

## Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

<b>Meeting</b>	Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee	<b>Date</b>	9 April 2025
		<b>Time</b>	5:00pm – 6:30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Menangle RFS		
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Deborah Palmer		
<b>Attendees</b>	Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative Michael McGrath (MM), Community Representative Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council Sandra Moreno (SM), GM <sup>3</sup> James Alchin (JA), GM <sup>3</sup> David Read (DR), GM <sup>3</sup>	<b>Apologies</b>	Andy Hyslop (AH), GM <sup>3</sup> Chris Schultz (CS), GM <sup>3</sup> Barry Durman (BD), Community Representative
<b>Observer</b>	David Henry (DH), Wollondilly Shire Council		

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Site inspection of Vent shafts 7 and 8 to be scheduled in 2025, pending staff availability.	SM
2	GM <sup>3</sup> submission on the Walker Corporation development application to be shared with the ACCC once it is made public as part of the Council assessment process.	SM
3	CCC to be notified when public exhibition of the Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Project commences.	SM
4	GM <sup>3</sup> executive is invited to see the benefits of the CPP funding in the community (noting Wollondilly Shire Council happy to arrange the tour)	SM
5	Send possible dates for mine training course to members to indicate preference.	DP
6	Outline why the longwalls 712-716 extraction plans have shorter lengths than expected	SM
7	Respond to why in February 2025 there were 4 active Nepean gas zones and in April there is only 1 active Nepean gas zone.	CS
8	Respond to how long ago was mining completed under Rockbar 45	CS
9	Respond to whether there is monitoring of Macroinvertebrates at Rockbar 45	CS

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed all CCC Members.</li> <li>The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Dharawal People, and paid respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.</li> <li>The Chair noted David Henry from Wollondilly Shire Council will attend the meetings as an observer.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andy Hyslop, GM<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Chris Schultz (CS), GM<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Declaration of interests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson is paid for by GM<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.</li> <li>There were no other declarations made at the meeting.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>Correspondence was noted during the meeting. Below is a summary of correspondence since the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27/2/25 – Email exchange between MD and the Chairperson – noting apology for the meeting and Teams link not working</li> <li>27/2/25 – Email from SM to members – GM<sup>3</sup> submission to the Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Amendment Act 2024. Link to the community portal and exploration map and Appin Mine Plan</li> <li>6/3/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – draft February minutes for comment</li> <li>14/3/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – final February minutes</li> <li>26/3/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members – draft agenda and call for questions on notice</li> <li>29/3/25 – Email from MD to the Chairperson – QON – why are subdivisions knocked back by GM3 and Subsidence NSW</li> <li>30/3/25 – Email from the Chairperson to MD – confirmation QON forwarded to GM3 for consideration</li> <li>2/4/25 – Email from the Chairperson to members - final agenda</li> <li>3/4/24 – Email from MM to the Chairperson – request for discussion item on the end of year dinner</li> <li>4/4/25 – Email from MD to the Chairperson – confirmation of David Henry (DH) from Council to attend the CCC</li> <li>4/4/25 – Email from the Chairperson to MD – confirmation DH can attend as an observer and contribute accordingly</li> <li>9/4/25 – Email from MM to the Chairperson – request to hold over discussion on incident to arrival time at 5:30/5:40pm.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Actions arising from the previous minutes and question on notice</b></p> <p><b>Actions arising</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vent Shaft 7 and 8 inspection: Due to limited staff availability, the AMVA project tour is postponed. Update will be provided when rescheduled. <b>Action 1.</b></li> <li>Walker Corporation Development Application: No change in the public status of the application. GM<sup>3</sup> will share updates when available. <b>Action 2.</b></li> </ol>

3. CCC to be notified when public exhibition of the Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Project commences. No change. Submission to DPHI scheduled by end of month; DPHI will then inform dates. **Action 3.**
4. GM<sup>3</sup> to provide an update about request from the CPP in relation to increase fund from 3c to equal what is paid into the Dendrobium scheme. Update to be provided following TSA expiry. Detail to be provided on how the CPP is calculated and how the Appin and Dendrobium mines compare.

The request was noted by GM<sup>3</sup> and will be reviewed in consultation with the business and the CPP. Should any change be progressed, the CPP will be advised directly.

The amount is calculated at 0.03 cents per sellable tonne and is paid quarterly.

The main difference between the two trusts is:

- Dendrobium Community Enhancement is a condition of our consent (<https://gm3.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/dendrobium-consolidated-consent-august-2024.pdf>), whereas the Appin contribution is voluntary.
- Independently Chaired by a Department appointed chairperson and reportable to the Department.

The DCEP is indexed in accordance with the CPI.

SM noted the CPI increased is a condition of the DCEP consent.

The group discussed the need to have parity between the CPP and the DCEP and requested GM<sup>3</sup> enable the CPP fund to be indexed in accordance with CPI.

