

MEETING MINUTES



SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING: # 54

LOCATION: Microsoft teams

DATE: 13 July 2021

ATTENDEES:

Mike Archer (MA - Chair)
Sharyn Cullis (SC)
Sam Davis (SD)
Barry Durman (BD)
Peter Chaffer (PC)
Danny Stewart (DS)

ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL:

Antony Leone (AL – South32 Community)
Liam Stower (LS – South32 Community)
Chris Schultz (CS – South32 Environment)
Simon Pigozzo (SP – South32 Environment)
Andy Hyslop (AH – Appin General Manager)
Kathleen Swinbourne (KS – South32 Community)
Glen Alsemgeest (GA – South32 Projects)
Amanda Silarski (AS – South32 Community)
Alexandra Szalla (ASz – South32 Community)

APOLOGIES:

Noel Lowry (NL – Council Representative)
Shane Simpson (SS)
Michael McGrath (MM)

1	PURPOSE
	The purpose of the Community Consultative Committee is to facilitate and maintain two-way communication between South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC), key stakeholders and local 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; environmental performance and community relations; and to keep all stakeholders informed on these matters.
2	AGENDA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country and apologies • Declaration of Interests • Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes / Business Arising from previous Meeting Minutes • Questions on Notice Tracker • Update from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Update ○ Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Operations Update ○ Environment Update ○ Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project • General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terms of Reference – proposed meeting ○ 2021 meeting dates • Meeting close
3	WELCOME / APOLOGIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA opened the meeting at 4:00pm, introducing Antony Leone, Kathleen Swinbourne, Andy Hyslop, Amanda Silarski and Glen Alsemgeest to the Committee, and noting apologies from Shane Simpson, Michael McGrath and Noel Lowry. • MA provided the Acknowledgement to Country – “Illawarra Metallurgical Coal and the Community would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet this evening, the Dharawal People, and pay our respects to Elders past and present and emerging.
4	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS / CORRESPONDENCE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA declared he receives payment from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) to fulfil the role of Independent Chair. It is a requirement of the Government CCC Guidelines that this be noted and stated in the minutes at every meeting. No further declarations were noted by the committee.
5	PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING
	<p>Previous meeting minutes were accepted. Moved by SC and 2nd by BD.</p> <p>Questions on Notice from previous meeting</p> <p>Q. The committee requested additional information on the Extraction Plan Longwall panel configuration and why it is reduced on the East.</p> <p>AL. Longwall configuration moving to the North-West is primarily driven by geology. A geological feature, known as the Wandinong Fault was identified and confirmed with seismic acquisition. IMC confirmed the fault again 12-months ago using a surface-to-inseam borehole which successfully proved the existence and lateral accuracy of the fault.</p> <p>Q. The committee requested additional information regarding the Georges River Remediation Plan trial.</p> <p>AL. Noted that this was discussed in the previous meeting; CS will further clarify in the presentation.</p>

Q. The committee requested a copy of the original Mine Plan from 2011 Bulli Seams Approval.

AL. Provided a copy of the Mine Plan in the presentation and noted it can be located at https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/approvals/bulli-seam-operations-project-approval-notice-nsw-government-approval.pdf?sfvrsn=29eabe20_9

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Community Investment

AL provided an update on IMC investment which included:

- Menangle Community Association - \$10,000 toward the Menangle Hall Upgrade
- Douglas Park Wilton Football Club - \$12,000K toward club development, coaching, training and equipment.
- Great Illawarra Walk - \$50,000 in support of the 2022 event.

SD requested additional information regarding the Menangle Hall upgrade and would like to know what the funding was for. This was taken as a Question on Notice.

AL provided an update on the Community Partnership Program (CPP) investment which included:

- FY2021 investments totalling \$134,000 to the local communities, including the following projects:
 - Cath's Kindy - \$990 for a defibrillator
 - Life Education - \$43,000 for the school program in primary schools and day-care centres located in Appin, Wilton, Douglas Park and Cawdor
 - Douglas Park 355 Management Committee - \$30,000 toward a skillion awning at the Douglas Park Sportsground
 - Southern Highland RFS - \$18,000 for the purchase and installation of a fixed weather station near Appin

Community Complaints

- AL advised there were no complaints received for the Bulli Seams Operations in April, May or June.

Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Project

- AL discussed that a partnership between IMC and the CSIRO that has been established to investigate processing ventilation air methane with new technology.
- AL noted that naturally occurring methane is emitted and the majority of this is drained from the coal seam prior, during and post mining as part of safe operating procedures. It was also noted that drained gas is captured and piped to several local gas power plants where it is converted to electricity for the grid.
- SD questioned if the VAM Project is only looking into methane or if any other gases are included. AL advised that the focus of this project is to reduce methane output from the ventilated air.
- SD requested that a researcher from the CSIRO be invited to the next CCC meeting. This was taken as a Question on Notice.

