

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING:	Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC)	
LOCATION:	Dendrobium Nebo Room	
DATE:	17:30, Thursday 20 October 2022	
ATTENDEES:	Independent Chairperson Independent Secretary Community Representatives Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Representatives (IMC)	Mike Archer (MA) Maxine Wiseman (MW) Jenny Evans (JE) Phil Diamond (PD) Phil Clunas (PC) Vivien Twyford (VT) Alex Beccari (AB) – <i>online</i> Michael Banasik (MB) Wollondilly Shire Council – <i>online</i> Simon Thomas (ST) General Manager Dendrobium Chris Schultz (CS) Environment Superintendent Jack Parkinson (JP) Environment Field Crew – <i>online</i> Amanda Silarski (AS) Lead Corporate Affairs Rod Mapstone (RM) Principal Community
APOLOGIES:		Anita Mulrooney (AM) Phil Grant (PG) Ron Zwicker (RZ) Wollongong City Council

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.
2	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Apologies & Declaration of Pecuniary Interests • Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting • Previous Actions • Business Arising • IMC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operations Update ○ Environment Update ○ Approvals Update ○ Community Update • General Business • Member Updates
3	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	Meeting opened at 5:30pm.

	<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 AM.</p> <p>MA provided Acknowledgement to Country.</p>
4	<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>
5	<i>PREVIOUS MINUTES</i>
	<p>Meeting minutes of DCCC from Thursday 11 August 2022 are a fair and accurate record and accepted.</p> <p>Moved by JE seconded by PD.</p>
6	<i>BUSINESS ARISING</i>
	<p>Previous actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to PG's requested assistance with historic review of old mine (ST) <p>Informed the CCC that those involved have been on leave limiting access to old plans, more information can be shared at the next meeting.</p> <p>MA will address the membership review during the meeting.</p> <p>No other business arising.</p>
7	<i>DENDROBIUM ENVIRONMENT UPDATE</i>
	<p>Longwall 18 End of Panel Report – JP</p> <p>CS – Introduced JP as part of the IMC environment field crew.</p> <p>JP presented the key findings from the LW18 End of Panel Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The End of Panel Report can be found at: <p>SC - That report will go on our website after approval and will let CCC know when that has been published.</p> <p>PC - What are the tolerable limits for the subsidence?</p> <p>JP - For those values will need to look at specialist report and get that for you. It can be a different level. – Can get numbers for you.</p> <p>CS - please forward to Rod (RM)</p> <p>Action – JP to forward tolerable limits for subsidence details to RM for next meeting.</p> <p>PD – With Waterfall 5, where there was a rock fall there was an increase iron staining, has that eased up?</p> <p>JP - The bottom right (photo) is an iron stain at the tributary, at the base of the waterfall</p> <p>PD – Is it still leaching?</p> <p>JP - On last inspection it was.</p> <p>VT – On the next photo you talked about quite a lengthy part to the watercourse which was impacted by the iron staining. (Slide 23) is that going to abate or always be there?</p>

	<p>JP – That’s another one that can be a lot of factors, will need to go back and consult the specialist report, iron staining has been an overall increase around the catchment due to quite high groundwater levels, when you get big falls the groundwater infill the surface cracks, sometimes it could stagnate, it does go into a lot of detail in the specialist report for all the contributing factors.</p> <p>MA – That’s the report that will be published?</p> <p>JP – Yes.</p>
8	<i>DENDROBIUM – OPERATIONS UPDATE</i>
	<p>Overview/update</p> <p>ST noted we are continuing with Longwall 19. Commenced extraction on 21 June 2022 and is on track to finish late February 2023. Longwall move would commence March 2023. LW19A developing LW21 & LW22</p> <p>PD – How’s the Co2 concentration in those areas?</p> <p>ST – The CO2 concentration differs in Area 3. There is more methane in Area 3C than Area 3B or Area 3A due to an intrusion in the coal seam.</p> <p>PD – Is the gas drainage plant that is approved, where is that located in relation to Area 3C?</p> <p>ST – Indicated an area on an image noting the gas would be piped to the plant using suction.</p> <p>PD – Is Co2 and methane currently being drained from the operation?</p> <p>ST – We pre-drain a portion and test it using horizontal bore sample, to make it safe to mine.</p> <p>Longwall 19A</p> <p>ST advised Longwall 19A assessments are completed including subsidence, Wongawilli Creek and Swamp 15A, heritage and geotechnical stability. The management plan application has been submitted to DPE in October 2022 and is pending feedback and extraction approval. Longwall 19A was shortened to avoid impact to an Aboriginal Heritage site.</p> <p>PD – DPE has been taking longer to provide approval. If Longwall 19 finishes in late February 2023, when will you require approval for Longwall 19A?</p> <p>ST – We will not require approval for Longwall 19A this year; Longwall 21 will commence first.</p> <p>Approvals</p> <p>ST advised Longwall 22 and 23 Subsidence Management Plan were pending approval from DPE later in the month. Other approvals have not progressed since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longwall 18 Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) approved 8 December 2020 • Longwall 19 SSMP approved 11 March 2021 • Longwall 19A SMP application submitted 10 October 2022 • Longwall 20 SMP – further approval needed • Longwall 21 SMP approved 19 December 2019 • Longwall 22 and 23 SMP decision from DPE expected October 2022 • Dendrobium Area 3 Gas Management Plant, approved by DPE 8 July 2022 <p>Dendrobium Mine Extension Project</p> <p>AS provided an update on the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project, and South32’s decision not to invest in the project given the expected return on investment. Focus was on optimising our operations to extend mine life in already approved areas.</p> <p>There is no immediate change to Dendrobium Mine operations, with mining opportunities identified to 2028, and future opportunities in Area 3C being explored.</p> <p>The CCC’s time in assisting with engagement was recognised and appreciated.</p>