MD suggested the executives of GM<sup>3</sup> come and see the benefits of the programs they are invested in the shire, noting Wollondilly Council would be happy to arrange a meeting with the Mayor for him to show GM<sup>3</sup> legacy in the community to support request from the CPP. **Action 4.**

5. Members not in attendance at the February meeting are encouraged to consider an opportunity to attend a mine training course to be run on a weekday 8:30am-12:30pm, pending members interest. Please advise SM of interest.  
List of dates to be provided to members to indicate preference. DP to send survey to members. **Action 5.**
  6. GM<sup>3</sup> will provide an update in relation to the timeframe to move staff to VS7 and VS8.  
Move is subject to internal business case approval. Closed.
  7. A copy of GM<sup>3</sup>'s submission to the Subsidence Advisory NSW consultation on approved procedures be made available once public. GM<sup>3</sup> submission on the Bill sent on the 27 February 2025: [https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/7917/2802/4076/South32\\_Illawarra\\_Metallurgical\\_Coal.pdf](https://hdp-au-prod-app-nsw-haveyoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/7917/2802/4076/South32_Illawarra_Metallurgical_Coal.pdf). GM<sup>3</sup> submission on the approved procedures sent to the CCC on 14 April 2025. A URL is not available currently as SANSW have not yet published all submissions.  
GM<sup>3</sup> Requested timeframe from SANSW and they advised: "An email update is anticipated to be issued to all stakeholders in the next month, providing details on submissions received and timeframes for the implementation of the new laws and finalised procedures". Closed.
  8. Provide regular updates on the planning for the WCEA stage 4.  
Included in the presentation. Closed.
  9. Link to project approval exploration license to be provided to CCC members.  
<https://community.gm3.au/appin-mine-exploration>.  
Sent 27 February. Closed.
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10. Investigate newsletter distribution area as Eagles Road, Razorback NSW 2571 did not receive a copy. Delivery confirmed. Courier tracking in place. Anticipated the next newsletter will be mid-year. Closed.
11. Link to project approval to be provided to CCC members. Sent to members 27 February. Conditions of Consent: [https://gm3.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BSO-Consolidated-Consent\\_MOD-6.pdf](https://gm3.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BSO-Consolidated-Consent_MOD-6.pdf) noting Appendix 3, page 82 is indicative of the mine plan. This can also be accessed via the DPPI major projects planning portal: [https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=MP08\\_0150-MOD-6%2120241011T043525.354%20GMT](https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=MP08_0150-MOD-6%2120241011T043525.354%20GMT)  
Future Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 and 716 will be published in <https://community.gm3.au/appin-mine-plan> after is approved. Closed.

### Questions on notice (QON)

Why subdivisions are knocked back by GM<sup>3</sup> and Subsidence NSW. Just wanting to understand the planning pathway for what is essentially a paper subdivision with no dwelling to commence construction.

It was clarified that GM<sup>3</sup> does not determine DAs. Subsidence Advisory NSW (SANSW) is the assessing authority. GM<sup>3</sup> provides information on mining plans and subsidence impacts. Applications are typically refused if the site lies within an active secondary extraction area unless mining is complete. GM<sup>3</sup> currently holds approval for secondary extraction up to and including longwall 711.

SM noted it is GM<sup>3</sup>'s role to provide information requested to SANSW and stated GM<sup>3</sup> have no influence over their decision making. The group discussed how long after mining subsidence stops. GM<sup>3</sup> noted they provide an estimate on when that will be.

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## 6. GM<sup>3</sup> update

### 6.1 Operations

- **Safety Incident (6 April 2025):**  
Four workers were injured in an incident at Appin Mine. Two discharged the same day, two remain in hospital in stable condition. Emergency protocols were enacted, and an investigation is underway with NSW Resources Regulator. Operations have been paused pending outcomes.
- **Longwall 710B:**
  - 2,253m extracted to date
  - 268m remaining. It was noted that with the safety incident on 6 April, all production had paused, pending the investigation.
- **Future Longwalls (712–716):**
  - Technical & environmental assessments have commenced to support an Extraction Plan for proposed longwalls 712 -726 in Appin Area 7.
  - Heritage and ecological surveys underway
  - Water monitoring sites active on Navigation Creek, Matahil Creek, and Apps GullySD queried the length of the longwalls and why they had been shorted (LW710A and 711). It was understood that these related to geological features in the coal seam, but this would be confirmed at the June meeting. **Action 6.**
- **Subsidence claims:**
  - 29 active claims as of February 2025. 28 on hold. 1 resolved and paid. 1 new claim received.

