

# MEETING MINUTES (FINAL)



## SOUTH32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL (IMC) APPIN MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: #67

DATE: 11 October 2023

LOCATION: Menangle RFS  
90 Menangle Road, Menangle

### ATTENDEES:

Julie Sheppard (JS)	Community Representative
Shane Simpson (SS)	Community Representative
Sam Davis (SD)	Community Representative
Michael McGrath (MM)	Community Representative
Chris Schultz (CS)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (Superintendent Environment)
Rod Mapstone (RM)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (Principal Community)
Mike Archer (MA)	Independent Chairperson
Maxine Wiseman (MW)	Independent Minute Secretary

### APOLOGIES:

Cr Matt Deeth (MD)	Wollondilly Shire Council
Andy Hyslop (AH)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (General Manager)
Danny Stewart (DS)	Community Representative
Barbara Webber (BW)	Community Representative
Barry Dunham (BD)	Community Representative

The purpose of the Community Consultative committee is to facilitate and maintain two-way communication between South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC), key stakeholders and residents.

It is to promote open discussion on the activities of South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's Bulli Seam Operations, including underground mining and surface operations of Appin; environment performance and community relations; and to keep all stakeholders informed on these matters.

<i>AGENDA</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Acknowledgement to Country</li> <li>• Apologies and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests</li> <li>• Minutes of Previous Minutes</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Questions on Notice Tracker</li> <li>• IMC Update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Exploration</li> <li>○ Projects</li> <li>○ Complaints</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Round table</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting Close</li> </ul>

1. <i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>	
	<p>Meeting opened at 5:00pm.  MA welcomed all members and introduced MW as the minute taker. Anything specific to be recorded in minutes please advise MW.  MA issued apologies for MD, AH, DS, BW and BD  MA – Acknowledgement of Dharawal Country.</p>
2. <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 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. MW is paid as minute taker by MA and the cost is recovered from South32 IMC.  There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</p>
3. <i>PREVIOUS MINUTES</i>	
	<p>Endorsed by – JS  Seconded by – SD</p>
4. <i>CODE OF CONDUCT</i>	
	<p>MA - Open and constructive participation, open and shared dialogue, do not interrupt and do not speak publicly on behalf of this committee. Immediately notify the Chairperson of any potential conflict of interest, ensure confidentiality with committee discussions.</p>
5. <i>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</i>	
	<p><b>Arrange visits to the Coal Wash Emplacement Area and Georges River rehabilitation area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date to be confirmed once rehabilitation has commenced.</li> </ul> <p><b>CS to provide further information on extending the Nepean Bio Bank Site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressed in presentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>SD requested real-time air quality monitoring on behalf of local school community.</b>  SD – During bushfire burn offs, Douglas Park Primary and Fidgety Frogs school children and staff are inside during those periods, query on air quality monitoring and what comes out of ventilation shafts.  CS - Vent shaft 6 has an air quality monitor to the north of the ventilation shaft– based on likely direction of ventilation emissions due to the prevailing wind from south and southeast as opposed to</p>

going across towards the school or Fidgety Frogs. Could potentially provide results from the monitor, however this would not be available in real time.

SD – Fog or smoke during winter sits in that region of the schools.

CS - A portable unit could be considered.

RM - Suggested an application to the Community Partnership Program (CPP) can be utilised by the community.

**Action:** RM to follow up with Douglas Park PS regarding process for apply for a CPP grant.

**SD requested update on subsidence claim with Wollondilly Shire Council.**

- IMC monitors public roads within the active subsidence area and provides reports to WSC.
- IMC observed changes on Menangle Road associated with LW709 and reported the changes.
- IMC has initiated a program to undertake repairs, including testing of the road pavement to design the repairs, as requested by WSC.
- Once the design has been approved by WSC, IMC will arrange repairs.

RM - IMC monitor all areas and identify and observe any changes linked to subsidence, IMC submit a report to the Wollondilly Shire Council, and they approve the work, IMC engage contractors to complete.

