

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	Microsoft Teams	
DATE:	17:30, Thursday 21 October 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) Kathleen Swinbourne (KS) Robert 'Bob' Gordon (RG) Anita Mulrooney (AM) Ron Zwicker (RZ) (Wollongong City Council)
APOLOGIES:		Alex Beccari (AB) Noel Lowry (NL) (Wollondilly Shire Council) Alexandra Szalla (AS)

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
	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 Regulatory Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) meeting. MA issued an apology for NL
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 (August 2021) were then accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Moved PD; Seconded; PC
5A	BUSINESS ARISING
	<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>Proposed date for tour 0900 – 30 November 2021, followed by morning tea (1-1.5 hour tour).</i> ○ <i>CCC members agreed that the date appears ok – no significant objections. Will be confirmed closer to the date.</i> ○ <i>ACTION: AL to send out Placeholder Invite to CCC and confirm closer to date</i>
6	ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL OPERATIONAL UPDATE
	<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"> ○ <i>Longwall 18 Subsidence Management Plan. Approved 8 December 2020.</i> ○ <i>Longwall 19 Subsidence Management Plan. Approved 11 March 2021</i> ○ <i>Longwall 20 Subsidence Management Plan – Further approval required.</i> ○ <i>Longwall 21 Subsidence Management Plan. Approved 19 December 2019</i> ○ <i>Longwall 22 and 23 Subsidence Management Plan – Being assessed by the Department and Independent Advisory Panel.</i> • Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (LS)

- Continue working with regulatory bodies through the judicial review
- Currently working on alternate mine plan – this is close to getting shared
- Potential to call for extraordinary CCC meetings to inform the group on our proposal for re-submission
- PD: Attended 2-hour presentation from BlueScope – 1 question pertained to investment and reliability of supply from Dendrobium. LS replied that he also attended that presentation and can't speak on behalf of BlueScope on how they run their business. He noted they acknowledged preference for local metallurgical coal supply. MA noted that historically BlueScope reliance of local coal assets and proximity being a key driver to minimise costs.

Operational Update – RG

- RG introduced himself to the CCC as joining Illawarra Metallurgical Coal as the Acting General Manager – Dendrobium Operations. Bob is a highly experienced leader in underground operations (Burraborang, QLD, BHP (Appin)) and project management and will support the Dendrobium team in the short term while IMC continue recruitment efforts for a permanent candidate.
- LW17 commenced on 12 December 2020.
- LW17 through the final few pillars to 4CT throughout September and early October – bolting up face and stripping the longwall.
- LW17 finished and LW relocation commenced on 13th October.
- MG18 roadway development completed on the 6th October. Commencing the pre-driven recovery road drive on 13th October.
- TG22 development commenced in September.
- Longwall 17 bolt-up and recovery from 4CT preparation commenced in September
- LW18 – 1km long – noted standing off from surface structures. This will commence in December. Pointed out that halfway along the LW block you'll notice a pre-driven roadway due to geological structures. Proceed to LW19 after this.
- Longwall changeout:
 - LW17 completed on the 13th October.
 - During changeout there will be some additional vehicle movements on the surface
 - Additional personnel during some periods
 - Equipment deliveries to or from site have commenced and are expected to continue throughout October and November
 - Noise mitigation and curfew times will remain in place during the changeout
 - Lower Portal Road work has ceased during this period
 - PD: Regarding wide loads – what's the requirement for chaser vehicles? Had taken a picture of a wide load truck on 14/10/21 with no escort car.
 - **[ACTION]: IMC to investigate if this was related to its operations**
 - AM: Noticed an uplift in positive communications to local residents (especially relating to the LW changeout) – very good improvement regarding latest communication.