## 6.2 Environment

- **Water management:**
  - Brennans Creek Dam level is 10.9m and discharging ~1.2 ML/day
  - Appin North Water Treatment Plant: 1,058.8 ML discharged (Feb: 34.2 ML, Mar: 34.8 ML)
- **Nepean gas zones:**
  - One active zone identified in March 2025. No new zones identified.  
BW noted in the February 2025 minutes it was stated that there were "Four active on last inspection on 20 February 2025. All are upstream of the bridge. No new gas zones" and asked why there was only one active on last inspection. **Action 7.**
- **North Cliff Rehabilitation:** Gas monitoring system in design; powerline removal quotes being reviewed. NPWS has cleared necessary access and GM<sup>3</sup> has commenced relocation of the coal wash stockpiles back to North Cliff site and is expected to be complete in coming weeks
- **Coal Wash Emplacement Area – Stage 4/** Detailed design plans are being developed.
- **Audits.** ISO 14001 Audit scheduled for end April/Early May. Sites being audited include Appin East and Dendrobium.
- **Georges River Rehabilitation:** Drilling & grouting at Rockbar 45 underway; success assessed over 2 years based on climatic conditions.  
DS questioned how long ago Appin Mine extraction occurred under Rockbar 45. Action to follow up. **Action 8.**  
DH questioned if there is monitoring of Macroinvertebrates. Action to follow up. **Action 9.**
- **EPA Review – water management and toxicity:**
  - EPA has reviewed documentation submitted by GM<sup>3</sup> in response to ecotoxicity associated with discharge.
  - Meeting held with EPA on 24 March 2025.
  - Correspondence regarding next steps to be provided by EPA in coming weeks.
  - Exceedance noted at LDP 24: Total Nitrogen result of 0.38 mg/L (above limit of 0.35 mg/L)  
The group discussed why the exceedance had occurred. GM<sup>3</sup> noted there had been an issue with the chlorine dioxide plant disinfection. A valve wasn't working and more disinfection should have been happening. The valve has been replaced.
- **Management Plans (MPs):**
  - All plans are currently under review.
  - Coal Wash Emplacement, Biodiversity, Traffic, Broad-headed Snake & Bandicoot MPs under review or resubmitted
  - Heritage Management Plan including updated Conservation Management Plan yet to be submitted. CMP remains under review.

## 6.3 Exploration

- **Current activities:**
  - One drill rig at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (vertical borehole)
  - One drill rig on private property (surface-to-inseam)
- **Seismic survey:**

- 3D Phase 1 & 2: Completed
- 2D Phase 1: Completed
- 2D Phase 2: Proposed for mid-late 2025 (details TBC)

## 6.4 Projects

- **Ventilation & Access (AMVA) Project:**

### Siteworks

- Visual bund construction ongoing
- Power is on to the new switchyard (to run power underground)
- Vent Fan Contractor commenced work for vent fan switchrooms, transformers, fan ducting foundations.

### VS 7

- Headframe cladding complete
- Headframe assembly complete
- Winder registration in progress
- Mechanical and electrical installation in progress
- Commissioning works in progress
- Main sink due to commence in April 2025.

### VS 8

- Main sinking operations continuing at ~90 m depth
- Blasts well within compliance limits for noise and vibration.
- 24/7 Blasting approval granted by DPPI on 5/2/2025 – Near Neighbours/MAP informed.

- **Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project:**

- The Modification Application will be re-submitted to the DPPI.
- We anticipate that it will go on public exhibition for comment (DPPI manages this process). We will advise the community when this happens.
- Assessments did not indicate impacts to community (noise, visual, air quality, heritage etc.)
- Construction activities will generally occur between 7am and 6pm from Monday to Saturday. No work on Sundays or public holidays.
- Construction expected to occur over approx. 12 months with a workforce of 20 to 30 personnel.
- Once operational, the VAM unit would run 24/7 for the approved life of Appin Mine.

## 6.5 Community

- **Complaints/Enquiries:**

- One complaint and one non-complaint recorded
- 41 community enquiries received (most were in relation to employment opportunities)

- **CPP and Community Investment:**

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- CPP grant platform live: [gm-3.smartygrants.com.au/fy25-illawarra](http://gm-3.smartygrants.com.au/fy25-illawarra)
- Menangle Hall project (\$27,836) endorsed for community fit-out
- Ongoing partnership with Illawarra Women Trauma Recovery Centre to support survivor advocacy (3rd year).

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## 7. General business

- Members were invited to raise questions and general comments under "Around the Grounds."

MM suggested there could be an end of year hamper provided to members of the group, rather than an end of year dinner, as a means of recognising the work of the group. There were mixed views on this suggestion and GM<sup>3</sup> undertook to give it further consideration.

The group discussed the condition of road surfaces at several locations along Menangle Road, particularly in areas affected by subsidence. They sought clarification on how responsibility for road maintenance is determined.

GM<sup>3</sup> explained that they have Management Plans in place with the relevant asset owners, such as the local council. As part of these plans, GM<sup>3</sup> conducts weekly surveys of the roads to monitor for any changes. When changes are identified, GM<sup>3</sup> consults with Council, shares relevant geological reports, and jointly discusses the appropriate course of action.

- **Future Meetings:** Proposed 2025 schedule:
  - Wednesday, 18 June
  - Wednesday, 20 August
  - Wednesday, 15 October
  - Wednesday, 17 December

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## 8. Next meeting

- **Date:** Wednesday, 18 June 2025
- **Time:** 5:00 pm
- **Venue:** Menangle RFS

The Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 6:30 pm.