**SD requested update following review of the Mine Subsidence Act**

- Subsidence Advisory NSW completed a review of its policy framework in April 2023
- The review was underpinned by research projects to inform subsidence risks caused by underground coal mining and an expert reference group was convened to provide input.
- [www.nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory/development-approval-process/2023-development-review](http://www.nsw.gov.au/subsidence-advisory/development-approval-process/2023-development-review)
- The government also reviewed the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act in January 2023.
- [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/mining-subsidence](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/mining-subsidence)
- IMC submitted a response which can be found on the same website under “consultation submissions > organisations.”

SD - Who was the expert reference group?

RM – Links are provided in the presentation and will be provided in minutes.

**DS requested update on Mountbatten House**

- Recently completed works include:
  - Removal of overgrown vegetation around the cottage
  - Removal of structures/materials around the house and cottage detracting from the heritage value, such as the chicken coup and obsolete fencing
- Next Step include:
  - Archival recording
  - Removal of modern additions to the cottage to reveal the items of heritage value (stone building)
  - General maintenance at the main house
- The house remains in maintenance stage with no current plans for occupation or operation.

JS - What sort of vintage is this house and do we have the history and what will happen once it is restored?

CS – The Conservation Management Plan in the Heritage Management Plan (available on the IMC website at <https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents> provides a good understanding of the history of the house.

SD – Suggested to arrange a visit.

**Action:** RM to arrange visit in 2024.

**CS to provide additional information on groundwater monitoring results from LW905 End of Panel Report**

- No private groundwater bores were mined beneath by LW905 and no impacts to bores were recorded for the panel. Impacts to private bores were previously reported, due to earlier Appin Area 9 panels, as described in respective End of Panel reports available on the IMC documents website.
- While subsidence can have a direct impact to individual bores and instrumentation (e.g., horizontal shearing resulting in damage to pumps or piezometers in the borehole), this is often limited to deeper sections of the borehole.
- Example:
  - Borehole S1941 shows subsidence damage to piezometers below 100 mbgl (below ground level) however the remaining piezometer (in the HBSS, 65 mbgl) showed recovery of groundwater levels. The groundwater level at this piezometer is unaffected by mining to date.
  - The additional monitoring bore installed near S1941 following subsidence in the bore has a piezometer installed in the HBSS at 129 mbgl.
  - Groundwater here also remains unaffected to date.

**CS to provide additional information on water pressure and water levels outlined in LW905 End of Panel Report**

- The Appin groundwater TARP refers to: reduction below predicted standing water level or pressure head in the Hawkesbury Sandstone (HBSS).
- No triggers have been recorded from LW905. Depressurisation in lower geological units is predicted (as was observed in the lower piezometers for hydrographs of bores within the mining area). However, this is not a TARP trigger.

**Pressure vs Level**

- Hydrographs in the End of Panel report are plotted in terms of potentiometric head (mAHD).
- Potentiometric head can be thought of as the theoretical level to which water would rise in a bore that is open to an aquifer at a given elevation and is calculated by adding the measured pore pressure (at the piezometer, expressed in metres of water) to the elevation of the sensor (in mAHD). The potentiometric head in a confined aquifer system can be (and often is) different to the water table elevation at the same location.

The End of Panel Report for Longwall 905 is available on the IMC website at:

<https://www.south32.net/what-we-do/our-locations/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/documents>.

**SD requested information on mining lease relinquishment.**

The process to relinquish mining areas:

- Section 125 of the Mining Act provides the grounds for cancellation of mining leases including by the decision-maker or holder.
- All exploration bores and mining infrastructure must be removed/remediated prior to cancellation.
- There are no agreements with the government and any agreements with developers are commercial in confidence.

