

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	West's Illawarra Club/Microsoft Teams	
DATE:	17:30, Wednesday 15 December 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) Simon Thomas (ST) Anita Mulrooney (AM) Liam Stower (LS) Amanda Silarski (AS) Chris Schultz (CS) Gary Brassington (GB)
APOLOGIES:	Alex Beccari (AB) Noel Lowry (NL) (Wollondilly Shire Council) Ron Zwicker (RZ) (Wollongong City Council) Antony Leone (AL)	

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 application.
2	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome/Apologies • Acknowledgement of Country • Declaration of Pecuniary Interests • Acceptance of minutes of last meeting • Business Arising • Dendrobium Operations update • Environment Update • Community Update • Dendrobium Mine Extension Project update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Business • Member updates
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
	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	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	Mike Archer (MA) welcomed all members present to the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) meeting. MA issued an apology for NL, AB, RZ and AL. MA introduced ST, Dendrobium Mine General Manager, and GB, South32 Approvals Manager, to the group.
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 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. There were no other declarations made at the meeting.
5	PREVIOUS MINUTES
	The minutes from DCCC meeting (October 2021) were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Moved PG; Seconded; VT
5A	BUSINESS ARISING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Tour of the Sydney Water Catchment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Tour to be scheduled after summer. Remains on the agenda</i> • ACTION: Tour of the Kemira Valley Coal Loading Facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Postponed due to a maintenance shutdown occurring in November. New date will be shared in 2022.</i> • ACTION: Investigate if unescorted loader was related to South32 operations (14.10.2021). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The vehicle was unrelated to South32 activities. It was operating as part of road works.</i> • ACTION: Tour on South32 property where the proposed Mountain Trails will be located. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>VT, National Parks and Wildlife Services and Wollongong City Council arranged the tour in November. AS thanked VT for her support.</i> ○ <i>VT spoke positively on the trail engagement, noting some questions remain unanswered and it will be difficult to please everyone.</i> • ACTION: Security assessment for Benjamin Road pathway entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>AS requested further information on this request. PD clarified the request was in relation to deterring illegal trail development in the area.</i> ○ <i>Remains an action for update at next meeting.</i>
6	ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	<p><u>Operational Update (ST)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall 17 commenced 12 December 2020 and was completed 13 October 2021.

- Longwall relocation commenced in October and was completed on 2 December 2021. We thank the community for its patience during this period.
- LW18 commenced on 2 December. ST confirmed with PD that it was about 1 km long noting it will pull up short due to intrusions.
- MG18 road development was completed on 7 November 2021.
- MG19 development is progressing well and due for completion in January 2022.
- TG22 development commenced is continuing.
- TG21 development commenced in November.
- Lower Portal Road work will recommence in early January 2022.

Environment Update (CS)

- Underground water balance is gradually decreasing. Underground pump capacity has been upgraded.
- LDP 5 flow in November was an average of 7.95 ML/day (max: 10.10 ML/d and min: 5.13 ML/d) – relatively consistent over the last six months. *NOTE: environmental data can be viewed online by downloading the Dendrobium 14 Day Report.*
- Exceedance of zinc criteria at LDP 5 as a result of brine discharge from Appin North. Dilution did not occur on this occasion and follow up testing has been inconclusive to the cause of the exceedance. Currently monitoring with no further exceedances reported.
- Directional noise monitoring system is being progressed. Software set up continues. Data is being used for complaint investigation.
- PD questioned if the noise monitoring software was off the shelf. CS confirmed it is bespoke.
- AM and VT and CS discussed the use of the noise monitors, currently collecting real-time data. The monitors currently provide a delayed reactive response rather than proactive management at this time.
- No exceedances recorded in November 2021 quarterly noise monitoring.
- Comments received on Water Management Plan – submitted to the Department.
- Recruiting for a Specialist Environment role.
- LW17 impacts – two impacts were identified and a map was presented showing the location. Rock movement located at DA3B_LW17_039. Rock fracture located at DA3B_LW17_040.
- PC questioned if there was water in the areas impacted. CS advised not. Swamps 35a and 35b were toward the bottom of the location map provided away from the impact sites.
- LW17 mining area now past Swamp 23 and the swamp will not enter the 400 m buffer zone of LW18. Swamp 35a was within the LW17 400 m buffer in May and June 2021. It will be mined beneath by LW18. No sign of influence at this time.
- Previous impacts to Swamp 14 continue, however the recession curve has increased over time.
- PD questioned if TARP was triggered for Waterfall 54. GB confirmed LW17 pulled up short and all performance measures for the waterfall were met. PD reflected this was significant and expressed concern the CCC was not notified.

Community Update (AS)

- Complaints received since the last meeting were mostly related to noise.
 - Three in November, including one related to rail noise. Rail noise increased for a short period following the maintenance period as surface rust built up on the tracks. The rust was worn off by the first few trains.
 - Five in December, with four being related to the same incident which occurred over two evenings. Noise from an activity in the portal radiated out – this activity was modified to a quieter tool and occurred during the day only.
- Other complaints received related to wide loads and vegetation management along the rail corridor. PD noted a resident called him last week about the wide load; AS confirmed this was closed out with the resident.

