

# Community News

## South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal



MARCH 2024

### Dear community,

On Thursday 29 February, South32 announced it has entered into an agreement to sell Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) to an entity owned by Golden Energy and Resources Pte Ltd (GEAR) and M Resources Pty Ltd. This includes the sale of Appin Mine and its assets.

The sale is expected to complete in the first half of FY25, at which point the business will transition to the new owner who will assume operatorship.

Our focus remains the safe and reliable operation of Illawarra Metallurgical Coal. Over the coming months we will work with the Buyer, our workforce, the local community, community partners, government, customers, and suppliers to support a successful transition of ownership. We are maintaining our regular operations throughout this transition.

GEAR and M Resources are established participants in the Australian metallurgical coal industry, with a strong commitment to environmental and safety standards, who are well positioned to continue IMC's contribution to the local steel industry and the Illawarra and Macarthur regions.

We are committed to maintaining open dialogue with our communities and will keep you informed as we move through this transition.

If you have any enquiries, please contact our Community Line on 1800 102 210 or email [illawarracommunity@south32.net](mailto:illawarracommunity@south32.net).

Sincerely,

Peter Baker  
Vice President Operations  
South32 Illawarra  
Metallurgical Coal







## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

A team of dedicated volunteers from the nearby Appin Mine Ventilation and Access (AMVA) Project Team and the Environment Team cleaned up around the Menangle township doing their bit for Business Clean Up Day on February 27.

Armed with gloves, garbage bags, and a can-do attitude, the group collected and disposed of litter, helping to keep the environment clean and healthy for the community.



## AMVA PROJECT UPDATE

Shaft pre-sinking was completed on ventilation shaft 8 (VS8) in November 2023, including equipment mobilisation, drilling and pre-grouting, and shaft collar construction.

Since then, the sinking stage and headframe modules have been lifted into position. The sinking stage is a platform used to work for the balance of the shaft sinking. Layers of acoustic cladding have been installed onto the headframe, and pre-commissioning of the winders has commenced.

Main sink activities on the shaft are due to commence in mid-2024. This will include routine controlled blasting to the final depth, lining the shaft with concrete, and installing services like power, ventilation, compressed air, and water.

In the meantime, collar construction on ventilation shaft 7 (VS7) was completed, as was the concrete pour for the winder slab. Assembly of the headframe and winder has also commenced. Pre-sink activities on the shaft will begin in March 2024, including drilling and blasting, mucking out material, and installing temporary and permanent ground support. The main sink is due to commence later in the year.



## SUPPORTED ABORIGINAL PLAYGROUP LAUNCHED IN WOLLONDILLY

Community Links Wellbeing has launched a Supported Aboriginal Playgroup initiative in Tahmoor, with funding assistance from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC).

Developed in response to a need for enhanced cultural connection among young Aboriginal children and families in Wollondilly, this multifaceted project addresses cultural, educational, social, and community-building needs within the local Aboriginal community.

“The playgroup is called Gunamaragang Burraay Djindjingara Playgroup, which is Dharawal for Little Child Stars,” said Community Links Wellbeing Aboriginal Community Cultural Engagement Worker, Leann Dykes.

Through Community Links Wellbeing’s work with local Elders and the development of a Community Yarning Circle in Bargo, Aboriginal families identified the need for a Supported Aboriginal Playgroup focusing on cultural connection and awareness.

“The playgroup will be a partnership with the Aboriginal community,” said Ms. Dykes. “Its purpose is to support the wellbeing and development of children, strengthen community ties, and foster cultural pride and resilience.”

The Supported Aboriginal Playgroup will focus on day-to-day activities and host cultural events and celebrations involving the broader community and showcasing the richness of Aboriginal culture.

IMC Vice President Operations Peter Baker said, “The Supported Aboriginal Playgroup is a fantastic initiative, and IMC very proud to contribute funding for its first year of operation. The Playgroup will make a real difference for families with young children living in our local communities.”

## DEFIBRILLATOR DONATED TO DOUGLAS PARK TENNIS CLUB

Douglas Park Tennis Club members and surrounding communities will benefit from a newly installed Defibrillator donated by South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal.

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to diagnose and treat serious heart conditions such as cardiac arrest.







## COMMUNITY GRANTS OPEN | APPLY NOW

At South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, we are committed to creating shared value and positively contributing to the quality of life of our communities.

We actively engage with stakeholders to understand their interests and aspirations and identify opportunities to work together to create shared value.

This includes supporting sustainable development of the local area surrounding our operations; and initiatives that strengthen the culture and ways of life of Indigenous Peoples so that their legacy continues and extends to future generations.