The decision was discussed at length.

PD – What's the final date on your lease in area 3C?

AS – December 2030

AS – Noted that the Appin Mine lease expires in 2041. Two new ventilation shafts were being considered to support the mine with a South32 investment decision likely next week.

SD – With the North American Investment, what do we (Australia) have in other resources?

AS – IMC's current operations in Australia include alumina and bauxite, manganese, lead, silver, nickel, copper and metallurgical coal.

Environment Update

CS advised the underground water balance has decreased since the peak in July/August. Water storage volumes in Area 3B have remained reasonably consistent.

The LDP 5 flow in September was an average of 11.6ML/day (max:13.9 ML/d and min:7.1ML/d) – significant increase in average flow and maximum flow since last meeting. This is largely due to a change in pumping arrangements underground and bypassing of the break tank at Kemira Valley.

Noise monitoring was undertaken in August 2022.

- 2 x exceedances of LAeq criteria recorded at R39a (Kemira Valley), one in the evening period (36 vs 35dBA).
- 1 x exceedance of LA1,1 min recorded at R6a (Cordeaux Road), with a result of 48 dBA recorded against the criteria of 47dBA.
- Locomotive monitoring (annual requirement) indicated no exceedances.

The noise management plan is approved by the department and is available on the website.

Note: environmental data can be viewed online by downloading the [Dendrobium 14 day Report](#)

CS continued with the presentation of the Dendrobium Water Balance and LDP 5 Discharge.

CS - Area in blue is area 3B – remained fairly constant, a decrease in area 2, water in 3C and we still have a lot of water underground, LDP5 flow has stepped up considerably due to increased pumping.

PD - So you are trying to get the water out, after a very wet six months, how long is it taking the surface water, to get down to the workings of the mine to pump out?

CS – There's no direct pathway from the surface to the mine. Surface water discharges the aquifer and groundwater seeps into the mine. Groundwater analysed to check the age of the water.

PD - Using Isotopes?

PC - As per JP graph?

CS - Yes that's correct.

CS – Simon can you address the timing?

ST - Typically if we take a major rain event we see it in area 2 of the mine first; it is about 2 weeks, there is a bit of an increase, there's been elevated general levels over an extended period of time due to the extreme weather event earlier in the year. We are fairly limited to pump out which is why there has been a bypass arrangement.

PD – Was it metropolitan draining into Helensburgh? It was a similar event, what processes are they using, because they had to clean up the creek lines?

SC – The issue at Metropolitan related to overflows from their sediment ponds. They have a coal preparation plant on site and they need to manage water from the plant as well as stormwater runoff.

