

# MEETING MINUTES

## Final Draft



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

MEETING: #65

DATE: 7 June 2023

LOCATION: Menangle RFS  
90 Menangle Road, Menangle

#### ATTENDEES:

Danny Stewart	(DS)	Community Representative
Barry Dunham	(BD)	Community Representative
Shane Simpson	(SS)	Community Representative
Rod Mapstone	(RM)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
Hubert Mhangami	(HM)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
Andy Hyslop	(AH)	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
Mike Archer	(MA)	Independent Chairperson
Maxine Wiseman	(MW)	Independent Minute Secretary

#### ABSENT:

APOLOGIES:	Julie Sheppard	Community Representative
	Sam Davis	Community Representative
	Barbara Webber	Community Representative
	Cr Matt Deeth	Wollondilly Shire Council
	Chris Schultz	Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

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 and Apologies</li> <li>• Declaration of Pecuniary Interests</li> <li>• Acceptance of Previous Minutes</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Questions on Notice Tracker</li> <li>• IMC South32 Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Explorations</li> <li>○ Approvals</li> <li>○ Complaints</li> <li>○ Community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New member recruitment update</li> <li>○ Department Planning and Environment Guidelines Review</li> <li>○ Christmas function</li> <li>○ Round table</li> <li>○ Meeting Close</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

1.	<i>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</i>
	<p>Meeting opened at 5:00pm.</p> <p>MA welcomed all members and introduced MW as the minute taker. Anything specific to be recorded in minutes please advise MW.</p> <p>MA issued an apology for – JS, SD, BW, MD and CS.</p> <p>MA acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land.</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 South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. MW is paid as minute taker by MA and the cost is recovered from South32 IMC.</p> <p>There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</p>
3.	<i>PREVIOUS MINUTES</i>
	<p>April meeting minutes endorsed by – SS</p> <p>Seconded by – BD</p> <p><b>Actions Arising</b></p> <p><b><i>Coal Wash and Emplacement area visit</i></b></p> <p>RM – proposed afternoon of Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 suggested to wait until the Georges River rehabilitation commences and combine the two visits.</p> <p>BD - Concerned a long process (a lot to visit) in one day.</p> <p>DS - Late July might be better with a bit longer daylight.</p> <p>BD – Suggested 2pm start.</p> <p>SS - Just the daylight for viewing – Wednesdays are a workday, may limit peoples availability.</p> <p>MA - Discuss it at next meeting</p> <p><b><i>Georges River Rehabilitation visit</i></b></p> <p>RM – suggest combining with other tours</p> <p>BD - There are about three areas to access.</p> <p>RM - Suggest two separate tours later in the year.</p>

	<p><b>Razorback subsidence</b> RM – still obtaining information</p> <p><b>New guidelines</b> MA – still waiting for advice from DP&amp;E</p>
4.	<b>CODE OF CONDUCT</b>
	MA - Code of conduct, 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.
5.	<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</b>
	<p>Provide information on average levels for previous longwalls. Still pursuing.</p> <p>Provide update following review of the Mine Subsidence Act – subsidence team will be invited to brief the committee later in the year.</p>
6.	<b>OPERATIONS UPDATE FROM SOUTH32 IMC</b>
	<p>LW 905 completed</p> <p>Currently mining LW709 – planned completion mid-September, 2023 with 800m remaining</p> <p>LW710A – Start mining mid-October 2023. Typically work on 30 days between LW's</p> <p>LW710B – Commencing Q3 2024 to Q1 2025</p> <p>LW711 – Q1 2025 to Q4 2026</p>
7.	<b>ENVIRONMENT UPDATE</b>
	<p><b>Brennan's Creek Dam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam level is currently approximately 9.8 metres.</li> <li>• Discharge continues at approximately 0.907 ML/day due to reduced dam level.</li> <li>• BCD discharge EC is currently 1.87 mS/cm, pH 8.77</li> </ul> <p>BD - what does mS stand for (mS/cm) – MilliSiemens.</p> <p><b>Water Treatment Plant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant is fully operational.</li> <li>• Improvements to water availability from underground have been implemented.</li> <li>• 53.46 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (25.85 ML in February, 27.61 ML in March, 44.4 ML in April, figures unavailable for May as yet)</li> <li>• Blending of permeate and BCD water trials are being undertaken.</li> <li>• Georges River Stakeholder Group wound up at last meeting, progress on addressing Eco toxicity and managing discharge from the site in discussion with the EPA and reported to Appin CCC.</li> </ul> <p>DS - Treatment plant at Appin West Tower, the water that is being treated is being re-used, no run-off into the creek? None of the water is going into The Nepean?</p> <p>HM – Very small amount.</p> <p>AH - Have a discharge license, particularly for all the water treated through the treatment plant.</p>