- DCEC is continuing to investigate town signage improvements. It is looking to appoint a consultant to develop the plan to assist this process.
- A funding proposal for Lindsay Mayne Park upgrades is under consideration. This may see support for the Criterium Track being constructed by Wollongong City Council.
- The Western Suburbs Pool shade was completed prior to the start of summer.
- Figtree Community Carols event was cancelled due to forecast inclement weather.
- Thank you cards received from families assisted during the mid-year COVID-19 lockdown.

- South32 is a key supporter of the i98FM Illawarra Convoy, donating \$34,000 (in-kind and monetary) and hosting the start line for the lead trucks at Appin North. The event was on 5 December.
- I98FM Christmas Advent Calendar is sponsored by South32, currently live on air.
- Illawarra Mountain Biking proposal continues to be investigated with South32 involvement as a landholder. South32 understands the REF being developed by NPWS and Wollongong City Council is due to be published late March. Wollongong City Council is preparing consultation for February with the Social Impact Comment funded by South32 to be shared as part of the consultation.
- PD commented that Harry Graham Drive would be closed for five months for maintenance and asked if it would impact South32 operations. VT added the works were related to bank stabilisation works. AS advised the business was aware of the closure and the impact would be reviewed. AS commented that DCEC had requested Wollongong City Council improve the road as a priority.

Dendrobium Gas Project (GB)

- South32 is proposing to construct improved gas management infrastructure in the catchment area. It is proposed at Ventilation Shaft No. 2 and 3 to support mining activity in Area 3C.

- Area 3C is within the existing approved mining area and has a higher gas content than other areas, similar to Appin. The gas is planned to be flared and converted to CO2 to reduce its greenhouse gas potential.
- The Project design includes a hazard reduction zone to minimise bushfire risk.
- The Project will follow the Modification process with DPIE. As part of this process we understand that the Application will be placed on Public Exhibition for about 14 days.
- If approved, the Project won't expand the current footprint of the Ventilation Shafts which is on land that had previously been cleared for shaft construction.
- Environmental studies have commenced with a view to complete the studies in January 2022.
- PG questioned if the facilities could have power generation. GB noted it is unlikely to be a viable area (i.e. within the catchment) for power generation, however greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by converting methane into CO2, by flaring.
- PD questioned if Australia's Carbon Tax had not been cut, would South32 have considered power generation. GB noted the suitability of power generation related to gas type and content as well as the period of mining and the surrounding land use (i.e. water catchment).

Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (GB/AS)

- Played video about the Project which is available on the [South32 website](#).
- NSW Government declared the Project as State Significant Infrastructure. South32 has submitted a new application for the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.
- While this is a positive step, there is more work to be done including submitting a detailed Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- The Project will follow a comprehensive approval process which provides an opportunity for public comment. The decision will rest with the Minister for Planning.
- PD asked whether South32 had made any payments to government e.g. political donations. AS confirmed none; South32 does not offer such payments.
- The application details a revised mine plan that considers the IPC's feedback. The Project:
 - Would create more than 100 construction jobs and secure the ongoing employment of about 1,800 direct local jobs, 90% living locally
 - Would generate \$6.4b into the local economy
 - Has no longwall mining under identified high significance Aboriginal Heritage sites
 - Would avoid key stream features and swamp clusters; set back 400 metres from key rivers and at least 1 km from dam walls
 - Would reduce surface water loss by about 60 %
 - Would reduce swamps (listed as threatened) mined beneath by about 40 %
 - Would include reduced longwall height and an increase in the average depth of cover which will reduce surface and ground water impacts.

- Scoping report is available on the NSW Government Major Project website. Hard copies also provided at the meeting. JE requested the document link be included in the meeting minutes. [Dendrobium Mine Extension Scoping report.](#)
- PD questioned if the Cordeaux Portal remained in scope as a way to minimise traffic in Mount Kembla. GB advised the Cordeaux Portal is not included in the new scope given Area 6 was removed from the mine plan – the portal was only applicable to Area 6 access. Cordeaux would continue to be used for support services but not as an access point. PG added that access via Cordeaux would be difficult due to flooded workings.
- PD wished to confirm the Bulli Seam is 3.9 m. GB confirmed the extraction height proposed for Area 3C is 3.9m. The Bulli Seam thickness in Area 5 is between 2 and 3.2m. GB discussed the Tammetta equation to increase understanding on depth of cover influencing height of fracturing and confirmed the longwall widths have not been amended in the new application. Due to the reduced extraction height and increased depth of cover the Temmetta model predicts that there will be no seam to surface fracturing for the revised Project.
- AM questioned the approval timeframe. GB provided the following:
 - The Scoping Report has been submitted, identifying key issues.
 - We have commenced preparing the EIS which will be submitted around February 2022.
 - DPIE will determine if the EIS is adequate. Once declared adequate it will be placed on Public Exhibition for a timeframe determined by the DPIE.
 - DPIE will review public submissions and request South32 respond.
 - After this, DPIE will recommend its determination and share with the Minister for Planning to make the final determination.
- VT questioned the timing on the EIS submission being February. GB noted South32 is not starting from scratch and will review previous material. Following the submission, we plan to host community information sessions.
- PD queried if other stakeholders such as Water NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service had provided feedback. GB confirmed a number of meetings had been held with technical people and executives. Parties accept there has been a step change in the revised Project and want to understand more detail to support their assessment.
- PC questioned if it would be referred to the IAP, or the IPC. GB re IAP, that is a decision for the Minister. The IPC does not have a determination role in the approvals framework, however the Minister may refer the Project for review.
- PD raised the change in politics and the desire for South32 to seek approval prior to State Election. GB referred to the value of the Project as the driver for the approval timeframe. We are working to timeframes that enable South32 to invest in the Project.
- AS spoke to engagement. Proposed the working group be re-established and meet every other month. Group agreed with first meeting in January 2022.