Environment Update – CS

- Underground water balance is gradually decreasing. Underground pump capacity has been upgraded – therefore more water can be pumped out than could previously.
- LDP 5 flow in September was an average of 8.09 ML/day (max: 9.56 ML/d and min: 2.12 ML/d) – relatively consistent over the last three months.
- Directional noise monitoring system is being progressed. Software set up continues. Issues with the contour mapping display due to changes in operating systems with Microsoft not having the same level of granularity.
- Investigative noise monitoring has been undertaken at R39a and at the Kemira Valley compressors following the recording of non-compliances in the July monitoring. Unsettled weather also contributing. Noise monitoring from R39A incorrect location has been over-reporting exceedances.
- Comments received on Water Management Plan – being reviewed.
- Annual Review was submitted and is available on the South32 website.
- Recruiting for Specialist Environment role.
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- LW17 swamp monitoring – Swamps 23/14/35.
 - LW17 passed Swamp 23 – water level increase following rain events, followed by receding levels;
 - Swamp 35a – with LW17 400m buffer. May/June – no influence from mining.
 - Swamp 14 – Impacts from LW mining for some time. Borehole dry, levels recover after rain events.
- PD noted more of the same monitoring results.
- PC: Did LW17 impact Swamp 14? CS noted initial impact from LW16.

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

Community Update - KS

- Dendrobium complaints down from previous financial year.
- YTD FY22 – 7 complaints total (Noise -5; traffic -1; environment -1)
- Noise complaints followed activities from pit top.
- KS also noted that several phone calls regarding murky water along Cordeaux Road (American Creek) left into the village from William-James Dr. Concern that the water was coming from IMC operations. We investigated and determined that the murky water was coming from Redgum Ridge construction activities – IMC contacted council accordingly.
- PD: I had called AL and recommended another member call the Community Line – noticed IMC personnel investigating on walk back.

- 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**

Community Engagement – KS

- Detailed results from a survey that was sent out to the CCC. Results;
 - Information easily understandable but improvement required to effectively provide this information back to the communities;
 - Improvement suggestions with local information (i.e. newsletters), public forum, disseminating complex reports ahead of time to be given to the community, information sessions, site tours.
 - KS to contact directly interested members of the CCC to arrange face-to-face meetings.
 - PD: Why has no one been seeing the newsletters for some time? KS: there is one newsletter due out very shortly.

Community Investment – KS/AL

Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program

- DCEC has completed the distribution of funding to local schools and charities to assist with life during covid restrictions. This totalled about \$80,000.
- Local schools supported purchased computers or online platforms to assist with teaching at home.
- Local charities to be supported include those that focus on food security, mental health and domestic violence. Charities are:
 - Foodbank – emergency food hampers for Wollongong area
 - Lifeline South Coast – volunteer training to support the crisis call line
 - St Vincent's De Paul Wollongong – new industrial dishwasher to assist in meal preparation in Coniston
 - Wollongong Homeless Hub – Breakfast program support in Wollongong
 - Supported Accommodation & Homeless Services Shoalhaven Illawarra – supporting women and families fleeing DV with food vouchers and electronic devices for home-schooling activities
- At the September meeting the DCEC provided an additional \$14,500 to schools to support social reconnection of students.
 - Figtree High School – Wellbeing Day \$2,090. The donation provides games for a carnival day to celebrate the return to school and encourage social participation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farmborough Road Public School – Targeted Reading Program \$3,050. The donation provides an intensive learning program for years K-2 to catch up on lost time during lock down ○ Unanderra Public School – Dance to Be Fit Program \$9,500. The donation will provide dance classes for the school where kids will be active and socialising. The school will host an end of year dance concert. • The DCEC continues to work with Wollongong City Council to review the town signage. This includes the town entrance signage and way finding signage. • We will keep the DCCC updated as the plans are refined and signage designs developed. • DCEC members on the sub group are Franca Facci, Craig Hicks and Amanda Silarski. • The DCEC will welcome a new member at its November meeting - Ben Speer. MA noted Ben resides in Mount Kembla and has children at the local school. • Illawarra Convoy will have a new date in December for a scaled down event – the convoy only with no family day. • We are working with the organisers to get the start line ready at our Appin North operations. • South32 will be matching all donations this year dollar for dollar. Donations need to be made to the South32 IMC page on the convoy website. A link will be provided in the meeting minutes. https://illawarraconvoy.com.au/individual/South32 → Please Donate • Please share the match dollar contribution with your contacts so the community can take advantage of the offer.
7	MEMBER UPDATES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT: Keen for more information on S32’s future – what is the gossip? • JE: Also interested in what information there is on Dendrobiums future and will be keen to hold extraordinary meeting if called. • PG: Noted that there were repairs associated with Council that could’ve been the loader previously mentioned without escort vehicle. • PD: Echoes the sentiment regarding the future of the mine. Noted recent examples from government, BlueScope etc. with trend away from the industry. Would like to hear more on the influences on the company’s future/coal future. MA indicated that a fact sheet will be distributed from World Steel re Green Iron technology and the realistic timeframes for replacement technologies. • PC: Noted LW18 at half the length – was it always planned like this? RG responded that we encountered quite a substantial geological feature (fault/intrusion) that its too difficult to move the LW around. Therefore decision to only mine up to the geological feature and reduce the LW length.
8	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Concept Plan (VT)

