

Community News

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal



MARCH 2023



KOALA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH

Symbio Wildlife Park and South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) have launched a new three-year partnership designed to help support koala conservation in the Illawarra and Macarthur regions of New South Wales.

As well as delivering practical measures to support local koala conservation, the partnership will provide educational opportunities and inspiration for local school students, helping to create greater awareness of the need to protect koalas and other endangered species.

The partnership and its initiatives align with the NSW Koala Strategy, complementing conservation efforts that are already underway in other parts of the state. South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal is providing A\$470,000 to support the partnership with Symbio Wildlife Park and its initiatives, which include:

- A new research program that will use state-of-the-art drone-mounted thermal imaging cameras and other

technology to help locate koalas in their natural habitats and map their locations to gain a greater understanding of local populations and their movements.

- Creation of a new immersive conservation educational precinct at Symbio Wildlife Park, with the potential to help educate upwards of 200,000 visitors per year and provide information about the importance of protecting koalas and other endangered wildlife.
- Establishment of a new not-for-profit Symbio Wildlife Park Conservation Foundation, with the aim of supporting a sustainable future for koalas and other endangered Australian wildlife.
- Rollout of a first-of-its-kind augmented reality wildlife educational app for schools to help students learn more about koalas and other Australian wildlife.
- Creation of a Citizen Scientist Education Program linked in with local schools and development of localised web faced Koala spotter portal that utilises AI and API integration to ensure accuracy of sightings and input.

Symbio Wildlife Park Marketing Manager Kevin Fallon said “The Illawarra and MacArthur regions have some of the most genetically pure koalas in Australia and this new partnership directly enables us to fast-track important conservation measures and do even more to help protect the species at a time where it has never been so critical, whilst completely changing the way in which children are educated around wildlife.

As well as hosting some key koala habitat areas, our regions have deep cultural ties to the koala stretching back thousands of years with the Dharawal people, and then much later, the first koalas collected for scientific study were found at Mount Kembla, in 1803.”

IMC Vice President Operations Peter Baker said “In addition to supporting the local koala populations, the partnership will also give local school students the chance to learn more about wildlife conservation and the importance of protecting our local environment.”

APPIN MINE VENTILATION AND ACCESS PROJECT UPDATE



- Work continues at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle, on the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project. The ventilation shafts will provide crucial underground air ventilation to Appin Mine, ensuring a safe and efficient working environment for our workers.
- The Project has undergone extensive environmental assessments, including noise, air quality, traffic, heritage, and biodiversity. The new ventilation shafts will support our people to continue to work in a safe environment and have been designed to avoid or minimise impacts on the local community where possible.
- The Menangle Road upgrade and bulk earthworks are now complete.
- We thank you for your patience during these activities. Preparation for shaft pre-sinking activities will then follow. This will include the mobilisation of equipment, pre-grouting, and collar construction as shaft sinking begins. These activities will occur during daytime construction hours.

Scan the QR code for further details on the Project, construction timeline, concept images, and assessment reports. If you have any questions about the Project, please contact us on **1800 102 210** or email **illawarracommunity@south32.net**



NEW TELSTRA TOWER AT APPIN NORTH

In 2022 IMC agreed with Telstra to construct a new 5G Mobile Phone Tower at Appin North.

The tower was officially switched on last week, significantly improving phone and 5G coverage for Telstra users in the local community and at our sites.

APPIN MINE UPDATE

Appin Longwall (LW) 905 was completed on 28 February, the rate of subsidence is reducing, and monitoring and inspections associated with LW905 will stop early-March.

Appin Mine is now a single longwall operation. LW709 is currently mining through the dyke zone and is expected to be completed in August-September 2023.

LW710A is forecast to commence in October 2023, for more information please visit our community portal <https://community.s32illawarra.com.au>

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Community Consultative Committee meets bimonthly; minutes are publicly available on our website. The following items were discussed at the last meeting held in February 2023:

- Environment management plans, including a presentation of the LW904 End of Panel Report
- Construction schedule for the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project (see update above)
- Update on the Ventilation Air Methane Mitigation (VAMMIT) Project in collaboration with the CSIRO
- Community investments generated from IMC and the Community Partnership Program, including the South West Sydney Academy of Sport, koala conservation with Symbio Wildlife Park (see story on page one), and the Indigenous Grants Program



BEE HOTELS AT APPIN DID YOU KNOW?

