

Appin Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Minutes (Final Draft)



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| Meeting | Appin Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee | Date | 13 June 2024 |
| | | Time | 5pm – 6:30pm |
| Venue | Menangle RFS 90 Menangle Road, Menangle | | |
| Independent Chair | Deborah Palmer (DP) | | |
| Attendees | Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative Barry Durman (BD), Community Representative Michael McGrath (MM), Community Representative Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative Shane Simpson (SS) Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Rod Mapstone (RM), Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Hubert Mhangami (HM), Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Ben Fitzsimmons (BF), Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Cr Matthew Deeth(MD), Wollondilly Shire Council Luca Rocci (LR), VAM Project South32 Ashley Chilcott (AC), Minutes | Apologies | Chris Schultz, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Barbara Weber, Community Representative Andy Hyslop, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal |

| Item | Action item | Responsibility |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Provide ACCC members with date options for a rescheduled site tour, including dates for a separate North Cliff site tour for the month ahead. | Rod Mapstone |
| 2 | Share news article referenced for circulation to the ACCC members. | Deborah Palmer |
| 3 | Share ACCC operations annual report once live on DPFI website. | Deborah Palmer |
| 4 | Updated Nepean River Gas Zone plan to be brought to the next ACCC meeting. | Hubert Mhangami |
| 5 | QoN: Distance between the long wall and active gas zones. | Hubert Mhangami |
| 6 | Confirm whether ACCC will be able to review the Heritage Management Plan. | Rod Mapstone |
| 7 | Confirm how far south Remembrance Road was surveyed and advise. | Rod Mapstone |
| 8 | Email suggested changes to the Terms of Reference to ACCC members ahead of the next meeting. | Deborah Palmer |
| 9 | Confirm availability of Menangle RFS for new meeting date | Michael McGrath |

| Item | Discussion Point | Action |
|------|--|------------------------|
| 1. | <p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all CCC Members and gave an Acknowledgement of Country. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and appreciated their attendance. The chair noted the thorough handover from the previous chair, Mike Archer. | |
| 2. | <p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hubert Mhangami represented Chris Schultz, from Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, in his absence. Barbara Weber, Community Representative and Andy Hyslop, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, were also apologies. | |
| 3. | <p>Declaration of interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson, is paid for by Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. AC is paid as minute taker by DP. The Chair requested any other updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. There were no other declarations made at the meeting. | |
| 4. | <p>Endorsement of previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes from the ACCC April meeting endorsed by SD and seconded by JS. | |
| 5. | <p>Questions on notice and actions arising from previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD asked questions prior to the meeting around AMVA blasts and was advised these will be addressed in the presentation. Action Item 1: A3 hard-copy maps to be brought to meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RM provided maps for committee review. Action item 2: AL to send invitation for ACCC members to participate in MAP site visit to AMVA planned 6 May 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site visit couldn't go ahead due to weather. RM will provide the ACCC members with alternate dates for a rescheduled site tour. | <p>Action 1</p> |
| | <p>DS questioned whether there had been a site visit to Vent Shaft 6 in recent weeks as they had observed mini-buses in the area. RM advised that they were not aware of any site visit.</p> | |
| | <p>JS would like site tours of the North Cliff site and to see the old growth trees. RM will include date options for these tours to the ACCC members.</p> | |
| | <p>JS advised they have been advised about issues with the damage of old growth trees on South32-owned land. It was noted that a contact in Land Services has stated the area includes the oldest blue box in the area. It was discussed that horses have been damaging these trees.</p> | |
| | <p>JS referenced previous involvement with Razorback Landcare, in which Peter Ridgeway organised for a grant to be given to a community group. These funds were used to have trees fenced, ground compacted and air rated. They noted there is an article in the local paper about the work undertaken. The Chair requested that JS share the news article referenced so the Chair can circulate it to the ACCC members.</p> | <p>Action 2</p> |

JS asked if the ACCC members could be provided with copies of the presentation. RM advised that presentations are not provided as they are a visual aid during meeting. DP and RM will work to meet the needs of the group and provide information to the committee.

JS questioned how South32 quantify what is going into the emplacements and how the levy is determined. BF advised that South32 know how much the trucks are taking and have a record of the movements.

6. **Correspondence**

Action 3

- ACCC was notified that Antony Leone has taken a new role.
- Correspondence pertaining to site visit dates.
- Mike Archer provided the annual report for period June 2023 – March 2024, regarding ACCC’s operation for DPHI for review. Once this is reviewed this will be posted to the DPE website. DP will share once live on the DPE website.

7. **Company and other reports**

The Chair invited the update on the Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project first to enable the presenters to then leave.

Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project

- Proposal to construct and operate a VAM abatement demonstration plant using a Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) adjacent to VS6 in Douglas Park.
- RTO converts methane into water and carbon dioxide using heat. It was chosen because of its ability to cope with changes in VAM pressure and methane concentrations.
- VS6 was chosen because a large percentage of methane from our operations is directed to this site, minimal interference with existing operations, and unlikely community impacts.
- Specialist assessments have commenced to inform the design, construction, and operation of the plant.
- Community consultation has commenced, and a community information session is set for 27 June.
- A Modification Application will be submitted to the DPHI and will go on public exhibition for comment.

SD questioned where community update leaflets for the Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project are being distributed. RM advised this will be distributed to landowners in Douglas Park. The Modification Application will be submitted to DPHI in early July 2024.

BF provided context around why South32 are undertaking these projects, explaining that the Australian Government have brought in the Safeguard Mechanism (SGM) which applies to facilities emitting more than 100,000 tonnes of CO₂-e per year.

Methane has 28 times the greenhouse gas potential of CO₂, so the focus on decarbonisation is on abating methane emissions generated from Appin operations. Under the SGM, site specific baseline is established for each facility. If a facility emits more than its baseline, it will be required to surrender

credits for each tonne of CO₂-e emitted. For every tonne of CO₂-e not emitted, a Safeguard Mechanism Credit (SMC) will be generated.

SD questioned whether South32 will be able to switch SGC's between Appin and Dendrobium mines. BF advised that will be possible.

SD questioned how Appin mine's baseline compares to the industry average. BF explained that the current baseline is site specific, and it will later change to industry average.

SD questioned how South32 will measure the methane emissions. BF advised that there are four methods of measuring. There is a good understanding for the site's emissions and the flow coming through the mine, this is used to forecast what future emissions will be.

BD asked what had happened to the west VAM where 20% of methane was going out. Is the methane still being burnt? BF advised that the biggest source of emissions is fugitive emissions.

JS asked what the emplacements give off. BF advised combusted diesel, the use of oils and greases are amalgamated, and those emissions are reported on.

BF noted that the Dendrobium mine has a challenging baseline as it is a low gas domain. The intent of the SGM is to force businesses to create abatement projects. There are a lot of opportunities for South32 and there are projects in the pipeline.

LR further explained that one Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) does 25 cubic metres. 26 of these plants would be needed to manage the entire quantity of emissions. All studies have commenced and are ongoing as part of the modification application. Looking at target construction date of Q2 2025 to construct the RTO.

RM confirmed that the images presented for the proposed project are representational and more detail will be available at the community information session on 27 June.

SD asked what the size of the structure will be and whether there will be additional noise generated from it. LR explained that the ceramic bed is the size of a shipping container with a fan on one side and exhaust on the other. There will be no additional noise generated. One of the benefits of the location at VS6 is the distance to residents and that it is separated by a hill and vegetation.

7.1 Operations update

LW710A is complete. LW710B due for completion in April 2025.

7.2 Environment

Brennans Creek Dam

- Dam level – BCD at capacity and overflowing via spillway following rainfall on 6 June.
- pH 8.6 and EC 1.1 µS/cm.
- Discharge from BCD approximately 3.5 ML/day.

Appin North Water Treatment Plant

- 646 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (42.3 ML in April and 45.0 ML in May).
- Engineering continues for pre-treatment plant.

Water quality exceedances

- Elevated Biochemical Oxygen Demand result of 38mg/L recorded at LDP 38 March 2024 (identified in April).
- **Brine Discharge**
- Allans Creek monitoring program and brine study report is still being reviewed by EPA technical specialists.

Nepean River gas zones

- 2 recorded in May, down from 5 in March.
- No new gas zones.

Georges River Rehabilitation Project

- Rehabilitation works completed at Pool 54, 56 and 57.
- Mobilisation to rehab site pool 38 to rock bar 40 now complete. Drilling and grouting have recently commenced.

North Cliff Rehabilitation

- Shaft sealing risk assessment and application to seal shaft is currently being reviewed by Appin Mine operational and statutory personnel for the submission to Mines Inspectorate for the required approval.
- REF for power line removal has been submitted to NPWS for their approval. NPWS has acknowledged receipt of this but has not committed a timeframe to respond.
- Seed collection underway for native species to be used for future revegetation of the site.

Targeted Assessment Program – Revegetation

- The Resources Regulator undertook a Targeted Assessment Program at Appin North on 29 May 2024.
- The TAP comprises a targeted assessment of how a mine site is managing revegetation to achieve sustainable rehabilitation outcomes.
- Positive feedback was received regarding the emplacement rehabilitation.
- Some opportunities for improvement to the Rehabilitation Management Plan were noted.