	<p>CS - Area 3A Impacts</p> <p>CS – In Area 3A and Area 3B, there has been iron staining, rock fracturing and soil cracking. Graphs show the areas impacted primarily LW19.</p> <p>CS – LW19 Swamp monitoring, Swamp 15B near LW8 and Swamp 15B along LW19.</p> <p>CS - Groundwater and Soil Moisture - Fairly constant; responding to rainfall and recovering. Swamp 15B has been impacted by mining, there is recovery following rainfall events, the regression curve is a lot shorter and steeper than it would normally be.</p> <p>PD - How often are you getting up there?</p> <p>SC - It is extraordinarily problematic, looking at doing some remediation on Wongawilli Creek, for subsidence impacts in December 2021, then heavy rain with six months of closure. Trying to mobilise contractors, been really challenging, has been some periods that can get into catchment, but not very long.</p>
9	<p>COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS</p>
	<p>RM provided a summary of community complaints received since January 2022. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two most recent were traffic related in August and October, i.e. trucks not stopping at Stones Road. Logistics have reiterated Code of Conduct and road rules with the contractors. <p>PD – Given the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project is not progressing, what is happening with the proposed car park extension?</p> <p>ST – The car park is not in our current plan.</p> <p>PD – The rail bridge that you see from the pathway has a lot a debris.</p> <p>AS – The Pathway Group has raised this issue. Our logistics team plan to remove the debris.</p> <p>PD – Acknowledged and thanked the volunteers that assisted on the Mount Kembla Pathway.</p>
10	<p>DENDROBIUM – COMMUNITY UPDATE</p>
	<p>Dendrobium Community Update – AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY22 Income - \$119, 469, FY22 spend - \$251, 954 • FY22 payment to be paid (\$119, 468.83). • Current bank balance at ~\$341,951. • Most recent projects funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unanderra Public School – Dance2bFit program - \$10,000 - Figtree Anglican Church – Community Carols - \$27,031 - Figtree Public School – playground - \$100,000 <p>Illawarra Metallurgical Coal - AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illawarra Rugby League (Juniors and Women’s League) • UCI World Bike Race • Indigenous Grant Program <p>AS - Just an update on how the Community Enhancement Program is tracking –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY22 the total income was \$119,469, just over 4 cents a tonne now with the CPI increase. • Community spend was \$251,954. • Still had over \$600,00 in the bank, so been working hard to look at community events. • Current bank balance at ~\$341,951 doesn’t include the \$119,469; it is pending in the system, it’s up around the \$450,000 mark as available funds.

	<p>MA - Mentioned earlier in the year being approached by Figtree AFL Club about funding for a mental wellbeing program. Just got a progress report to say how well it is working with kids and adults alike.</p> <p>PD – Talking to Mike – DCEP - about a Community Battery, Yackandandah south of Albury Wodonga, set up a windmill and a community battery - a community project that benefited a lot of people in the village.</p> <p>AS - Just a heads up, we have funded a position at Wollongong City Council (WCC) for a consultant to come on board to help with a master plan for Kembla Heights and the top end of Mt Kembla. It was agreed in May/June signed and money paid. This was pre-Dendrobium decision of not doing the extension, turning into a bit of a legacy planning piece. There will be extensive community engagement and want ideas like that, so that we do get a plan. It will take a couple of years. Want to know what’s going to happen with the heritage houses, how does the community want to see that used, how does the Council arrange the stake holders, even people not in the area but interested in the heritage aspect. That will kick off the first half of next year. There is a lot of the South32 property and the mountain bike track which is what started the whole process, with surface infrastructure on our property. I see this group as well as the DCEP (Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program) as a group and residents. It’s something exciting in the area and includes Mt Kembla Ring Track, the old cemetery and the old buildings there as well.</p> <p>VT - Just from a bigger picture, thinking about Kembla Heights as a place, if mine doesn’t go beyond 2030 .</p> <p>AS - No, we don’t need that land to mine, idea is to carve the mine lease, that’s why we need to get to the regulators early. So, to carve that area out and what’s left not to mine, give it back to the community.</p> <p>VT- So that’s the whole village itself?</p> <p>AS – Kembla Heights</p> <p>VT – The Village?</p> <p>AS – The land around the village, that includes the cemetery at Cordeaux Road. Only had one meeting with Council so far, so need to determine scope and how many years out are we looking. Kemira Valley is a little bit out of scope as we are still using the land. Once we get closer to a closure date and we know what the scope is, we will start engagement on that piece as well. We want to do it well and we want to work in with what the community wants.</p> <p>Discussion re: the mountain bike trails proposal. South 32 have not approved anything as yet. Discussions continuing. The CCC will be advised of any developments relevant to South 32.</p> <p>Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) sponsorships</p> <p>Discussion around the UCI bike race. Mixed reactions within the community but on balance positive.</p> <p>AS - Launching an Indigenous Grant Program supporting start-up groups, education, on country/community events. About \$100,000 budgeted. Keen to hear from groups for the rest of the financial year. No grant too big or too small within that budget range. Review the amount next year based on responses and enquiries. Already had enquiries of people to join industry group networks to join with other local industry.</p> <p>MA – This is “for profit” businesses?</p> <p>AM- Yes, we want to help people get a leg up.</p>
11	GENERAL BUSINESS
	Simon Thomas (ST) General Manager Dendrobium presented the Slope Stability Update ST- Slope Stability Update

Landslip area has held up relatively well in the most recent rain events. We hand dug some trenches to divert some water around immediate landslip area, so to minimise risk of further deterioration.

