

# MEETING MINUTES



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

MEETING: #69  
DATE: 07 February 2024 @ 5:00pm  
LOCATION: Menangle RFS  
90 Menangle Road, Menangle

### ATTENDEES: **Community Representatives**

Barbara Weber (BW)  
Julie Sheppard (JS)  
Barry Durman (BD)  
Sam Davis (SD)  
Shane Simpson (SS)  
Cr Matt Deeth (MD) Wollondilly Shire Council

### **Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Representatives**

Rod Mapstone (RM) (IMC - Principal Community)  
Mick Stevens (MS) (IMC - Coordinator Survey and Subsidence)  
Jack Parkinson (JP) (Agurba - Environment Field Officer)  
Hubert Mhangami (HM) (IMC - Specialist Environment)

### **Independent Chairperson**

Mike Archer (MA)

### **Minute Secretary**

Maxine Wiseman (MW)

APOLOGIES: Chris Schultz (CS) IMC - (Superintendent Environment)  
Andy Hyslop (AH) IMC – (Appin General Manager)  
Michael McGrath (MM) CCC member

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.

<b>AGENDA</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Acknowledgement to Country</li> <li>• Apologies and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Minutes of Previous Minutes</li> <li>• End of Panel Report LW709</li> <li>• Questions on notice and actions arising from previous minutes.</li> <li>• IMC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operations</li> <li>○ Environment</li> <li>○ Exploration</li> <li>○ Projects</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>
<b>WELCOME / APOLOGIES</b>	
	<p>Meeting opened at 5:00pm.  Acknowledgement of country.  MA welcomed all members. Anything specific to be recorded in minutes please advise MA as MA is also minute taker this evening.  MA issued apologies for: Chris Schultz (CS) IMC, Andy Hyslop (AH) IMC and Michael McGrath (MM)</p>
<b>DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS</b>	
	<p>MA declared a pecuniary interest, advising that in his role as Independent Chairperson, he is paid for his time by Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. There were no other declarations.</p>
<b>LW709 END OF PANEL REPORT</b>	
	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appin paid approximately \$97.2 million in government royalties attributable to Longwall 709.</li> <li>• Commenced 22 February 2022</li> <li>• Completed 8 October 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Subsidence Monitoring – Site Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measured using a range of survey techniques, including GNSS (Satellite), 2D and 3D.</li> <li>• Most subsidence was consistent or less than predictions which supported the Extraction Plan Application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subsidence Monitoring – LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) surveys.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showed measured changes in surface level and predicted vertical subsidence for Cross-section 2 across LW704 to LW709.</li> <li>• It is considered that the ground movements measured using the LiDAR surveys are consistent with the predictions which supported the Extraction Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Built Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The observed impacts on the built features due to the mining of LW709 were similar to or less than the assessed (i.e. predicted) impacts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Built Features – Main Southern Railway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no impacts on the safety or serviceability of the railway during the extraction of LW709.</li> </ul> <p><b>Built Features – Local Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menangle Road, localized heaving and cracking occurred during LW709 which mined beneath the road.</li> </ul>

- The ground movements measured using the Menangle Road, Hawkey Road and Carrolls Road monitoring lines are consistent with the predictions which supported the Extraction plan.

BW - Is that the location where the slow signs are?

JP – Yes, scheduled for repair in February.

**Impacts to Natural Features – Nepean River**

- No new gas zones were identified within the Nepean River.

SD - What sort of details for private properties are there, is there a summary of works?

JP - There are 15 or more sections that are within predictions.

SD - Is there some sort of statistics done as an overall picture?

**Surface Water Quality -**

- Surface water quality is collected monthly by the IMC Environmental Team.
- Sites have specific water quality TARPs, as defined in the Water Management Plan.
- The graphs showed the electrical conductivity at impact site NRO and control site NR110.
- TARP triggers related to elevated and increasing EC in 2023, most likely related to drying weather conditions and do not reflect a mining impact.

**Groundwater Monitoring –**

- Presentation showed a cross section of Appin mining area displaying IMC borehole S1913 with sensors at various depths.
- No ground water level was triggered during the review period.

**Private Properties –**

- Post-mining bore and dam inspections were undertaken at four properties over the LW709 mining area.
- A most recent bore sample showed a higher concentration of dissolved and total iron samples.
- It is not uncommon for iron to be found in bore water and is not necessarily a mining effect.

SD - Elevated iron levels, is it routinely tested on each bore, or was it implemented because the owner requested it?

JP - As many as allowed are inspected on registered bores.

RM – Notice goes out to landowners, there is a mix of routine and specific approved access to landowners.

**Aquatic Ecology –**

- No changes to aquatic ecology indicators that could be associated with extraction of LW709 have been detected in aquatic ecology data collected in the Nepean River.