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ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Appin Area 7 update

- AH advised that mining of Longwall 708B commenced in late April 2020.
- It had progressed about 1,787 metres as at 13 July 2021. There is approximately 460 metres until completion.
- It was noted that progress had slowed as critical strata support work was required. Longwall 708B is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Appin Area 9 update

- AH advised that Longwall 903 had concluded this year. Longwall 904 had commenced and has currently progressed 200 metres.
- It was noted that each longwall has 12-months production time and since Longwall 904 is the primary longwall it has a higher retreat rate at the moment.

BD questioned why IMC was not running two longwalls at the same time. AH advised that there is a little overlap between the two longwalls and they are moved between depending on the required support, however it is most cost effective to run one at a time as additional ventilation is needed to run both (in addition to other considerations).

Nepean River Gas Zones

- CS advised as of early July, 11 Gas zones were active. All are associated with Area 9 besides two in Area 7, one is located near Longwall 701 and one near Longwall 703.
- It was noted that one gas zone has become inactive in Area 9, and a new gas zone has become active in Area 7.

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ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

Environmental Water Project Update

- CS provided an update on the construction of the Appin North water treatment plants, which is progressing.

Permanent Plant

- Bulk earthworks have been completed
- Concrete foundations are nearing completion
- Two reserve osmosis units, one ultrafiltration unit and one seawater reverse osmosis unit have arrived in Wollongong which were manufactured in China
- Piping and electrical contractors are being mobilised
- Pipe racks and pipe supports are being manufactured
- Permanent WTP is anticipated to be producing permeate in November 2021

Temporary Plant

- Commissioning has been completed
- First permeate transferred to Brennan's Creek occurred on 26 May 2021
- Volumes of permeate to Brennan's Creek are 0.8 ML in May, 1.22 ML in June and 7 ML in July. The amount of permeate being produced is increasing and becoming more consistent.
- A temporary shutdown of the plant occurred between 4 and 24 June due to poor quality water being supplied to the plant.

PC questioned if it was a frequent occurrence for the water to be of poor quality that is supplied to the plant. CS advised that the water had high turbidity which was identified prior entering the RO Plant. The risk was the blocking of the filters and causing damage to the treatment plant. IMC is unsure why this occurred as the water that normally comes from underground is significantly cleaner (it is not a normal occurrence).

Brennan's Creek Dam

- CS advised that the discharge continues with limited dilution from the WTP (current EC is 1.36 mS/cm, pH 8.6). Dam level is currently at 11 metres.

Aquatic Health Monitoring

- CS advised that ecotoxicity monitoring and macroinvertebrate sampling were undertaken in May 2021.

SC questioned how the changing electrical conductivity values of permeate relate to downstream

water salinity in Brennan's Creek. CS advised that as there has been limited discharge of permeate from the plant, there are unlikely to be any immediate changes to salinity. Recent eco-toxicity results indicate that Brennan's Creek Dam water has the same eco-toxicity as the permeate from the temporary water treatment plant.

SC questioned if ecotoxicity related to other elements than salinity and if there could be regular reports on the ecotoxicity of the dam water and permeate. CS advised there is currently further research being conducted and the request was noted. CS also advised potential discharges of water from the dam will continue until the water treatment plant has reached capacity. In addition, water will be discharged from the dam during rainfall events..

Georges River Remediation Plan

- CS advised that approval is still being sought for a trial in the catchment area. More information will be provided on the plan when it is approved.

Persoonia Hirsuta Research Report

- The report was submitted at the end of June and is available on the South32 website. It is located here [https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/south32-imc-persoonia-hirsuta-research-report_epbc\)2010_5350_c3.pdf?sfvrsn=e7d98801_6](https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/illawarra-coal-bulli-seam-operations/south32-imc-persoonia-hirsuta-research-report_epbc)2010_5350_c3.pdf?sfvrsn=e7d98801_6).

Noise Exceedances – AE-NS5

- Noise impact criteria exceedances identified at AE-NS5 in August 2020 were notified to the Department following the completion of an investigation.
- The cause of the exceedances was identified to be the operation of a gas extraction recirculation valve.
- Further exceedances of noise impact criteria were identified in the May 2021 monitoring due to the failure of a weld holding part of the internal structure in Fan 3. This has now been rectified.

SD questioned the type of monitoring that is being used and how the noise exceedances are being detected. CS advised that quarterly noise monitoring is currently occurring by a noise consultant across the five Appin noise monitoring sites.

Air Quality Monitor

- Air quality monitoring equipment has been relocated at Appin East.

ISO 14001 Certification Audit

- No non-conformances were identified in this audit.

9 APPIN MINE VENTILATION AND ACCESS PROJECT

- AS provided a recap on the previous meeting, that IMC are proposing to construct two ventilation shafts (one upcast; one downcast) and mine access facilities at 345 Menangle Road.
- AS advised that IMC had recently lodged a modification application regarding this project which will be available for public exhibition later in the month. This will be available at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/13121>
- AS provided the Committee with a video explaining the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project which is located on the South32 website here <https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/appin-mine-ventilation-and-access-project/appin-mine-ventilation-fact-sheets>
- AS provided comments on the important aspects of the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project:
 - The proposed mine access facilities will work alongside the other access facilities for Appin Mine and all accesses will remain open.

