

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Minutes (FINAL)

Meeting Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee **Date** 10 October 2024

Time 5:30pm

Venue Dendrobium Mine, Dendrobium Nebo Room

Independent Chair Deborah Palmer

Attendees

Phil Clunas, Community Representative
 Phil Diamond, Community Representative (VC)
 James Newton, Community Representative
 Simon Thomas, GM³
 Chris Schultz, GM³
 Rod Mapstone, GM³
 Mira Speer, GM³
 Ron Zwicker, Wollongong City Council (VC)
 Yvonne Walker, Minutes

Apologies

Jenny Evans, Community Representative
 Franca Facci, Community Representative
 Jessie Evans, DPHI (invited guest)

Absent

Phil Grant, Community Representative
 Anita Mulrooney, Community Representative

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Review debris at the rail bridge personally	ST
2	Confirm the length of LW22	ST
3	Send notification to the CCC when the LW19A EoP report is online for review	CS
4	Compile a 'Ready Reckoner' outlining regulatory bodies and their function for DCCC members	CS
5	Send link to the Wingecarribbee Swamp project to the DCCC once formally approved	RM / MS
6	Speak with Pacific National to check if any of their carriages currently have issues with squealing brakes	ST
7	Any DCCC member with an interest in sitting on the DCEP should advise DP	All Community Representatives
8	Circulate the approved ToR to the DCCC once finalised	DP
9	Send questions from the DCCC to DPHI	DP

Item	Discussion Point
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 noted that Cr Michael Banasiak did not stand for re-election in Wollondilly Shire. An invitation has been sent to the Council inviting them to nominate a new representative.
2.	<p>Apologies</p>

- Franca Facci
 - Jenny Evans
 - Jessie Evans DPHI
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3. Declaration of interests

- The chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson is paid for by GM³. YW is paid as minute taker by DP.
 - The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.
 - There were no other declarations made at the meeting.
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4. Endorsement of previous minutes

Meeting minutes of DCCC from 29 August 2024 were endorsed as a fair and accurate summary of the meeting.

Moved: JN Seconded: PC

5. Question on notice

- From Jenny Evans to DPHI: When the current mining lease at Dendrobium has ceased, when GM³ has no more vested interest in the local area, and given that they're a private company with significant foreign ownership, what's to stop them from riding off into the sunset without fulfilling the rehabilitation conditions?
- Response from Jessie Evans: The NSW Government holds rehabilitation bonds for coal mines and quarries in the State. For coal mines, they are held by the Resources Regulator. Bonds are not returned until they are satisfied rehabilitation has been satisfactorily completed.
- The Rehabilitation Cost Estimate summary is published on the GM³ website: <https://gm-3.com.au/dendrobium-mine/> under Reports > Mining Leases.
- A list of security deposits across the mining industry in NSW is published on the Resources Regulator website: <https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/mine-rehabilitation/security-deposits>.
- It was noted DPHI is not responsible for mine closure - the Resources Regulator is.

Business arising from previous minutes

- Action Item 1: Representative of DPHI attendance. Jessie Evans was to attend this evening but due to personal circumstances at short notice was not able to. Action closed.
- Action Item 2: Advise possible dates for tour of WC1 and Gas Drainage Plant.
Held Wednesday 2 October 2024. DP and PD attended along with CS, RM and Josh Carlon (GM3). Visited WC21, Swamp 7, and the gas drainage plant. Thank you to Chris and Josh for hosting the tour.
WC21 – Phil D noted the creek was not running which he found disheartening in terms of the progress of rehabilitation. Action closed.
- Action Item 3: Check with Pacific National if there is a way to minimise the use of brakes while descending adjacent to Cordeaux Road, to reduce the unpleasant odour.
Because the Nebo rail line is quite steep compared with a lot of other lines, brake use is required to maintain safe train speeds. All train drivers are trained in the specific technique required. There is unfortunately little ability to reduce the braking requirements. Action closed.
- Action Item 4: Organise logistics team to check rail bridge debris again
The logistics team did another inspection and a tree was removed.