*PREVIOUS MINUTES*

Endorsed by – Cr Matthew Deeth (MD)  
Seconded by – Julie Sheppard (JS) – Endorsed

*CODE OF CONDUCT*

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.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### **JS – what measures, if any, are in place to prevent Brennans Creek Dam overflowing into Georges River in wet periods?**

Brennans Creek Dam is managed in accordance with a Trigger Action Response Plan. The volume of water discharged either increases or decreases based on the water level in the dam, with discharge increasing as the dam level rises to provide sufficient capacity to capture runoff from rainfall events. When the capacity of the dam has been reached i.e.

12.5 metres, there are no measures in place to prevent overflow via the spillway. Increased (pumped) discharge will occur when the dam overflows to reinstate the target capacity as soon as practical, while retaining sufficient volume for operational requirements.

JS – Concerned when it does happen.

HM - Anytime there is an overflow we are required to notify the EPA.

SD - Has it only ever overflowed due to high rainfall events?

HM - Yes. Not aware of any other cause.

### **JS – what actions has South32 taken to implement Condition 20, Schedule 4 of the CWEA Management Plan?**

IMC engaged a consultant to develop a conceptual underground emplacement trial. Areas of consideration for the consultant included methods of emplacement used elsewhere within the industry, technical aspects of underground emplacement within a high productivity mining setting, suitable underground storage areas, equipment suitability and estimates of capital and operating costs.

IMC considers the work completed to date, including the assessment by the consultant, along with IMC's commitment to undertake best endeavours to direct coal wash to beneficial use in preference to surface emplacement, has fulfilled Condition 20 of Schedule 4 of the Project Approval. IMC received advice from DPE on 3 September 2020 that the Department considers that South32 has met the intent of Condition 20 of Schedule 4.

SD - Do we have the wording of that condition 20?

JS - Requested more clarification on Condition 20.

### **JS – how much beneficial use of coal wash is being achieved by South32?**

In FY23, coal wash was diverted for beneficial use (Spring Farm Parkway).

JS – requested specific and actual figures for how much beneficial use of coal wash is being achieved by South32.

**ACTION: RM to follow up.**

### **SD requested update on repairs to Menangle Road.**

IMC monitors public roads within the active subsidence area and provides reports to WSC. Repairs have been approved and planned to commence mid-late February pending road access approval from WSC – 840 Menangle Road and 486 Menangle Road

### **IMC to arrange visits to coal wash emplacement area and Georges River rehabilitation area.**

Thursday, 15 February (4 hours)

### **IMC to arrange visit to Mountbatten House.**

Thursday, 29 February (2 hours)



## OPERATIONS

### LW710A

- Commenced 1 November 2023
- 1,069m remaining
- Completion planned May 2024

### LW710B

- Commencing third quarter 2024
- Completion first quarter 2025

## ENVIRONMENT

### Brennans Creek Dam

- Dam level currently ~11.8 m.
- pH 9.0 and EC 1484  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .
- Discharge recommenced on 12 January 2024 due to increasing levels in the dam. Discharge commenced at 1.5 ML/day however has been varied between 0.5 and 3.0 ML/day to allow continued remediation work in Georges River.
- EPA inspection of site (BCD and discharge) in January 2024.

### Appin Water Treatment Plant

- 468 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (36.6 ML in December and 42.6 ML in January).
- Issues with water availability from underground and shutdowns over the Christmas break resulted in lower volumes being discharged in December.
- Membrane fouling and a three-day electrical outage has impacted January discharge.
- Engineering underway for pre-treatment plant to be installed.

### Water Quality Exceedance

- 1 x exceedance of pH recorded at Appin North sewage treatment plant of 50 percentile criteria. Remain within compliance.
- 1 x exceedance of Total Nitrogen at Appin West water treatment plant of 50 percentile criteria. Remain within compliance.

### Georges River Rehabilitation Project

- Rehabilitation works approximately 50% complete at the current stage - Pool 54, 56 and 57.
- Some delays due to rain events however work has been completed to high safety and environmental standards.
- Works are scheduled to be completed here in February 2024, subject to rainfall conditions.
- EPA and Resources Regulator inspection of site in January.

### Monitoring

- Allans Creek monitoring program and brine study report is still being reviewed by EPA technical specialists.

JS - How do you distinguish how much water is going in from up here and how much is going in from Tahmoor?

HM – Site is required to capture water discharge volumes, data available on the South32 website.

JS – Regarding the monitoring on the brine study report, is it a combined effect?

HM – There is separate water quality monitoring

**\*\* Clarification: no brine is discharged from Tahmoor. We undertake our own monitoring.**

SD – With the EPA monitoring have they got your data from all the discharge points?

HM - Unsure, they should have access to it.

JS, I have asked before about how many trucks movements there are.

MD – Can the CCC group ask questions to the EPA?

**ACTION: MA to check if CCC can approach EPA for monitoring data**

### North Cliff rehabilitation

- Shaft sealing risk assessment has been reviewed by Appin Mine. Currently being tidied up for submission to Mines Inspectorate.