- Vent Shaft 8 will be similar in design to Ventilation Shaft No. 6.
- No coal handling facilities proposed at the site, limiting truck movements and the presence of coal dust.
- No equipment workshop or mechanical maintenance will occur at the site.
- Some material deliveries will be brought to site.
- The site is predominately for personnel access which requires supporting bathhouse facilities and administration offices.

DS questioned if water will be pumped to the surface from underground and treated at the onsite water treatment plant. AS advised that the proposed water treatment plant supports the bathhouse and surface facilities only; no water will be pumped from underground for treatment. GA commented that surface water irrigators will be utilised onsite and, as there is no coal handling, collected rainwater is intended to be re-used – additional runoff from the site will be collected in sediment pond.

SC questioned the current existence of vegetation onsite including how much there is, if there were any biodiversity offsets required by IMC for this project and if so, who determines what the offset would be. AS advised that thorough assessments were conducted including a biodiversity assessment which identified the condition of the property typical for cleared land used for farming. There was little vegetation identified. It was also noted that there was no vegetation highlighted in this assessment that would affect any local fauna. AS advised that any offsets that are required are done in accordance with government requirements.

SD questioned if the proposed size of Ventilation Shaft No. 8 was the same as Ventilation Shaft No. 6, and how many car parking spaces were proposed for this site. AS advised that Ventilation Shaft No. 8 is proposed to be the same size as Ventilation Shaft No. 6 which will also include three fans, two of which are operational at any one time and one as a back-up. AS advised an air quality assessment was completed for the Project, and the full assessment will be made available through the public exhibition process. The assessment indicated compliance with legislative requirements. AS noted that about 200 car parking spaces were proposed, with between 80 – 100 personnel accessing the site in any one shift. Additional parking spaces are required to support the change in shift times. GA commented that the other three access sites to Appin Mine will remain open, so staff will be spread across all sites, and only staff requiring access from this location will enter through this site.

DS questioned if waste water will be coming out of the bathhouse. GA advised that this is what the water treatment plant is for, as no water will be coming out of the mine, the available water will be treated and reused.

DS questioned if the right-angle configuration of Ventilation Shaft No. 7 is efficient. AS advised that many studies were conducted to explore the most effective designs for the ventilation shafts and this was determined to be most effective. GA commented that current modelling suggests this is the most efficient, however this does not mean modifications may not occur.

DS also questioned if the proposed shaft sinking method was still being considered by the Project Team. GA advised that due to the size of Ventilation Shaft No. 7, the conventional shaft sinking method is the most effective and the soil removed from the shaft will be used for bunding onsite.

PC requested confirmation that all the soil removed from the shaft will remain onsite. AS advised that soil will be used to create the visual bunding that is proposed around the perimeter of the site.

DS questioned why the proposed intersection access roads did not have a right-hand entry lane on Menangle Road, and how heavily involved local council is with the project, specifically if there was a Voluntary Planning Agreement. AS advised the design considered the direction most vehicles would be accessing and exiting the site which is to the south, however we understand there is concern about the safety of vehicles making the right hand turn and will take this back to the Project Team. The local council is the owner of Menangle Road and is involved in approving the final design of the intersection. There is no Voluntary Planning Agreement with council as the project approval is following the NSW State Government processes. GA provided additional comment, noting that

	<p>primary approvals sit with State Government and secondary approvals are with councils; the intersections designs will have been submitted to State Government for approval and then will move to council where they must meet all requirements and standards.</p> <p>SD questioned the future of the M9 Orbital proposed in this area. AS advised that IMC is working with Transport NSW to understand how the two projects can co-exist.</p> <p>AS advised that the June Community Information Sessions had been postponed and will now be conducted online this week. AS encouraged the Committee to provide this information to their communities as appointments are still available to book. Some common themes that will be discussed, as identified by the Menangle Advisory Panel members are the water storage tanks, conditions of the roads, and drainage including the sediment pond and water treatment plant.</p>
10	GENERAL BUSINESS
	<p>MA raised the topic of the Terms of Reference review and advised the Committee that an extraordinary meeting could take place to complete the Terms of Reference prior to the September meeting. The proposed date for the extraordinary meeting is 10 August 2021. The Committee discussed that they would complete the Terms of Reference review after the Nepean Biobanking tour scheduled for the September 2021 meeting.</p> <p>MA again, encouraged everyone to send through their feedback to him prior to the next meeting. MA reiterated that IMC is an active member of the committee and will also provide their feedback and review the final Terms of Reference.</p> <p>BD requested an update on Mountbatten House. LS advised that he will be visiting site early next week to see what the next steps are. LS will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Meeting dates 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 September – Tour of Biobanking site and potentially Terms of Reference • 2 November
11	QUESTIONS ON NOTICE & ACTIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD requested additional information regarding the donation to the Menangle Community Association. • SD requested a CSIRO researcher attend the next meeting to discuss the VAMP. • LS to provide an update regarding Mountbatten House.
12	CLOSE OF MEETING
	Close of meeting at 5:20pm. Next meeting Tuesday 14 September 2021.