Action 1: ST to review the rail bridge personally as there may be a specific

reason the tree Phil D has reported cannot be removed.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted. Below is a summary:

- 30 August - Email from GM3 (RM) to DCCC – Modification allocation Dendrobium Mine and Cordeaux Colliery
- 30 August – Email from GM3 (AL) to DCCC – Inform – sales update
- 5 September – Email from Chairperson to FF and JN - Modification Application - Third Party Coal Processing (action from the August meeting)
- 11 September – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – draft minutes of August meeting for comment
- 13 September – Email from GM3 (RM) to DCCC - WC21 and gas drainage plant tour – proposal of date
- 18 September – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – draft agenda for October meeting for comment
- 18 September – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – call for questions on notice and apologies in advance of the meeting
- 19 September – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – Jessie Evans from DPHI will attend the meeting online
- 19 – 21 September – Email correspondence between Chairperson and JE on question on notice
- 22 September – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – draft final minutes of August meeting sent to CCC
- 29 September – 30 September – Email from PD to Chairperson various newspaper articles relating to the health of the water catchment
- 1 October – Email from Chairperson to DCCC – draft Terms of Reference for discussion at the 10 October meeting
- 1-2 October – Email correspondence between Chairperson and RZ to confirm RZ as the Wollongong City Council representative on the DCCC following the September 2024 local government elections
- 2 October – Email from Chairperson to Wollondilly Shire Council seeking confirmation of representative on the DCCC following the September 2024 local government elections
- 2 October – Email from DP to Wingecarribee Shire Council seeking confirmation of representative on the DCCC following the September 2024 local government elections
- 8 October – Email from PD to Chairperson re Guardian article on water catchment health. Chairperson forwarded to GM3 (RM) at request of PD
- 9 October – email from JE to Chairperson re Terms of Reference questions

7. Company and other reports

7.1 Operations update

The operations update was provided by ST.

- LW22 commenced production on 10 August 2024.
- Development continuing at MG21A, Corrimal Mains, and Pioneer Mains
- KV Stockpile wall permanent repairs commenced in January and are now complete.

A map was shown of the consent boundary of Area 3C, and the other areas, as per Action Items 7 and 8 of the last meeting.

Action 2: ST to confirm the length of LW22 at the next meeting.

7.2 Approvals

The approvals update was provided by RM.

- Longwall 21A SMP submitted 16 November 2023.
- [Longwall 22 and 23 SMP approved 20 December 2022](#) – variation application for LW23 submitted 14 May 2024.
- <https://gm-3.com.au/dendrobium-mine/>

7.3 Environment

The environment update was provided by CS.

Sandy Creek 21 Aboriginal Heritage Site

- As discussed at the April meeting, an additional rock fracture and associated rockfall were identified at the Sandy Creek 21 Aboriginal heritage site during an inspection by Illawarra Metallurgical Coal on 26 March 2024. Chris showed photos of the overhang that was damaged. The Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and government agencies were notified in accordance with reporting procedures. Illawarra Metallurgical Coal is currently co-developing a specific site management plan in collaboration with the RAPs and the landowner, Water NSW. An inspection was held by the parties jointly today.
- There have been other Aboriginal heritage sites identified and all processes are followed to assess any potential impacts. Longwall design has been changed in some cases to avoid heritage sites.
- Underground water balance has increased. Decreased volume in Areas 1 and 2 and increased volume in Areas 3B and 3C.
- LDP 5 flow in July was an average of 7.97ML/day (max: 9.29ML/d and min: 4.93ML/day), which is consistent with previous months.
- Noise meters have been returned and reinstalled.
- Noise exceedance recorded at R39a as the result of an inversion.
- Improvement to oily water management at GWTP implemented.
- LW19A EoP report in preparation. Presentation to be provided at next CCC meeting if there is time, otherwise the report will be available online.

Action 3: CS to send notification to the CCC when the LW19A EoP report is online.

- Inspection of Corrimal #2 rehabilitation undertaken with WaterNSW and the Resources Regulator.
- NRAR inspection of water discharge from Dendrobium. NRAR monitors volume of water, not quality, which is monitored by the EPA.

Action 4: CS to compile a 'Ready Reckoner' outlining regulatory bodies and what they do, for DCCC members.

- Weed removal at Kemira Valley is continuing, with the focus on Mysore Thorn.
- Review of Environmental Factors (REF) remains with WaterNSW for review for the Littlejohns Tree Frog habitat.
- [Annual Review](#) has been submitted and is available on the GM³ website.
- Personnel change: Luca Franceschini is the new Environment Specialist for Dendrobium.