ISO 14001 audit

- Re-certification audit undertaken in April/May 2024 by Bureau Veritas.
- Focus on Appin North and WCCPP and IMC environmental documentation.
- One minor non-conformance identified for which a corrective action plan has been approved.

Investigation into cause of toxicity – LDP 24 and LDP 40

- Likely cause of toxicity is deficiencies in calcium and possibly chloride.

- Treatment options considered in the report include:
 - Modifying the water treatment plant configuration.
 - Blending of discharges.
 - Adding calcium chloride to discharge stream.
- Report has been submitted to EPA. Awaiting feedback.
- IMC is investigating the feasibility of the identified options.

Management Plans

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan approved.
- Gas Drainage Management Plan approved.
- Water Management Plan submitted for approval.
- Adaptive Management Plan for EPBC Listed Species submitted to DCCEEW. Comments being addressed.
- Coal Wash Emplacement Area Management Plan and Broad-headed Snake and Southern Brown Bandicoot Management Plan submitted for consultation. Comments being addressed.
- Heritage Management Plan is under review.

JS questioned what gas was identified in the Nepean River gas zones. HM advised it was methane. DS further questioned if there is a plan in place for the two recorded in May. HM will bring the updated Nepean River Gas Zone plan to the next ACCC meeting.

DS asked what the distance is between the long wall and the active gas zones. HM advised he would have to take that question on notice and provide a response for the next ACCC meeting.

Action 4

JS noted that the plans for North Cliff haven't changed in a couple of months and noted that the pace is slow.

Action 5

SD asked whether the ACCC will have the chance to review the Heritage Management Plan. RM will take as action to come back to the committee members.

Action 6

7.3 Exploration

- Currently operating 1 x rig.
- Located within EL4470.
- Drilling to continue on EMAI property.

Seismic Survey

3D – Phase 1 & 2: Completed

- Phase 1 completed in September 2023 (Menangle).
- Phase 2 completed in April 2024 (Cawdor).
- Private properties only.

2D – Phase 1: Completed

- Completed in May 2024.
- Public roads and some private properties.

2D- Phase 2: Upcoming

- Proposed to commence in late 2024 – details and dates to be confirmed.

- Public roads and some private properties.

JS commented that there is a lot of misinformation spreading through the community and through Facebook groups due to lack of information provided and suggested broader communication to the community needs to be undertaken in the future, such as a newsletter or post in the local newspaper. RM advised that landholders within 50m of public roads were notified of the works and suggested that motorists are seeing the works and making comments. Comments are not coming from landholders who are impacted.

MD questioned how far south Remembrance Road was surveyed. RM will confirm with team and contact MD with findings.

Action 7

7.4 Projects

AMVA Project – questions on notice

Schedule 4, Condition 2C states:

"The Proponent must ensure that the noise generated by operational activities at the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Site does not exceed the noise impact assessment criteria set out in Table 2B at any residence on privately-owned land, or on more than 25 percent of any privately-owned land....However, these criteria do not apply if the Proponent has a written agreement with the relevant landowner to exceed the criteria, and the Proponent has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement."

Are there any written agreements with landholders?

Yes.

How is LAeq measured and monitored?

- LAeq is the average sound level measured over a given time, typically 15 minutes. It is a common measure of environmental noise and is typically used to determine the potential or likelihood that noise will cause disturbance.
- LAeq is measured using an integrating sound level meter.
- LAeq is measured onsite by the permanent noise monitors (unattended), and quarterly by attended noise monitoring at nearby receivers.

SD noted that one big bang over that period might not exceed the average and noted that the conditions don't deal with the measurements of the blast well. RM advised that the LAeq isn't the measure for blasts, the LAeq measures general background noise.

Schedule 4, Condition 5A states:

"The Proponent shall prepare a Noise Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary... The Proponent must implement the Noise Management Plan approved by the Planning Secretary."

Noise management for the project is referenced in AMNMP. A Noise Management Plan forms part of the Construction Environment Management Plan and describes how noise will be managed, including:

- Noise management requirements
- Noise monitoring and mitigation

The CEMPs are available on the South 32 website:

<https://hdp-au-prod-app-south32-community-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/5516/9707/1315/Construction-Environmental-Management-Plan---Early-Works-June-2022.pdf>

<https://hdp-au-prod-app-south32-community-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/6616/9707/1316/Construction-Environmental-Management-Plan---Primary-Works.pdf>

<https://www.south32.net/docs/default-source/operations/illawarra/appin/management-plans/project-approval/appin-mine-noise-management-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=aa00ced>

Community notification regarding blasting.