Removal of areas from the Mine Subsidence Districts (Wilton and Menangle):

- Mine Subsidence Districts boundaries are subject to periodic review by the secretary and any person can make a submission to Subsidence Advisory NSW.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMC has not sought to remove relinquished areas from the Subsidence District.</li> <li>• Progress on relinquishing mining rights for other approved residential areas.</li> <li>• IMC currently does not have any applications for relinquishment and any agreements with developers are commercial in confidence.</li> </ul> <p>SD - Public resources and equities of it all; something to be looked at within the Compensation Act.  RM – Apart from any conditions of the cancellation process, there is not an agreement with the government.  SD - Don't understand why person on surface should bear the cost, particularly in areas relinquished.</p>
6.	<b>OPERATIONS UPDATE</b>
	<p><b>LW709</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenced February 2022</li> <li>• Completed October 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>LW710A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencing October 2023</li> <li>• 1,537m remaining</li> <li>• Completion planned May 2024</li> </ul>
7.	<b>ENVIRONMENT UPDATE</b>
	<p><b>Brennans Creek Dam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam level is currently approximately 9.8 metres.</li> <li>• Discharge from BCD has not occurred over the last month due to the low dam level, consistent WTP discharge and increasing EC levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Water Treatment Plant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 298 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (46.5 ML in August and 45.4 ML in September).</li> <li>• Options analysis for backwash water underway.</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allans Creek monitoring program and brine study completed. Concentrations of the bioavailable forms of copper, nickel and zinc are generally very low and pose minimal risk to aquatic organisms. Report to be submitted to EPA.</li> <li>• Aquatic Health Monitoring Program scheduled to be undertaken in October.</li> </ul> <p>JS - Are you using permeate in the coal washery?  CS - We use dam water.  SD - How toxic is backwash?  CS - Primarily underground water</p> <p><b>Annual Reviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review submitted and available on IMC website. Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program also submitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>EPL Variation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variation has been submitted for incorporating LDP 40 limits in EPL, reviewing ecotoxicity monitoring requirements and amending Total Nitrogen limits for LDP 24.</li> <li>• No feedback from EPA to date.</li> </ul>

### **Rehabilitation Management Plan**

- Rehabilitation objectives were approved by the Resources Regulator in September. Rehabilitation criteria to be developed and submitted.
- Tenders distributed and site visit undertaken for redundant infrastructure demolition campaign.

CS - Annual Review on the website. Links to the Appin Mine Annual Review – which had to be split into two documents are below:

- [appin-mine-annual-review-fy23.pdf \(south32.net\)](#)
- [south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-mine/documents/bulli-seam-operations-project/annual-reviews/appin-mine-annual-review-fy23---appendices.pdf?sfvrsn=a34ba639\\_2](#)

CS - Noting there is an issue with the Annual Rehabilitation Report form for submission and the answers to two questions have been reversed. It has not yet been fixed by the Resources Regulator.

RM - Rehabilitation Management Plan will be updated to include the approved rehabilitation objectives. Success criteria will need to be developed.

JS – What sites are included in the legacy sites program?

CS - Redundant sites including the old ventilation structure at Ventilation Shaft 3 and the old coal bins at Appin West, but also looking at infrastructure at Dendrobium, Corrimal and Cordeaux.

### **Georges River Rehabilitation**

- Pointe mobilised to site in September.
- All equipment/materials ready to go. Awaiting issue of licence from NPWS.
- Once received, works will commence to rehabilitate pools 54, 56 and 57.

### **North Cliff Rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation Execution Plan submitted to Resources Regulator. No comment.
- Tenders received for powerline removal.
- Submission for shaft sealing being developed for internal review and then Mines Inspectorate.

### **Nepean River Gas Zones**

- 7 recorded in September, up from 6 in July.
- No new gas zones (reactivation of previously reported zone).

