

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

Meeting Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee **Date** 27 February 2025

Time 5:30pm

Venue Dendrobium Mine, Dendrobium Nebo Room

Independent Chair Deborah Palmer

Phil Clunas, Community Representative
 Phil Diamond, Community Representative
 Jenny Evans, Community Representative
 Franca Facci, Community Representative
 Phil Grant, Community Representative
 James Newton, Community Representative
 Chris Schultz, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
 Mira Speer, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
 Simon Thomas, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
 Luca Franceschini, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal
 Ron Zwicker, Wollongong City Council (VC)
 Yvonne Walker, Minutes (VC)

Apologies

Anita Mulrooney,
 Community Representative
 Cr Benn Banasiak,
 Wollondilly Shire Council

| Item | Action item | Responsibility |
|------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Put together some items / themes that require explanation from LW19A EoP report (held over from February meeting) | FF |
| 2 | Advise MS of interest in attending Mines Rescue Training session | DCCC |
| 3 | Organise inspection of Wingecarribee swamp in 2025 | MS |
| 4 | Provide the trigger response levels listed in the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) | CS |
| 5 | Provide the number of Piezometers near swamp 153 | CS |
| 6 | Obtain some quotes for maintaining the kerosene retort and liaise with MS for her assistance with DCEP and WWC | PG |
| 7 | Organise for the grass around the kerosene retort to be mowed | ST |

Item Discussion Point

- Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**
 - The Chairperson welcomed all CCC Members and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.
 - The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and appreciated their attendance.
- Apologies**
 - Apologies were received from:
 - Anita Mulrooney, Community Representative
 - Cr Benn Banasiak, Wollondilly Shire Council.

3. Declaration of interests

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

4. Correspondence

- 27/02/25 – Email from AM to the Chairperson – apology for 27 February meeting.
- 25/02/25 – Email from RZ to the Chairperson – to attend online.
- 25/02/25 – Email from FF to the Chairperson – request to hold action item over to April meeting.
- 17/02/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – 27 February meeting – agenda, previous minutes and annual report
- 10/02/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – Actions from the December meeting (complaints hotline and NRAR Update) and call for QON by 12 Feb
- 30/01/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – February meeting – draft agenda for comment by 12 February
- 13/01/25 – Email from FF correcting PG's email address.
- 08/01/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – final December minutes
- 17/12/24 – Email from AM to the Chairperson – approval of minutes
- 17/12/24 – Email from the Chairperson to members – draft December minutes for comment by 24/12/24
- 10/12/24 – Calendar invitations for all 2025 meeting sent from the Chairperson to members
- 09/12/24 – Email from the Chairperson to members – call for input into the annual report.

5. Questions on notice / Business arising from previous minutes

- Action Item 1: MS to send link to the Wingecarribee Swamp Project to the DCCC once formally approved.
Completed.
- Action Item 3: MS to check the algorithm.
Completed.
- Action Item 4: MS to circulate the link to the 1800 number to the DCCC
Completed.
- Action Item 5: Community team to confirm call line is operational.
Completed and emailed.
- Action item 6: FF to put together some ideas / themes that require explanation.
Held over until April meeting at FF request (see correspondence)
- Action Item 7: MS to investigate whether the DCCC could meet at Mines Rescue, in conjunction with a tour, to assist with mining awareness.
Seeking expressions of interest. Proposed date and time Mon-Fri 8:30am-12:00pm.
Action: DCCC members to advise MS of interest in attending.
- Action Item 8: LF to update DCCC re faulty noise monitor.
Downloaded logs and found potential SIM card issue. SIM card replaced and monitors installed Friday 28 February. Completed.

- **Action Item 9: DCCC to discuss and organise inspection of Wingecarribee swamp in 2025.**

The Company is currently negotiating with landholders. Once agreements are in place, a tour will be organised.

6. Company and other reports

6.1 Operations

The operations update was provided by ST.

- Longwall 22 production has continued since commencement on 10 August 2024. Anticipated to be finished around January 2026.

Discussion around the percentage of methane and CO₂ emissions. Continuous monitoring is undertaken and percentages are within the predictions (ranging 5-7% for methane and 60% for CO₂ (approx..)).

Discussion around CO₂ emissions, with GM³ noting that most emissions come from scope 1 emissions associated with the coal seam. PD expressed concern that the current good level of information being provided to the DCCC may change/reduce due to new ownership. ST indicated that the monitoring, reporting, and communications arrangements with the CCC will remain the same.

- Roadway development continuing at MG21A, Corrimal Mains, and Pioneer Mains.

6.2 Approvals

The approvals update was provided by ST.

- LW21A Subsidence Management plan submitted 16 November 2023.
- LW22 and LW23 SMP approved 20 December 2022 – variation application for LW23, reducing the width, submitted 14 May 2024 and approved 20 November 2024.
- LW23 – Revised Mine Plan uploaded to the GM3 website.
As previously advised, the Planning Secretary approved:
 - a change to the mining direction by retreating the longwall from the west towards the east
 - shortening the commencing (western) end by approximately 47 m; and
 - narrowing the overall void width from 305 m to 210.5 m.

The Planning Secretary did not approve extending the finishing (eastern) end by approximately 74m.

www.pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-9-gas-management-infrastructure

6.3 Environment

The environment update was provided by LF.

