

# Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

## MEETING MINUTES



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| <b>MEETING:</b>   | Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Working Group (DCCC WG) |  |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>  | Microsoft Teams   |  |
| <b>DATE:</b>      | 17:30, Thursday 24 March 2022                                       |  |
| <b>ATTENDEES:</b> | Independent Chairperson<br>Community Representatives                | Mike Archer (MA)<br>Jenny Evans (JE)<br>Viv Twyford (VT)<br>Phil Clunas (PC)<br>Phil Diamond (PD)<br>Anita Mulrooney (AM)<br>Michael Banasik (MB) Wollondilly Shire Council<br>Rod Thew (RD) Wollongong City Council |
|                   | Illawarra Metallurgical Coal<br>Representatives (IMC)               | Amanda Silarski (AS)<br>Chris McEvoy (CM)  |
| <b>APOLOGIES:</b> |   | Alex Beccari (AB)<br>Phil Grant (PG)<br>Gary Brassington (GB)  |

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| <b>1</b> | <b>PURPOSE</b>  |
|          | The purpose of the DCCC WG is to provide a forum for open discussion between representatives of Dendrobium Mine, the community, the relevant councils and other stakeholders on the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project.  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>AGENDA</b>   |
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome, Apologies &amp; Declaration of Pecuniary Interests</li> <li>Business Arising</li> <li>Dendrobium Mine Extension Project update</li> <li>General Business</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</b>  |
|          | <p>Mike Archer (MA) welcomed all members present to the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Working Group (DCCC WG) meeting.</p> <p>MA issued an apology for AB, PG and GB. MA introduced RD, proxy for Wollongong City Council representative, and CM, Dendrobium Mine Extension Project Manager.</p> <p>MA provided Acknowledgement to Country.</p> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</b>   |
|          | <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>  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>   |

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|           | <p>Meeting minutes of DCCC WG meeting 20 January 2022 were accepted. Moved AM, seconded AC. Actions from the meeting were complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to the SEARs was included in the meeting minutes</li> <li>• Square Peg Social Performance presentation was included with the meeting minutes</li> </ul>  |
| <b>5A</b> | <b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>  |
|           | No business arising  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>DENDROBIUM MINE EXTENSION UPDATE</b>  |
|           | <p><b>Overview/update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS noted key dates which were subject to change pending progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ December 21 – Project determined SSI</li> <li>○ December 21 – Scoping Report lodged / SEARs issued</li> <li>○ March 22 – EIS planned submission</li> <li>○ April/May 22 – Public Exhibition period</li> <li>○ April/May 22 – Community engagement</li> <li>○ June 22 onwards – Response to submissions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AS highlighted the planned EIS submission was delayed one month due to the request for expert independent assessment reviews requested in the SEARs.</li> <li>• PD questioned the assessments to be reviewed and if it was usual government policy. CM confirmed the assessments to be ground water, greenhouse gas emissions and subsidence. The government often request such reviews for matters of a technical nature, with the independent expert appointed by the proponent.</li> <li>• PD commented on greenhouse gas emissions, and if South32 would be mitigating emissions as part of the Project, such as using methane for energy. CM noted South32 has committed to net zero operational carbon emissions by 2050. The Project will implement best practice greenhouse gas mitigation measures, estimated to result in a 31% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of gas drainage, including the use of flaring. Flaring converts methane to carbon dioxide. The consistent concentration of methane required to generate power was not in the Project area, such as it is experienced at Appin Mine.</li> <li>• <b>Question on Notice</b> – What is the viable percentage concentration of methane to produce power?</li> <li>• CM discussed the Ventilation Air Methane trial at Appin Mine in partnership with the CSIRO, turning fugitive emissions to carbon dioxide. The technology would first be proven before it could be considered.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scoping Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS presented the Project Mine Design (map) from the Scoping Report.</li> <li>• CM described the key changes of the revised mine plan, highlighting these on the map.</li> <li>• AS presented a table from the Scoping Report (Figure 3) highlighting the difference between the Project Application to the previous. CM called out the key changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protects the water catchment through a 60% reduction in longwall mining area and avoidance of key streams and swamps.</li> <li>○ Protects key dams and rivers with the mine plan setback 400m from key rivers and streams and at least 1,000m setbacks from dam walls.</li> <li>○ Significantly reduces predicted surface water losses by 78% in comparison to the previous application.</li> <li>○ Does not longwall mine beneath Aboriginal Heritage sites assessed to have high archaeological significance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PD questioned the height of extraction compared to existing mine areas. CM commented on the Wongawilli Seam being about 3.9 m and Bulli Seam average of 2.8 m. Predicted subsidence is a maximum 65 % of the seam height extracted.</li> </ul> |

- PD commented on WaterNSW feedback in the reduction to the mining footprint. CM noted WaterNSW had responded to the SEARs and the response was available on the NSW Planning Portal – Major Projects.