### **Aquatic Health Monitoring**

- 2023 Report is available on the IMC website:

*Georges River Aquatic Health Monitoring Report 2023.*

[https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-mine/documents/bulli-seam-operations-project/licenses/georges-river-aquatic-health-monitoring-report-\(2023\).pdf?sfvrsn=454bf6ca\\_1](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/illawarra-metallurgical-coal-mine/documents/bulli-seam-operations-project/licenses/georges-river-aquatic-health-monitoring-report-(2023).pdf?sfvrsn=454bf6ca_1)

- Overall correlation between rainfall and pool levels.
- Autumn and Spring 2022 sampling coincided with higher flows than previous years.
- Water quality differed in discharge suites in comparison to reference sites. pH and EC and metals concentrations generally observed to be improving over time at discharge sites.
- Toxicity was observed in LDP40 discharge from water treatment plant. Potential cause is ionic imbalance. No toxicity observed in 2022 for BCD discharge water.
- Sensitive invertebrate taxa found to be more abundant in reference sites, with more tolerant taxa found in discharge sites. This may be related to water quality or differences in habitat, pool depth, substrate type.
- Prokaryote, eukaryote and diatom metabarcoding confirmed that community composition differed between reference and discharge monitoring sites. Some diatoms responding positively to improvements in water quality.
- A range of recommendations were provided that will be progressively actioned

MA – What is taxa?

HM – A group of microbiological invertebrates.

### **Rehabilitation Management Plan**

- Rehabilitation Management Plan – feedback received from Resources Regulator on rehabilitation objectives and final land use rehabilitation plans.
- Rehabilitation objectives – Request to resubmit to change formatting, spatial references, allocation of objectives to spatial references and change in final land uses and wording of objectives. – Plant Community Types (PCTs) for each area to be rehabilitated to native ecosystem are to be identified.
- Final Land Use Plan – Consistency between spatial references and update to reflect changes in objectives.
- RMP is being reviewed to address this feedback.
- RMP and revised rehabilitation objectives is planned to be submitted to the Resources Regulator by the end of June and will be updated on the IMC website.

### **Georges River Remediation Plan**

- Georges River Remediation Plan
- Preferred grouting contractor is Pointe.
- Preparation of Review of Environmental Factors (REF) underway.
- Planning to commence site works in Q3 2023.
- Access Agreements nearing finalisation.
- Consultation with the Tharawal Aboriginal Land Council and other adjacent landholders has commenced.

### **North Cliff Rehabilitation**

- Site visit undertaken with regulatory agencies.
- Site visit with Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council North Cliff Rehabilitation.
- Consultation with NPWS regarding powerline removal within National Park has been ongoing.
- Rehabilitation Execution Plan is being revised based on feedback received.
- Seed collection is planned to commence for future direct seeding and tubestock.

DS - What is the timeframe for it to be handed over?

### **HM – To be advised – taken as a Question on Notice**

DS - Shaft seals or stoppings?

AH – Cannot be accessed.

### **Turbid Water Discharge (AMVA Project)**

- On the 19 April sediment was observed being discharged into Foot Onslow Creek.