### **Nepean River Biobanking site**

- Guards on plants on the western side of the site are being removed as they are starting to perish.
- Guards on plants on the eastern side of the site are being retained. Survivability is quite high; however, they are being browsed on by goats.
- Goats have been controlled using pens; however, they have not been overly successful. Other options are being considered with Local Land Services.
- Feedback was sought from the contractor who manages the Nepean River Biobanking site on whether an extension to the biobanking site should be progressed.
- Apart from the trees in the paddock, the biodiversity value of the property is considered low.
- There is a significant understory of weed species compared with a high density of native grass species in the BioBanking site.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of the BioBanking site to include this property is not considered a priority currently.</li> </ul> <p>CS – Landcare manage the site and are approaching land service for a more effective method of controlling goats.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>EXPLORATION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently operating 3 x drill rigs</li> <li>• All located within EL4470 and AUTH248</li> <li>• Drilling to continue around Menangle and Cawdor</li> </ul> <p><b>Seismic survey</b></p> <p><b>3D</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 completed in early September 2023</li> <li>• Phase 2 proposed for November 2023</li> <li>• Private properties only with land access agreements in place</li> </ul> <p><b>2D - Phase 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to commence from late 2023 (TBC)</li> <li>• Public roads and some private properties with land access agreements in place</li> <li>• Information available via fact sheets, letters, and updates via website</li> </ul> <p><b>2D - Phase 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement and details 2024 (TBC)</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>
	<p><b>AMVA Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial blasts completed.</li> <li>• Tree planting scheme being developed, and walkthrough completed.</li> <li>• Weed control is ongoing.</li> <li>• VS8 depth at 13m</li> <li>• VS7 collar progressing.</li> <li>• Headframe cladding to commence soon.</li> <li>• Several trial blasts were completed in mid-September.</li> <li>• Conduct due diligence and check safety protocols.</li> <li>• Vibration and overpressure are well below consent criteria.</li> <li>• No increase in dust. No road closures.</li> <li>• Blast notification signs are in place.</li> <li>• Registered landholders advised prior to blasting.</li> <li>• Routine pre-sink blasting has commenced.</li> </ul> <p>SD - At night, the lights are very concerning when driving past. Can they be turned off or pointed in a different direction?</p> <p>RM - Will ask the question to review the light positioning.</p> <p>MA – How far down will the shafts be drilled?</p> <p>RM – Shafts will go down about 560 metres. Headframes will be acoustically clad.</p> <p>RM – There were blasts mid-September, trial blasts for safety protocol and calibration. Signs in place, registered land holders and neighbors are notified.</p> <p>SD – Didn't need to close the road?</p> <p>RM – No</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to ask Project team to review lighting positioning</p>

### **VAMMIT Project**

- The project is currently in the design phase and is yet to be finalised.
- Specialist noise and air quality modelling is being prepared and will be assessed against criteria set by the DPE/EPA.
- Community consultation commenced in October with letters to nearby landholders and other key stakeholders.
- Outcomes from modelling and community consultation will be included in the Modification Application.
- During construction, noise and air quality management measures will be incorporated into the project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- During operation, noise and air quality will be managed under our Appin Mine Environmental Management System.

SD – are there two?

RM – VAMMIT unit and Conventional RTO unit (regenerative thermal oxidizer)

MM – what is VAMMIT?

CS – Ventilation Air Methane Mitigation

JS - Are any others doing this?

RM – the CSIRO VAMMIT unit is new technology. Having the two different units operating will allow us to compare the performance, scalability, and efficiency.

### **Third Party Coal Processing**

- Wollongong Resources owns the Russell Vale Colliery (RVC).
- The CPP at RVC ceased operating in March 2003.
- Coal from the RVC is approved to be transported to the PKCT via public roads.
- WR is seeking to improve their product quality using the Dendrobium CPP.
- WR is seeking to transport coal from the PKCT to the Dendrobium CPP via private roads at BlueScope.
- South32 would wash RVC coal within existing approved Dendrobium CPP throughput capacity.
- Coal wash would be emplaced at the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area or for beneficial use.
- South32 will seek modifications to the Dendrobium and Appin
- Consents via a Modification Report.
- WR will seek modification to Russell Vale Consent.

The Modifications would have **no change** to the following:

- Dendrobium CPP maximum processing rate (5.2 Mtpa).
- Mining operations at the Dendrobium Mine, Russell Vale Colliery, and Appin Mine.
- Surface disturbance.
- Mine life, employment numbers, mining activities, or other surface activities.
- ROM coal transport route(s), traffic volumes, and transport operating hours.
- Product coal transport route(s) from the Dendrobium CPP to the BlueScope Port Kembla Steelworks and PKCT.
- Coal wash transport from the Dendrobium CPP to the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area.
- Capacity of the West Cliff Coal Wash Emplacement Area, i.e., the area has sufficient approved capacity to accommodate coal wash from the processing of RVC coal.

