indicated it was not impacted by longwall mining. Due to previous drought, a reduction in water was observed. With recent rainfall the swamp maintained a similar level.
 - Swamp 14 was recently mined beneath and showed an impact from mining. It appears to be recovering from the recent rainfall.

NOTE: environmental data can be viewed online by downloading the Dendrobium 14 Day Report.

Community Update

- Dendrobium has received 4 complaints regarding our operations since the last meeting. The primary concern raised was noise related.
- All 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**
- Additional bus runs initiated to help alleviate traffic concerns.
- A Grievance has been raised to support engagement with an individual. VT and the committee requested to know how the grievance process works and its progress. LS gave details to the committee on the process and the management of outcomes to date.
- AL advised the committee that the community investment through the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (DCEP) continues. AL noted that the DCEP requested to proactively reach out to local schools and fire brigades to offer support during the current COVID lockdown. The committee praised the DCEP for their proactive approach. The projects discussed were:
 - Proactive contact with local schools and brigades
 - Local charity organisations
 - Western Suburbs Pool Shade installation is due to finish installation on 18 September
- Local charities to be supported include those that focus on food security, mental health and domestic violence. Charities are:
 - St Vincent's De Paul Wollongong – new industrial dishwasher to assist in meal preparation in Coniston
 - Wollongong Homeless Hub – Breakfast program support in Wollongong

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supported Accommodation & Homeless Services Shoalhaven Illawarra – supporting women and families fleeing DV with food vouchers and electronic devices for home-schooling activities • The internal approval process for the charity donations is well underway. • The DCEP is still looking for a new member. For more information on the DCEP or how to apply, visit https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents • AL advised that planning commenced for IMC's support of the Illawarra Convoy 2021. The Illawarra Community Foundation is planning on the event going ahead, pending covid restrictions. The Family Day part of the event is at the greatest risk of being cancelled. IMC supports the convoy with a \$25,000 in-kind donation. This includes the start line for the lead trucks at our Appin North colliery where we stop coal truck movements, provide facilities such as porta loos and fencing, and employees assist in a volunteer capacity. • KS advised the committee that IMC will be working on improving community engagement with Mount Kembla and Kembla Heights community members. IMC is working to be proactive in its engagement and rebuild the relationship with our neighbours. The committee requested to be involved in rebuilding the relationship between IMC and local residents. KS requested committee members complete a brief survey to evaluate methods we can better engage with the communities. The survey will be sent out separately. VT noted that the mine is often seen in a negative way.
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7	MEMBER UPDATES
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT issued question to IMC <p><i>I would like to add the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network Concept Plan to the agenda in the Community Update please. I am interested in South32's views about the latest concept plan released in July 2021. There is to be an online community meeting on Sunday afternoon at which this Concept Plan is to be reviewed by interested residents, particularly in relation to 2 aspects of the Kembla Village trail that are on South 32 land:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Black Diamond runs 44 and 19, that end at the junction of Benjamin Road and Kirkwood Place and replace the existing illegal mountain bike runs</i> • <i>a Climb Trail that anticipates using the lower portion of Stage 3 of the Memorial Pathway</i> • The committee raised concerns regarding potential safety issues and injuries on the trails and questioned who would be responsible for the maintenance of the trails. • AL advised the committee that IMC has been engaging with Wollongong City Council (WCC) and requested more information regarding the proposed plans. IMC position has not changed in that it supports that a solution is needed. IMC is continuing to explore the impacts of the Mountain Bike Trails and has committed funding to WCC for a Social Impact Assessment to be completed. A Review of environmental Factors (REF) is being completed to understand environmental, cultural heritage and geotechnical impacts with a focus on the
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	<p>Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area. IMC will evaluate the Concept Plan in more detail once the REF is completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wollongong City Council is managing the community engagement on the project. They are updating a webpage with information on the project here: https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/illawarra-escarpment-mountain-bike-strategy-and-trails. IMC understand Wollongong City Council shared an update with the community mid-late July. This update was provided to those who engaged with them on the project. Any feedback, questions or alternate trail proposals can be directed to the team at engagement@wollongong.nsw.gov.au. VT noted their feedback from submissions is lacking and quite poor. PG noted walking along the trails and noting an increase in illegal bike trails and questioned who's liable. AL advised the committee of recent IMC Lead Team changes at IMC. AMF is transferring to Worsley in WA. The committee thanked her for her efforts within the DCCC meetings and wished her all the best. AL also advised that Wayne Bull, current VPO, will be finishing in October and Peter Baker will be moving into the VPO role. PD/PG raised concerns about the changeover of lead team members at IMC, noting that it was unsettling. VT again praised the DCEP with their proactive efforts to support the local community. PD asked if the decline in South32/IMC asset value is due to the DND outcome. LS advised that it is a reflection of uncertainty, however the operations still have a job to do, and this does not change how IMC operates. PC commented on the difference of water discharge levels from the June meeting to August, questioning if IMC was surprised by the change. CS noted that there are significant underground water storage areas. As rainfall increases, the water levels rise and as there is limited pumping capacities there is a backlog of water being removed from underground. AL commented on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as mentioned earlier by a committee member and advised a copy would be attached here: https://www.south32.net/sustainability-approach/climate-change
8	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<p>Next Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 October 2021 16 December 2021
9	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour of the Catchment and Kemira Valley
10	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	Meeting close: 18:57

	Next Meeting: 21 October 2021
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