	<p><b>Nepean River gas zones</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six recorded in January; down from 9 in November.</li> <li>• No new gas zones.</li> </ul> <p><b>BCD and DREA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BCD Safety Emergency Management Plan has been updated and tested in a desktop scenario.</li> <li>• The DREA Emergency Response Plan has been completed and tested in a desktop scenario. Failure of the DREA does not affect anything offsite.</li> <li>• It is planned to do a full-scale scenario in the coming year.</li> </ul> <p><b>EPL variation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variation approved on 31 January.</li> <li>• North Cliff included in premises definition, including discharge point and spillway for sediment pond and water quality limits in preparation for rehabilitation works.</li> <li>• Water quality limits for LDP 40 incorporated into main body of licence.</li> <li>• Slight increase in limit for total nitrogen from 250 to 350 µg/L for LDP 24 and LDP 40 and change from 50 percentile to 80 percentile.</li> <li>• Biochemical oxygen demand limit added to LDP 23 to allow for discharge of treated effluent during rainfall events.</li> <li>• Minimum discharge requirement for LDP 40 reduced to 1 ML/day to allow for any issues that may influence the ability of the water treatment plant to achieve 1.5 ML/day. IMC will continue to aim for 1.5 ML/day.</li> <li>• Pollution Study added to further investigate the cause and effect of residual toxicity in discharge from LDP 24 and LDP 40.</li> <li>• Drill cores have been added as a waste allowed to be transported to Appin North.</li> </ul> <p>JS – requested a location map of the LDPs.</p>
<p><b>EXPLORATION</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently operating 3 drill rigs</li> <li>• Located within EL4470 and A248</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 mid-2023.</li> <li>• Phase 2 proposed to commence March/April 2024.</li> <li>• Private properties only.</li> </ul> <p><b>2D – Phase 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to commence mid-2024.</li> <li>• Public roads and some private properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>2D – Phase 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed to commence in late 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PROJECTS</b></p>	
	<p><b>AMVA</b></p> <p><b>Siteworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes for tree planting received and being assessed – the company normally used were unable to supply the trees, so an alternative local company has been engaged.</li> <li>• Quiet work is being undertaken out of standard construction hours, e.g. office work, maintenance, fitting electrical systems and shaft preparation.</li> <li>• Service culvert rectification works along HV buried service.</li> <li>• Mobilisation of contractors for service boreholes and switchyard.</li> </ul>

**VS8**

- Pre-sink blasting completed.
- Sinking stage lifted into position.
- Headframe modules lifted into position.
- Acoustic cladding installed.
- Pre-commissioning of winders.
- Main sink due to commence June 2024.
- 16 November – rectification of a misfire, which is within the consent conditions. A letter was received from the DPE confirming this was correct after self-notification.

**VS7**

- Collar construction completed.
- Winder slab concrete pour completed.
- Headframe assembly commenced.
- Sinking stage assembly commenced.
- Pre-sink activities due to commence in February 2024.
- Main sink due to commence in September 2024.

SD – Where is the dirt going?

RM – It is staying on-site.

**Third Party Coal Processing**

- Following unforeseen closure of Russell Vale Colliery (as reported), we are currently assessing our options.

**NRAR Enforceable Undertaking**

- Draft proposal submitted on 29 September 2023
- South32, NRAR, WaterNSW and ILALC have been in discussions to progress the community project.

<https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance/regulatory-responses/enforceable-undertakings/illawarra-coal-holdings-dendrobium-mine>

**VAMMIT – (Ventilation Air Mitigation Project)**

- IMC is currently undertaking a 60-business day review prior to the VAMMIT feasibility study commencing to assess the project's progress and scope.
- The working group meet fortnightly and report back to the IMC Major Projects Steering Committee.
- Work on the VAMMIT Project has been paused pending the outcomes of the review, due in March 2024.



## COMMUNITY

### Complaints

Since our last meeting...

- 1 complaint
- Idling after shift
  
- 1 non-complaint
- Speeding on Menangle Road
  
- 3 enquiries
- Blast sign improvement (AMVA)
- Progress on tree planting (AMVA)
- Mitigation measures (AMVA)

### Community Investment

#### Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

- Science Space – entering second year of partnership.
- Wollondilly Indigenous Playgroup – designed to learn about culture and play in a safe and inviting environment.
- New grant application site launched o Community Programs | Community South32

#### Community Partnership Program

- Douglas Park Tennis Club – defibrillator donation
- Next meeting – 15 February

#### Indigenous Grants Program

- Applications remain open for 2024.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

MA - Resignation affective the end of May.

## MEETING CLOSE

**Meeting close: 6.08pm**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10 April 2024 @ 5pm

**Venue:** Menangle RFS

#### Actions:

- MA to check if CCC can approach EPA for monitoring data
- RM to provide figures for coal wash beneficial use.
- CS to provide location map of LDPs
- CS to provide clarification on CWEA underground trial (Condition 20, Schedule 4)