RM - It will be washed and processed at the Dendrobium CPP – no material change to way things are operating now.

RM – It won't go straight to port but will go through Steelworks.

RM – Russell Vale coal currently goes straight onto ships.



SD – Is Russell Vale a bord and pillar operation.

RM – Yes.

JS – Is there an increase in trucks?

CS – No.

#### **NRAR Enforceable Undertaking**

- IMC will contribute more than \$2.8 million for a community project that will improve the health of waterways and/or restore wetlands.
- Consult with local Aboriginal communities connected to the project area.
- ILALC will deliver the project and a proposal was submitted to the NRAR on 29 September 2023.

#### **Proposal includes:**

- Environmental conservation and biodiversity conservation, preservation, and protection
- Improved management of natural resources, including land, water, and biodiversity
- Enhanced conservation of ecosystems and threatened species.
- Implementation of sustainable land and water management practices
- Cultural preservation and revitalization
- Economic empowerment and employment
- Community empowerment and wellbeing
- Education and knowledge sharing

SD – What is ILALC?

RM – Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

SD - The regulator must approve it?

RM – Yes.

RM – It is a four-year program.

JS - What is the status on the land?

RM – A mixture of NPWS, WaterNSW, and South32. It will concentrate on Mt Kembla catchment area.

JS – I think it is worth working towards a positive outcome.

#### **Social Impact Assessment**

- Social and human rights impact assessment must be completed every five years.
- Identifies impacts from Appin operations on local communities.
- Identifies opportunities to:
  - Prevent, mitigate, and remedy potential and actual impacts.
  - Create shared value in areas like health, education, sense of community, and access to services.
- GHD has been engaged to complete the assessment.
- Community and stakeholder consultation will commence in October.
- Contact with Appin CCC members will be through the Chair.

SD – Maybe this group could look at the survey questions or some sort of auditing?

RM - This would be discussed with GHD.

## **10 COMPLAINTS**

No complaints have been received since the last meeting.

No complaints in FY24

RM – If the contact is related to our operations, then it is recorded as a complaint. If it is a general enquiry or not related to our operations, then it's not a complaint.

SD – For clarity, if there is an enquiry, should be included in the report because you consider them a non-complaint. We should see how many people have actually contacted the complaints line.

	<p><b>Action:</b> RM to include all contact in next presentation.</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>COMMUNITY UPDATE</b>
	<p><b>IMC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symbio Wildlife Park's first Appin Study wrapped up and Mount Kembla's first study started in September.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Partnership Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wilton Public School - \$3,600 teacher training app</li> <li>Lifeline Macarthur - \$30,000 counselling support</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous Grant Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications remain open for FY24.</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>
	<p><b>Power outages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endeavour Energy are progressing with construction of 66kV overhead lines.</li> <li>AMVA 11kV underground line and substation will be isolated.</li> <li>Power interruption to AMVA site in early November.</li> <li>Significant plant and equipment will occupy Menangle Road.</li> <li>Traffic control will be in place with some traffic disruptions likely.</li> </ul> <p>RM – Work is being undertaken for new developments.</p> <p><b>End of Year Function</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitations will be sent shortly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Member Updates</b></p> <p>JS – Notices in letterboxes. Newsletters don't contain information of any real interest as to what is going on – we used to get operational news. So much misinformation on social media so it would be better to get it in the post rather than being referred to the website.</p> <p>RM - Need to find a balance in news distribution.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to relay suggestion to Communications Officer.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>
	<p><b>Meeting close:</b> 6.20pm</p> <p><b>Next Meeting:</b> 6 December 2023 @ 5pm</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Menangle RFS</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to follow up with Douglas Park PS regarding process for apply for a CPP grant.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to relay suggestion to Communications Officer.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to ask AMVA Project team to review lighting positioning</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to arrange visit to Mountbatten House in 2024</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RM to include all contact in next presentation.</p>