#### **Environment Impact Statement (EIS)**

- AS introduced EIS. Seven sections, with the meeting focussed on Section 7.
  1. Introduction
  2. Strategic context
  3. Description of approved operations
  4. Project description
  5. Statutory context
  6. Engagement
  7. Environmental Assessment
- AS presented on water impacts.
  - The plan has a 60% reduction in longwall mining area, avoiding key streams and swamps
  - The avoidance approach leaves 25 million tonnes of coal unmined in Dendrobium Mine lease
  - Comprehensive monitoring network will remain, allowing us to predict and reduce possible impacts
- PC noted the mine plan is setback 300 m from the reservoir. Questioned current setback distances. CM noted South32 works with the Dam Safety Committee on the distances and current agreement is 300 m setback.
- PC and CM led discussion on the groundwater assessment and its purpose. The assessment is conducted to meet government requirements and involves a study on predicted incidental surface water take, groundwater impacts and the impact on surrounding water users (i.e. water bores) of which there are few for the Project.
- PD sought clarification on the monetary compensation offered to offset any surface water loss. CM explained the surface water offset offered is the same as agreed with Government on the previous application, and it is calculated using the IPART retail water price.
- PD and CM led discussion on incorporating a desalination plant or water treatment plant to utilise mine water. Such plant is not considered in the Project scope. No third party has been identified to take the recycled mine water at this time.
- MB questioned if cumulative flood impacts were considered in the Project planning. CM noted most of the Project land was not prone to flooding, Kemira Valley is subject to occasional flooding impacts and sediment control has been considered in the Project, including a package of water quality offsets.
- AS presented on subsidence impacts
  - Mining in Metropolitan Special Area has occurred for > 100 years
  - Monitoring data shows observed subsidence movements are typically less than subsidence predictions
  - Effect of underground mining within Metropolitan Special Area subject to multiple reviews
  - Mitigation measures include:
    - avoidance of third order or above streams
    - remediation as per current plans
- PD and CM led discussion on Dam Safety Committee involvement in determining mine setbacks from dam walls. South32 has previously mined closer to structures and has committed to setbacks of 1 km from dam walls. Adaptive monitoring with the Dam Safety Committee will continue.
- **Question on Notice** – Would an additional 50 m of setback from reservoirs reduce subsidence impact further?
- AS presented on bushfire risk.

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Majority of Project within Wollondilly/Wingecarribee jurisdiction Bush Fire Management Committee</li> <li>○ We recognise bushfire risk and have Bushfire Management Plans in place</li> <li>○ Existing management plans will be updated, with current measures continuing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fire awareness and safety training</li> <li>▪ Mitigation measures with a focus on education, training, reducing hazards, minimising and controlling ignition sources</li> <li>▪ Suitable firebreaks</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Consultation with WaterNSW to manage bushfire risk would continue</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AS presented on engagement and thanked the group for its input on the Social Impact Assessment.</li> <li>● Summary of community views was presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuation of employment opportunities and the importance of the Dendrobium Mine to the regional economy.</li> <li>○ The intertwined nature of mining and steelmaking and importance of the Dendrobium Mine to the ongoing viability of the Port Kembla Coal Terminal and Port Kembla Steelworks and potential bridge to future industries.</li> <li>○ Beyond the economy; mining and steelmaking has shaped and continues to shape the identity of the Illawarra region and residents.</li> <li>○ Acknowledgement of the importance of the Metropolitan Special Area and that the Project has potential for impacts to the water catchment (e.g. water losses) and mitigation measures should be applied for the Project.</li> <li>○ The Project has a reduced footprint compared to the previous application which may reduce potential impacts to the Metropolitan Special Area.</li> <li>○ Generally the Project would have potential impacts on the environment and cultural heritage matters.</li> <li>○ Importance and value of Mount Kembla's greenery, quietness and seclusion.</li> <li>○ Amenity issues (e.g. noise, air quality and traffic) associated with the Dendrobium Pit Top and Kemira Valley Rail Line.</li> <li>○ Safety and amenity impacts associated with Project-related traffic.</li> <li>○ Potential impacts (e.g. traffic, noise and visual amenity) of the proposed Dendrobium Pit Top Carpark Extension on the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● MB questioned if a Voluntary Planning Agreement was being considered for the car park. AS noted that the Project would first need to be approved before South32 reassessed the need for the car park. The Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program is also well-established, contributing \$0.03 per saleable tonner of coal (indexed annually to CPI) to local community projects.</li> <li>● AM and AS led discussion on upcoming community engagement activities. Pending the public exhibition period, engagement was likely to occur in May and involve 4-5 community information sessions and a virtual room where anyone could access information, including those from the Wollondilly Shire Council area.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>7</b> | <b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VT – commented useful meeting and is keen for ongoing discussion. Happy to hear about planned community engagement.</li> <li>● AM – commented on the proposed car park and confirmed she would be involved in any planning discussion with AS. AS noted that engagement with key stakeholders would form part of the car park planning to mitigate impacts such as noise, light and visual amenity. This engagement would occur when and if the car park was to progress.</li> <li>● MB – <b>Question on Notice</b> – what is the impact of truck movements through Mount Kembla?</li> <li>● PC – What is the amount in ML of the predicted water losses for Area 5 (stated as 78 % less than previous application)? This is included in the ground water assessment.</li> <li>● PD – timeline of the project. AS noted the government motion has a project determined in no more than 24 weeks after the submission of an EIS.</li> </ul> |
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| 8 | <i>ACTIONS</i>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions on Notice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the viable percentage concentration of methane to produce power?</li> <li>○ Would an additional 50 m of setback from reservoirs reduce subsidence impact further?</li> <li>○ What is the impact of truck movements through Mount Kembla?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 9 | <i>MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING</i>  |
|   | <p><b>Meeting close:</b> 6.35pm</p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> 5.30pm, Thursday 19 May 2022 (in conjunction with planned tour)</p>  |