- Water balance and LDP 5 discharge graphs shown.
- Longwall 19A Triggers and Impacts graph shown and discussed. There was one trigger for Area LW19 and two soil moisture triggers in Area 3C Swamps 155 and 156.

7.4 Projects

The projects update was provided by RM.

NRAR Enforceable Undertaking

- The project arising focuses on Wingecarribbee Swamp rehabilitation with the aims of safeguarding the swamp from further degradation (mostly from livestock), preventing erosion, and promoting the regeneration of native plant species.
- The project will incorporate ecological assessments and traditional land management practices.
- NRAR have endorsed the proposal – GM³ is waiting on formal approval. Once formally approved the project will be placed on the NRAR web page and a link will be sent out.

Action 5: MS to send link to the project to the DCCC once formally approved.

7.5 Community

The Community update was provided by RM and MS.

Complaints since last meeting

- No complaints since the last meeting.
- Phil D noted hearing a train squealing recently.
- CS noted that if there is an issue it's important to raise it through the appropriate channel so GM³ has the details to raise with the rail operator.

Action 6: ST to speak with Pacific National to check if any of their carriages currently have issues.

FY2024 Complaints

- 18 x noise (12 rail).
- 2 x environment.
- 4 x traffic.

Community Investment

DCEP

- The new grant application site is now up and running: www.gm-3.smartygrants.com.au
- Support for the Unanderra Hockey Club to acquire new equipment
- There is an upcoming vacant committee member position. A current committee member is moving out of the area, so is not eligible to continue. The terms of reference of the DCEP state that first right of refusal in terms of a replacement goes to the members of the CCC. Connection to Mount Kembla School is desirable but not essential.

Action 7: Any interested DCCC members should advise the Chairperson once the new meetings are circulated.

GM³

- GM³ Environment team recently assisted Symbio Wildlife Park in the catchment area

with installing 60 nest boxes for the Greater Glider just before the breeding season.

- Additionally, Symbio has resumed the koala thermal drones survey in accordance with our 3-year agreement.
- If someone has a community project in mind, they can suggest it via email: community@gm-3.com.au

8. General business

8.1 CCC's terms of reference

- The Chairperson had sought clarification from DPFI as the DCCC's Terms of Reference (ToR) deviate from the template provided by the Department. DPFI advised to use the template as much as possible.
- The Chairperson used the new template and inserted items from the current ToR which were discussed with the DCCC. Changes included:
 - Wingecarribee Shire has been noted as an interested party and they have been invited to attend again.
 - Committee members are required to be named in the ToR.
 - The ToR must be reviewed annually.
 - Meetings can continue to be a mix of in-person and online attendance.
- Items which the DCCC was required to discuss and agree were:
 - Frequency of meeting – DCCC community representatives indicated they would like to continue meeting every second month, with the third Thursday in February to be the first meeting of the year.
 - Approval of minutes via circular resolution (email), rather than at the next meeting. This would allow for approved minutes to be published and made available to the broader community sooner. The DCCC agreed with this.
- The DCCC confirmed they were comfortable with the proposed new ToR using the DPFI template.

Action 8: Chairperson to circulate the approved ToR to the DCCC once finalised.

8.2 Other business

- End of year dinner: 5 December 2024 at Mt Kembla Village Hotel – please RSVP to Mira.
- Code of Conduct: Deborah asked the CCC if they are happy to agree again on the Code of Conduct. The CCC agreed.
- Phil C: There was a report about a shortage of track grease a few months ago, but have heard nothing further. ST advised Illawarra Metallurgical Coal has also heard nothing further.
- Phil D: Is there any update on the long-term plans for the mine? ST advised there is not.

9. Next meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 5 December 2024 (Dendrobium Nebo Room)

Time: 5.30pm

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting closed: 6:47pm

Questions on notice for DPHI:

Phil D: Do TARP triggers simply reinforce that there are subsidence issues, or does DPHI use the information to take action to improve outcomes?

Phil C: How would DPHI view a possible reapplication to mine Areas 5 & 6 if one were to be lodged by GM³?

Action 9: The Chairperson to send the questions to DPHI for response.