- Community information sessions would be aligned to the EIS submission, currently flagged for February and March 2022.
 - The EIS included a Social Impact Assessment component which would be completed in January. DCCC consented to being contacted as part of the Assessment.
 - PD and VT championed the need to listen to community feedback, particularly on the proposed car park and the desire to reduce traffic through the village.
 - VT suggested explaining the need of the car park and compromise where possible.
 - AS confirmed visual amenity and traffic were key concerns raised in relation to the previous Project. These were flagged however the community was encouraged to continue to speak up on this issue.
 - PD questioned the use of the current minibus used by Dendrobium Mine. AS clarified this was for contractors only.
- PD shared questions on notice ahead of the meeting. These were answered at the meeting:
 1. When will Dendrobium put in their submission on new longwall layouts for Areas 5 and 6? And do the proposed longwalls consider narrowing from 305 metres wide?
Response covered in the meeting
 2. How long until a determination is made?
Response covered in the meeting
 3. What are the percentage breakdown Dendrobium coking coal going for export overseas and domestically, plus importantly the percentage and tonnage going to BlueScope in Port Kembla? Plus what is the mines response that the grade of coal from Area 5 is not needed by BlueScope as it will come from the Bulli Seam (a primary argument point in their lobbying for extension to area 5 in 3-4 years' time).
IMC currently supplies BlueScope with 60 % of its overall metallurgical coal needs. We can't comment on commercial arrangements. BlueScope may be able to source alternate supplies of metallurgical coal locally, however the quantity and longevity of this option is uncertain and metallurgical coal imported from outside the Illawarra is expected to cost more than local metallurgical coal.
Ultimately the decision around coal supplies and blends as important ingredients for steelmaking lies with the end user. However, current supplies of Wongawilli Seam coal from Dendrobium Area 3 will cease regardless of the Project. The coal from Area 5 is planned to be blended with Appin coal to produce a premium metallurgical coal product suitable for use in steelmaking in both the domestic and export markets.
 4. Illawarra Coal has moved from the Innovation campus to facilities at the coal terminal, what energy rating does the new headquarters have, considering the Innovation Campus building was very environmentally designed? (at the last meeting I brought up the companies Greenhouse emissions from scope 1 and 2 criteria and will be expecting a response at this meeting)

	<p><i>South32 is committed to achieving net zero operational carbon emissions by 2050 with short and long term targets. We are working with many of our customers to reduce Scope 3 emissions. It is acknowledged that there is no definitive 'best pathway' to net zero and some of the innovations needed are not fully developed. We will share a copy of the FY21 Sustainability Report which has more detail on the carbon emissions across the group.</i></p> <p>5. Obviously the company has been lobbying Politicians extensively for this decision to be overturned and rebadged as a SSI project. How much money does S32 spend on political donations in NSW and Nationally? <i>Response covered in meeting</i></p> <p>6. Waterfall 54 is at the end of the now finished LW17. I understand that concerns were raised about the structural integrity of WF54. Could we be supplied with recent photos and survey findings on the stress put on the geology around the waterfall and did it trigger a TARP response? Plus is there a management plan for that feature? <i>Response covered in the meeting</i></p> <p>7. What is the spot price of Australian Coking coal, with a chart of 12-24 months trend? <i>The Hard-Coking Coal market is cyclical, and the price is high at the moment, however 12 months ago it was low. We operate in a fluctuating market.</i></p>
7	MEMBER UPDATES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT noted it was a good meeting and is looking forward to future discussions • PG wished all a happy new year • PC followed up of the TARP 3 trigger at Waterfall 54 asking if the waterfall was still flowing at 100%. GB confirmed no impacts were observed.
8	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next DCCC meeting proposed for Thursday 17 February 2022 • Next Project Working Group meeting Thursday 20 January 2022
9	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South32 to plan tour of the Catchment (after summer) and Kemira Valley proposed in 2022. • South32 to investigate opportunity for security visits to Benjamin Road to deter illegal mountain biking in the area. • South32 to link the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project Scoping Report in the minutes. • South32 to consult on proposed carpark. • South32 to share a link to the Sustainability Report FY21 in the minutes.
10	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	<p>Meeting close: 19:35</p> <p>Next Meeting: 17 February 2022</p>