Sediment was contained with silt booms and clean-up activities commenced immediately, including pumping water and sediment back into the sediment pond.

- EPA was notified of the event and information provided. No response has been received to date.
- Procedures are being reviewed with the new Principal Contractor and the discharge system is being re-designed.

MA - Is Foot Onslow Creek a permanent water source?

HM – It is.

DS – what material was it – was it sand?

HM – natural material and sediment from the bottom of the pond.

AH – IMC has a license to discharge treated water. The pond is designed to capture surface run-off from the site.

### **Coal Wash**

- The EPA Audit for coal wash stockpiling at Appin North has concluded.
- Payment has been made for the levy liability.
- Designs for a coal wash haul road near the washery under an Operational Purpose Deduction are currently being reviewed.

### **Native bees**

- Bee hotels have been established at Appin North.
- Usage of the bee hotels has been observed.
- Native bees and wasps have been identified as an important pollination vector for *Persoonia hirsuta*.
- IMC supported an honours thesis on Flower-visitor interactions and diversity in mine site restoration areas.

	<p><b>Nepean River Gas Zones</b></p> <p>Previous period – 11 active zones on the section of river upstream from Douglas Park Weir, and two active zones on the downstream end.</p> <p>This period (May 2023) – 10 gas zones active on Nepean Upper (AA9) and two on the lower end of the river (AA7).</p>
8.	<b>EXPLORATION UPDATE</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently operating 5 x drill rigs</li> <li>• All located within AUTH248 and AUTH396</li> <li>• Drilling to continue around Razorback and Cawdor</li> </ul>
9.	<b>AMVA PROJECT</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started excavating one of the shafts and poured concrete</li> <li>• Removal of fly-tipped asbestos from previously built houses</li> <li>• Firebreaks and easements</li> <li>• Sediment pond under construction</li> <li>• VS8 area cleared for construction pad</li> <li>• Redistribution of topsoil and application of mulch and seed</li> <li>• Surveying for tree screening</li> <li>• Bunds being completed ahead of rehabilitation and fencing</li> <li>• RUC mobilizing on site</li> </ul> <p>AMVA Newsletter – (MA) how far and wide is it distributed?</p> <p>RM – Menangle and Douglas Park, it also is on the website.</p>
10.	<b>COMPLAINTS</b>
	<p>April – one complaint re noise– one of the drill rigs was noisy. IMC responded.</p>
11.	<b>COMMUNITY INVESTMENT</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women’s Trauma Recovery Centre - \$300,000 over three years for a Victim Survivor Advocacy Program, Community Partnership Program.</li> <li>• Douglas Park Community Hall - \$10,000 for flooring upgrades</li> <li>• Douglas Park Wilton Athletics Club - \$9,659 for new equipment</li> <li>• Southern Highlands RFS - \$10,000 for training equipment Indigenous Grants</li> <li>• PCYC Nation of Origin - \$60,000 over three years</li> </ul>

12.	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>
	<p><b>General Business – (Round the table)</b></p> <p>MA – Wrote to Michael McGrath, on behalf of the committee, to thank him for his participation in the Appin CCC.</p> <p>SS – The worksite on the hill is still completely bare, thought that it was going to be sprayed?  RM – the areas that have not taken were recently resprayed.  DS - Footprint of the site over 18 months to two years for planting of a few thousand trees. More than 50 percent have been destroyed or died, decimated the area. Any plans to put the plants back?  RM – The site is being gradually and sequentially rehabilitated, including tree planting.</p> <p>BD – Visit to Mount Batten – <b>QoN for next meeting.</b></p> <p>BD – Georges River rehabilitation is due to start in Q3 2023, is this correct?  RM – Pre-planning works have commenced. IMC has met with Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council and are speaking with adjacent landholder's regarding land access.</p>
13.	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>
	<p><b>Meeting close: 5.46 pm</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 5.00pm.</b></p> <p><b>Future meetings: 11 October and 6 December.</b></p>