- A blast notification sign has been erected at the site entrance which displays the approximate time of the next blast.
- Emails are sent to registered landholders advising when the next blast is planned.

When will pre-sink be completed on each shaft?

- VS8 – November 2023; VS7 – late July 2024

When will main sink be completed on each shaft?

- VS8 – November 2025; V7 – March 2026.
- Depending on geology and operational factors

When can blasting occur during pre-sink?

- Blasting can occur anytime within the approved hours: Mon – Fri: 9am – 5pm; Sat: 9am – 1pm. (Note – "Out of Hours" blasting is approved for safety reasons and the treatment of misfires)

When are blast times determined?

- It's not possible to provide exact blast times. As an active construction site, blasting is influenced by safety and other operational factors. Great care is taken when preparing a blast and clearing the area prior to initiating the shot.

Do you expect any noise at adjoining properties?

- Noise is managed in accordance with approval conditions and the noise management plan.

SD noted that notifications have not always been accurate and passed on community feedback that the blasts are happening earlier than the expected time. RM acknowledged that this has happened on one occasion and was brought to the attention of the Principal Contractors. Usually, a delayed blast is due to safety reasons.

SD noted that after a 30-minute delay the blast seems unexpected and asked whether South32 could look at email to text alerts for residents impacted. RM advised that those options for communication were provided and no one has taken up the SMS alert option. If a blast is cancelled or postponed, South32 alerts the community.

SD questioned whether things will be different once the shaft is complete. RM advised that it would as the shaft sinking gets deeper. There are also

acoustically clad headframes in place to keep noise and vibration to a minimum.

SD suggested that as less than five residents are impacted, South32 should look to notify them if considerable delays are expected.

Third Party Coal Processing

- October 2023, IMC submitted Modification Applications for Dendrobium Mine Development Consent (DA 60-03- 2001) and the Appin Mine Project Approval (PA 08_0150) to allow the receipt and processing of Russell Vale Colliery ROM coal at the Dendrobium.
- Wollongong Resources recently announced a business review of the Russell Vale Colliery
- IMC has identified opportunities for receipt and processing of ROM coal already stockpiled at Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources at the Dendrobium CPP
- IMC is now seeking to amend the proposed Modifications to enable the improvement of product coal quality from the Russell Vale Colliery, PKCT and other sources via washing at the Dendrobium CPP to meet customer requirements.
- JS questioned whether this was being done to maximise the capacity of the Dendrobium mine. RM advised yes.

NRAR Enforceable Undertaking

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

- IMC has submitted a revised community project for the EU to NRAR
- The Project focuses on Wingecarribee Swamp Rehabilitation
- The latest draft proposal was submitted on 8 May 2024
- Incidental surface water licensing for Dendrobium is progressing.

JS sought confirmation as to whether the Aboriginal Land Council was still engaged to undertake the work. RM advised that South32 will retain ownership of the project.

7.5 Community

Since the last meeting

- 0 x complaints
- 0 x non-complaints
- 11 x enquiries
 - 5 x information of exploration
 - 2 x information on AMVA
 - 1 x Burrells Bridge work
 - 1 x research on IMC land
 - 1 x Dial Before You Dig
 - 1 x community programmes

Community Investment

Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

- South Coast Hockey – In School Development program and Jr Player support.
- Deadly Science STEM program commenced at Picton High School – engaging Indigenous young people in STEM using traditional knowledge and western science.

Community Partnership Program

- Douglas Park Primary School – new playground to cater for the growing population and for before/after school care and school holiday program.

8. General Business

8.1 CCC's Terms of Reference

- The Chair advised that DPHI released revised guidelines for CCC's in June 2023 and the updated terms need to be reviewed with in 6 months. **Action 8**
- The Chair will review the current Terms of Reference against the DPHI guidelines for CCC's and track change suggested changes. This will be circulated to the ACCC prior to the August meeting for review and discussion.

8.2 Other

SD reiterated their request that South32 resurface the Menangle Road. The request was noted by RM.

DS noted Chris Schultz was going to get back to the committee about the vegetation on VS7/8 and requested an update. RM advised that over 1,000 trees were planted along the Menangle Road boundary in April/May of May this year.

DS asked whether South32 are aware of the State Government tree planting initiative for owners who have over 1000 acres and noted that this is something he would like to see South32 pursue.

DS questioned whether the blasts are complete for VS8. RM advised that pre-sink blasting was completed in November 2023. SD asked whether operations will be 24/7. RM advised South32 will need to demonstrate that there will be minimal disturbance from working 24/7.

9. Next meeting

Action 9

The Chair requested for the next meeting date to be changed to Thursday 8 August @ 5pm

MM will confirm availability of Menangle RFS on that date.