Recent sponsorship and partnerships include:

- a new 3-year partnership with Symbio Wildlife Park to help support koala conservation
- a groundbreaking initiative called the Victim Survivor Advocacy Program in collaboration with the Illawarra Women's Trauma Recovery Centre; and
- empowering young Indigenous men in partnership with the Clontarf Foundation

For more information and to apply for a grant for your community visit [www.community.south32.net/community-programs](http://www.community.south32.net/community-programs)



## INNOVATIVE APPIN PAIR NAMED HVTC APPRENTICES OF THE MONTH

Two apprentices working at Appin Mine have been recognised for their innovative approach to reducing manual handling in the workplace, named HVTC's Apprentices of the Month in December and nominated for HVTC's 2023 Safety Champion.

Riley, a 3rd-year Certificate III Engineering Mechanical Apprentice, and Blair, a 3rd-year Certificate III Electrotechnology apprentice, joined forces to develop a Pipe Roller System as a safety initiative.

The aim of the project was to reduce the risk of hand injuries, limit back strain, assist with preventing burns and heat-related injuries, and enhance productivity.

In addition to the safety benefits, using electric motor-driven pipe rollers significantly improves productivity by reducing the time and effort required for manual rotation. This allows welders to focus on welding, resulting in faster and more efficient work.

# APPIN MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Community Consultation Committee meets bimonthly; the minutes are publicly available on our website. The following items were discussed at our last meeting held in February 2024:

- Longwall 709 End of Panel Report.
- Environment management plans, including the Brennans Creek Dam Safety Emergency Plan, Georges River rehabilitation, and Appin Water Treatment Plant.
- Update on the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project, including progress on controlled blasting activities.
- Update on the current seismic exploration program.
- Information on the Third- Party Coal Processing Project and Ventilation Air Methane Project.
- IMC and the Community Partnership Program generated community investments, including support for Science Space and the Wollondilly Indigenous Playgroup.

The minutes of these meetings are available on our website [www.south32.net](http://www.south32.net)

## EXPLORATION UPDATE

We hold several exploration licences in the local area. We use various exploration techniques, including borehole drilling, seismic surveys, and aeromagnetic surveys, to improve our geological understanding of the region.

There are currently two drill rigs operating around the Cawdor and Menangle areas. Our community team is engaging with local landholders about potential exploration drilling sites. These sites are temporary and fully rehabilitated at the conclusion of operations.

We are also currently undertaking seismic surveying, both 3D and 2D phases, over some of the area within our exploration licences. The initial phase of the 3D seismic survey was successfully completed in the Menangle area in early September 2023. It took place on private properties only, with land access agreements negotiated and in place with those landholders.

Another 3D seismic survey will be carried out around April 2024 on private property only.

The 2D seismic survey is proposed to commence soon after this time on private properties and public roads. It will be carried out in phases in the Bickley Vale, Camden, Cawdor, Mount Hunter, Razorback, Menangle areas, and Northern parts of Picton.

Our Exploration and Community teams will continue to liaise with local residents and the community, and more information will be available once proposed survey dates and details are finalised for upcoming phases. Notification letters will be sent to those landholders along with public roads being surveyed before the survey is carried out.

All the latest details and dates will be published on Our Community Portal.

## APPIN MINE OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Appin Mine is currently operating Longwall (LW) 710A located in the Menangle and Razorback area, and its extraction will continue until mid 2024.

The Community Team is engaging the residents in the subsidence boundary for LW710B. Easily search your property by address to view its location in relation to the Appin mine on our website: <https://community.south32.net> or scanning the QR code.

If your property falls within the LW710B subsidence boundary and you have yet to be contacted, please get in touch with South32 on our free Community Call Line 1800 102 210 or email [illawarracommunity@south32.net](mailto:illawarracommunity@south32.net)

If you have experienced changes to your property due to mining in the area, please get in touch with Subsidence Advisory NSW on 02 4677 6500 or visit [www.subsidenceadvisory.nsw.gov.au](http://www.subsidenceadvisory.nsw.gov.au) for advice on the claim's lodgement process.

Please note, under the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017, you have 12 months from when you first notice any damage to lodge your claim to be eligible for compensation.



## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Follow the South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Facebook Page to stay up to date with what we're doing at our operation and in the community. To find our page, scan the QR code or go to [facebook.com/South32IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal](https://facebook.com/South32IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal)



## LEARN MORE ABOUT MINING

To learn more about our mining activities, head to our Community Portal at [www.community.south32.net](http://www.community.south32.net)



## COMMUNITY CALL LINE

Residents who have questions, concerns or complaints about Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's activities are encouraged to contact us through our Community Call Line on **1800 102 210**. You can also email at [illawarracommunity@south32.net](mailto:illawarracommunity@south32.net)