- AL provided following update on the IMB Proposal:
 - The Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Advisory Group met earlier in the month.
 - At the meeting an update was provided on:
 - REF studies underway by Niche, including environment, heritage and geotechnical studies
 - Social Impact Assessment underway by Element
 - Planning and assessment process
 - NPWS's intention is to release the REF and Social Impact Assessment for public comment by mid-December 2021. The closing date for submissions will take the Christmas holiday period into consideration to allow time for comments.
 - At this time South32 will review the documents and consider whether we support trails on our land. A decision is likely to be made first half of CY2022.
 - NPWS indicated the build would commence in 2022 and take about 18 months to complete. The trails will initially commence in areas where land access is available (i.e. NPWS lands).
 - The Advisory Group are aware there is community concern about vehicles accessing local Mount Kembla roads. This will be captured in the Social Impact Assessment and is part of an ongoing discussion at this time.
 - RZ confirmed aforementioned status on behalf of Council.
 - VT: Held meeting with Kerry Hunt (WCC) and NPWS. Intention to continue community information in November. The response to REF and submissions looking likely to extend into mid-February. Some members of the community are pushing for opportunity to walk the trails planned on S32 land – a map is difficult to understand.
 - **[ACTION] S32 to investigate a facilitation for such a tour – Amanda Silarski to investigate**
 - PD: We've been actively meeting (8/9 locals). Put up posters on Stage 3 and kids keep on ripping it off. Would appreciate security car (S32) to inspect bottom of Stage 3 (Benjamin Rd).
 - **[ACTION] S32 to investigate security assistance**
 - PG: Walked track past old Kembla Mine – has seen lots of sediment slumping and eroding tracks. Looks like old chimney could be lost. Encourages S32 to have a walk and inspect damage.
 - **VT: Can we walk with trail designers (endorsed by S32)? [ACTION]**
 - PD: Watch youtube video "Mount Kembla biking" – it is frightening and very dangerous.
 - PG: Who is paying for it? VT answered that State Government and NPWS are. Discussion around the move away from Mount Keira (sacred indigenous areas) – the driver to relocate trails to Mount Kembla.
- Proposed Christmas Dinner – 2 December at Mount Kembla
- **[ACTION] confirm 2 December meeting location and dinner**

	<p>Next Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 December 2021
9	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of the Catchment and Kemira Valley proposed 30 November 2021 (<i>send out Placeholder Invite to CCC and confirm closer to date</i>) • Tour of the Sydney Water Catchment to be organised – potentially in cooler months next year • IMC to investigate if unescorted loader was related to its operations (14/10/2021) • S32 to investigate facilitating a tour on its land where the proposed Mount Bike Trails are – Amanda Silarski to investigate • S32 to investigate security assistance • Confirm 2 December meeting location and dinner
10	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	<p>Meeting close: 18:35</p> <p>Next Meeting: 2 December 2021</p>