- Landslip occurred during heavy rain earlier this year – we are working to remove hazards.
- Risk of further movement without intervention to stabilise the slope.
- Future heavy rain will significantly impact the slope stability if water isn't diverted from the landslip area.

Soil Nail Trial

ST - using the same recovery method that you see on Bulli Pass. It was recommended as the least to impact. The other method of piling would have had a big noise impact on the community. Initially done a trial with six on either end of the fall, with the intention of doing a test and making sure that we've got the depth of those accurate.

- Six holes will be drilled, and nails installed on the escarpment at both ends of the breezeway to support the slope above operations buildings.
- At completion, we will complete landscaping in the area.

Drainage improvement

ST – Modification consent is needed outside for works.

- Stage 1: trenches are being installed using hand excavation and sediment control.
- Stage 2: consent modification is needed for works outside the current consent boundary. The modification will be advertised and placed on public display for 2 weeks.
- Stage 3: the area will be surveyed for a proposed machine access route and any temporary retaining works.

Discussion re the land slip and where it had impacted above ground facilities.

ST - We are progressing with special condition on our Dendrobium Environment Protection licence.

Catchment Area Tour

ST - Trying for the first quarter of next year (2023)

VT – Early February maybe?

MA – Mentioned at our last meeting that our Terms of Reference require that I should review with each member after 3 years.

Individually I plan to have a one-on-one and discuss your participation on the committee. If you want to stay on you need to re-nominate and re-sign the code of conduct. Mostly agree that those members who have been members for a long time, may want to leave if you have reached a point where being on the committee is no longer meaningful for you.

I will meet with the Appin committee on Tuesday. If we need to replace, we advertise.

What I am suggesting is the later part of January or early February 2023, it doesn't involve Wollongong City Council or those representatives from IMC, it is essentially the community members.

You will be asked to sign the application again and the code of conduct. Which goes to the department for re-instating.

Proposed meeting dates for 2023

Thursday - 2nd February

Thursday - 6th April

Thursday - 8th June

	<p>Thursday - 10th August</p> <p>Thursday - 12th October</p> <p>Thursday - 7th December 2023</p> <p>RM – End of year dinner.</p> <p>AM – Thursday 15th December 2022 straight after the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program meeting. Starting @ 7pm – Mt Kembla pub.</p> <p>MA – Round the table for further questions/comments.</p> <p>JE – No, all good.</p> <p>VT– No, all fine thanks Mike.</p> <p>PC – Commented about world problem of resources sold overseas unintentionally ending up in the wrong hands and being used for war efforts etc. Queried if South32 has procedures in place to trace its world-wide distribution of mined products.</p> <p><i>Discussion ensued about the current state of the world and arms supply.</i></p> <p>AS - We did have a significant review about supply chains and there were sanctions put in place, which prevented us from giving to certain areas on the back of that. We are confident we are not contributing to Russia.</p> <p>ST - To my knowledge we don't sell coal to China, it's more Japanese steel mills.</p> <p>SC - Paul Dibb, one of the great defence analyst for Australia, put out a White Paper in 1987 on Australia defence and came out with a statement this year that Australia should be buying and making as many missiles as possible. He is a very conservative defence analyst. IMC has the most premium metallurgical coal in the world. If something was coming our way we would not want it made with Australian coal.</p> <p>AS – We treat that a lot in the same way we treat modern slavery. We want to make sure we are not contributing to a global problem there. There was information of what South32 contribute to and there were sanctions put in.</p> <p>PD – Also queried the contribution fugitive gases from mining are making to global warming and it's impacts on the weather, specific to area 3C?</p> <p>SC - It's where you mine the coal that those gases are liberated, it is not just leaching out continuously. We haven't experienced any gas releasing here or within the catchment. There were some gas releases in the Nepean River when mining was near the river and we monitor those. At Dendrobium, I am not aware of any gas releases.</p> <p>AB – Next meeting could you send out meeting invites that includes a links for Outlook calendar please.</p> <p>MB - I look forward to meeting at Camden Valley Inn in December.</p>
12	ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to PG's requested assistance with historic review of old mine (ST) • Invite to go out through Outlook with calendar link (AM)
13	MEETING CLOSE / NEXT MEETING
	<p>Meeting close: 7.02 pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: 8th December 2022 (Dendrobium Nebo Room)</p> <p>Time: 5.30pm</p>