- LDP 5 flow in January was an average of 6.7 ML/day (max: 7.79 ML/d and min: 3.28 ML/d), which is less than previous months. The majority of water pumped out continues to be from Area 3B.
- Feedback received from Targeted Assessment Program – Water, undertaken by Resources Regulator. Rehabilitation risk assessment needs to be updated and surface water management features at closure to be assessed.
- Review of Environmental Factors (REF) submitted to WaterNSW regarding the Littlejohns Tree Frog habitat.

PC asked whether this was being done as a means of offsetting impact.

LF: This is research by the University of Newcastle. Different variables will be assessed as part of the project.

- Management plan updates continue: Air Quality and GHG MP, Traffic MP, Environmental Management Strategy approved. Comments received on Water MP.

PD asked where the comments are coming from. CS noted these were from Water NSW and the Water Group within DCCEEW. All comments and the responses will be incorporated in the Water Management Plan once it is drafted and published.

- Issues remain with one of the noise monitors following reinstallation. SIM card to be replaced and monitors to be installed on 28 February.
- Inspection undertaken by WaterNSW at Ventilation Shaft 2/3. Improvements to erosion and sediment control are currently being undertaken, with completion expected by the end of March.
- Sealing of diesel and solcenic area has been completed.
- Upgrades to the GWTP have commenced.
- CS discussed LW22 Impacts and triggers. A listing of impacts reported since the last meeting, graph and map was presented. The majority of impacts and triggers were rock fractures and rock movements. Some related to reduced water levels in pools, reductions in soil moisture and groundwater levels in comparison to baseline.
- Area 3C: Swamp 154 Soil Moisture and Groundwater – graph was presented.

Swamp 154 soil moisture (soil moisture level lower than baseline) reported in January.

PD asked what it would take for a swamp trigger to register a Level 3. CS noted that a Level 2 trigger has a greater impact than a Level 1 trigger, and there are different parameters that are considered at each trigger level.

Action: CS to provide the trigger response levels listed in the Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP)

Action: CS to provide the number of Piezometers near swamp 153

- Area 3C: Swamp 07 Groundwater and Soil Moisture – graph was presented. Piezometer and soil moisture sites 07_05, 07_07, S07_05 and S07_07 entered LW22 mining area on 3 February 2025. No mine subsidence impact to date.

6.4 Projects

The projects update was provided by MS.

NRAR Enforceable Undertaking

- www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance/regulatory-responses/enforceable-undertakings/illawarra-coal-holdings-dendrobium-mine
- The project focuses on Wingecarribee Swamp rehabilitation with the aims of safeguarding the swamp from further degradation, preventing erosion, and promoting the regeneration of native plant species.
- The project will incorporate ecological assessments and traditional land management practices.
- NRAR has given final approval for the project – GM³ are now in the process of gaining all necessary approvals.
- ILALC has begun recruiting for the project, with First Nations Leading Hand and Ranger positions now available.
- The project scope is available on the GM³ website and the link has already been sent to DCCC members.
- [Wingecarribee Swamp Rehabilitation Project | Illawarra Community](#)

PD asked whether this is private land or owned by WaterNSW.

MS: Some of it is private land. Once heritage approvals have been gained, work can commence on the project on WaterNSW land.

6.5 Community

The Community update was provided by MS.

Complaints since last meeting

- Six environmental complaints in total.
 - 5 x noise (4 relating to train horn usage. 1 relating to bin removal late at night).
 - 1 x dust.

Community Investment

DCEP

- The new grant application site is now up and running: [link](#).
- Support for the Figtree Australian Football Club – Female player support and mental health program.
- Support for Mount Kembla Pathway – new mower and maintenance budget.
- Nareena Hills Public School - 30 new ACER computers and charging station.

GM³

- The Dendrobium Mine team took part in Clean Up Australia Day.
- If community members have a project in mind, they can get in touch by emailing community@gm3.au.

7. General business

- PD noted there are lots of weeds on the track near Stones Road.
LF noted there is a new contractor in place. The weed management activities will now occur twice per month.
- PD asked if GM³ are any closer to knowing the future of the mine after 2030?
ST noted that there has not been any indication provided by the owners yet.
PD asked about Tahmoor Mine and the intentions of the owners. ST is unaware of any plans in relation to Tahmoor.
- PG noted there is a heritage item in Mount Kembla – a kerosene retort – which is not being maintained. PG noted it may be the only retort remaining in Australia from that era and requested if it was possible to get a conservator to have a look at it?

MS: DCEP funding application to be provided to the Mining Heritage Committee but more information is required. MS is happy to help with the application process and to liaise with WCC.

Action: PG to obtain some quotes and MS will then assist with a conversation with WCC due to the retort being on council lands and the DCEP application process.

Action: ST to organise for GM³ to mow the grass around the area of the heritage item.

- Remaining meeting dates for 2025 for ease of reference:
 - Thursday 10 April 2025
 - Thursday 19 June 2025
 - Thursday 21 August 2025
 - Thursday 16 October 2025
 - Thursday 18 December 2025.

8. **Next meeting**

Next Meeting: Thursday 10 April 2025 (Dendrobium Nebo Room).

Time: 5.30pm.

Meeting closed: 6:20pm.

Please note that Chris Schultz will be an apology for the next meeting.