Native Australian bees are pollinators of *Persoonia Hirsuta*, commonly known as Hairy Geebung, an endangered shrub species endemic to eastern NSW.

We've installed several bee hotel units in our rehabilitation areas on-site at Appin North to promote both *Persoonia Hirsuta* growth and increase the native bee population.

The main bee species we are targeting are *Megachile* and *Leioproctus*. These are both native solitary bees and are the most common and efficient pollinators of the *Persoonia* found in the area.

WHAT'S APPINING?

We're a business with a purpose and believe trust and transparency are essential to the way we operate.

Please visit our community portal <https://community.s32illawarra.com.au> to find out more about our operations and current projects.

Easily search your property by address to view its location in relation to the mine plan form on our website scanning the QR code.



APPIN TEAM VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

A big thanks to all our volunteers who recently rolled up their sleeves alongside residents for Clean Up Australia Day at Menangle. Everyone enjoyed a great day helping the environment.



COMMUNITY CALL LINE

Residents who have questions, concerns or complaints about Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's activities are encouraged to contact us through our Community Call Line on **1800 102 210**.

You can also email at illawarracommunity@south32.net

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Follow the South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Facebook Page to stay up to date with what we're doing at our operation and in the community.

To find our page, scan the QR code or go to [facebook.com/South32 IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal](https://facebook.com/South32IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal)



IMC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

This program was initiated by Illawarra Coal (now South32) in 2009 to return benefits to the community surrounding the company's mining activities.

Overseen by a board of eight volunteer members plus two South32 representatives, it meets bi-monthly to assess funding applications from the community, with funding derived from a percentage of the sale of metallurgical coal.

Before the establishment of the Board, Australian Iron and Steel, as it was then, contributed to the then-small community of Appin by donating land to form Appin Sportsground (AI & S Oval). Later as Illawarra Coal, the company supported community projects in Appin on an ad-hoc basis.

The ICCPP was established after the Appin Mine disaster of 1979, employing a community development officer to coordinate community projects including:

- The restoration of the roof of Appin's Catholic Church
- Construction of a new hall and netball court
- Upgrading the sports ground and establishing a Memorial Garden for the disaster victims. Fourteen trees were planted, recognising the number of victims and their families. An Appin family lovingly tends the garden.
- In 2019, South32 erected a fitting memorial marking 40 years since the disaster.

Douglas Park resident and founding Board Member Christine Towndrow has been connected to South32 since 1979.

"This was a dreadful time in the district and beyond. I was elected Wollondilly Shire Councillor for Appin, Wilton, and Douglas Park.

"Following the disaster, the council appointed me to represent the community on the Coal Board compensation inquiry. The worst and most harrowing task I had ever experienced," Towndrow said.

"I have continued a keen interest in the community program ever since."



OVER \$3M AWARDED TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Since its inception, the board has approved over three million dollars in project funds, with many community organisations in the area benefitting from this support, including:

- All Schools in the area
- Rural Fire Service
- Community Halls, including a new Menangle Hall
- Appin and Menangle Men's Sheds

Initiatives also include Life Education in primary schools, recently expanded to preschools.

"Board members take our positions seriously with due diligence and without favour. After careful consideration, we are encouraged to see our village organisations and community supported by the largest company in the district."

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board's Terms of Reference sets out support criteria for the following communities in the areas of Health, Education, and Environment:

- Appin · Wilton · Douglas Park
- Menangle · Cawdor · Wedderburn

Applications outside Health, Education, and the Environment can be supported but must benefit these communities. All projects must be sustainable and of a capital nature.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to apply for funding for your community project or event please contact illawarracommunity@south32.net

MENANGLE RFS GETS NEW MOWER

Menangle Rural Fire Brigade is the latest grant recipient from the Community Partnership Program (CPP).

The RFS used the grant funding to purchase a new Lawn Mower to be used by volunteers who mow the grass at the station.

The new mower will allow the RFS to get the lawns mowed much quicker and more safely, allowing more time to focus on essential tasks such as training, maintaining firefighting equipment, and engaging with the community.

