

Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee – Agenda

Meeting	Appin Mine CCC	Date	20 August 2025
		Time	5:00pm – 6:30pm
Venue	Menangle RFS		
Attendee	Deborah Palmer (DP), CCC Chairperson Sam Davis (SD), Community Representative Julie Sheppard (JS), Community Representative Michael McGrath (MM), Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative	Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative Barry Durman (BD), Community Representative Clr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council Andy Hyslop (AH), GM ³ Chris Shultz (CS), GM ³ Sandra Monero (SM), GM ³	
Observer	David Henry (DM), Wollondilly Shire Council		

Apologies

Item	Discussion Point	Lead
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	Deborah Palmer
2.	Apologies	Deborah Palmer
3.	Declaration of interests	Deborah Palmer
4.	Correspondence	Deborah Palmer
5.	Questions on notice and action arising from previous minutes	Deborah Palmer
6.	Company and other reports	GM ³
	7.1 Operations	
	7.2 Environment	
	7.3 Exploration	
	7.4 Projects	
	7.5 Community	
7.	General business	Deborah Palmer
8.	Next meeting	Deborah Palmer

Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

Meeting Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee **Date** 20 August 2025
Time 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Venue Menangle RFS

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
 Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council
 Andy Hyslop (AH), GM³
 Sandra Moreno (SM), GM³
 Chris Schultz (CS), GM³

Apologies

Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative
 David Henry (DH), Wollondilly Shire Council (observer)

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	GM ³ 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
2	GM ³ executive is invited to see the benefits of the CPP funding in the community (noting Wollondilly Shire Council happy to arrange the tour). GM ³ supportive of request – logistics' TBC	SM
3	SM to raise with GM ³ the request to receive the Extraction Plan application draft prior to the next CCC meeting to enable members to prepare comments as part of the proposed briefing process.	SM
4	The Chairperson write to DPHI on behalf of the CCC seeking clarification on the consultation requirements with the CCC in relation to the draft Extraction Plan. Include a request for DPHI representatives to attend a future CCC meeting to hear members' views directly and discuss the plan.	DP
5	Comments on the independent environmental audit (IEA) of the Bulli Seam Operations Project (BSO) to be sent to the Chairperson by 3 October for forwarding to Onward Consulting	All
6	Confirm when longwall extraction occurred under Rockbar 49.	SM
7	Confirm if boreholes at Douglas Park Reserve, Park Street and Durham Street are still monitored.	SM
8	SM to review existing data to assess what additional information can be reported by GM ³ on subsidence claims, including resolution timeframes.	SM

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all CCC Members. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Dharawal People, and paid respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative David Henry (DH), Wollondilly Shire Council (observer)
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 GM³. The Chair requested any updates on pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. There were no other declarations made at the meeting.
4.	<p>Correspondence</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"> 20 August – email from DP to CCC – Independent Environmental Audit and opportunity to respond by 3 October 13 August – email from SD to CCC – three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why the extra ducting linked to all 3 VS6 fans when the CO2 equivalent abated is trivial? Given the RTO system is proven (unlike the VAMMIT system proposed earlier), why not go to a full abatement system now? What government assistance will GM³ receive for this project? 13 August – email from BW not SM noting information placed on the Douglas Park Facebook community pages 13 August – email from SM to CCC public exhibition for MOD4 – Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project has commenced 7 August – email from DP to SD – acknowledgement of email 7 August 2025 – Email from SD to DP – update on when the extraction plans for LW712-716 secondary approval will be made available for CCC and public comment 7 August – email from DP to CCC – agenda for August meeting and June minutes. 23 July – Email from DP to CCC – draft August agenda for comment by 6 August 9 July – Email from DP to CCC – final June minutes 26 June – Email from DP to CCC – draft June minutes for comment by 4 July 24 June – Email from DP to SD – response to email form 23 June 23 June – Email from SD to DP – Will the Geoscience Australia report be public 19 June – Email from SM to CCC – update to exploration drill rig information
5.	<p>Actions arising from the previous minutes and question on notice</p> <p>Actions arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vent Shaft 7 and 8 inspection: Due to limited staff availability and the Projects focus on critical tasks, we are unable to facilitate a site tour for the AMVA Project. Action closed. Provide an update on GM³ 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: DA tracker is available on Wollondilly Council’s website. https://www.yoursay.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/planning-proposal-brooks-point-road-no-3-appin Action 1.

3. CCC to be notified when public exhibition of the Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Project commences. Public Exhibition announced by DPHI for 13/08/2025 - 27/08/2025. Action closed
4. Notify the CCC of the Tahmoor payments in the condition of consent: Not in the Conditions of Consent. Tahmoor Coal committed to a \$3.4 million contribution toward upgrades at the Bargo Sportsground. SD noted that there is \$10,000 paid annually to the Tahmoor CCC to fund requests for information/research to assist the CCC. SM noted, as per previous ACCC discussions, GM³ is happy to fund on a case-by-case basis the knowledge building of the ACC. Action closed.
5. Advise if the proposed CPI increase was incorporated as part of the end of year budget review. Budget review process and update to Community Investment Plan will occur Q4 2025. Action closed.
6. GM³ executives are invited to see the benefits of the CPP funding in the community (noting Wollondilly Shire Council happy to arrange the tour). GM³ supportive of request – logistic TBC.
Action 2.
7. Notify if there has been an increase or decrease in the number of operational safety incidents at Appin Mine. GM³ noted comparing injuries per year, there has been a reduction on incidents and frequency of occurrence. Acknowledgement of recent events in Appin Mine in safety and an update on mine workers who had been injured was provided. Action closed.
8. Clarification on why additional exploration is being conducted at Razorback along Mt Hercules Road. SM agreed to provide an update: Reply provided by email to ACCC on 19 July 2025. Action closed.

Questions on notice (QON)

- Provided in the body of the update.

6. GM³ update

6.1 Operations

- **Longwall 711:** ~222m extracted; ~4013m remaining. Started on 2 July 2025 and planned completion Q4 2026 (18 months to expected completion). AH noted there maybe changes to the mine plan at Razorback. GM³ currently working with the regulator and an update will be proved at the next meeting.
- **Extraction Plan (712–716):**
 - Survey and fieldwork have been completed.
 - Technical reports and management plans to be completed in Q3 2025.
 - Consultation with the CCC has commenced and will continue.
 - Consultation with government agencies and public authorities will occur prior to submission in Q3 2025.
 - Submission is planned for Q3 2025.
 - Expectation that approval will be granted in 2026.

Question on notice: When the extraction plan for LW712–716 (secondary approval) will be made available for CCC and public comment?

- The Extraction Plan is not put on public exhibition and therefore feedback is not provided to the Department, although, any feedback will be addressed by GM³ within the CCC meetings.
- Extraction Plan consultation will occur with relevant agencies and asset owners prior to submission.

- Consultation has commenced and will continue through to the expected submission date.

The group discussed the consultation process and questioned the adequacy of engagement with property owners within the LW712–716 area, as outlined in the guidelines. AH advised that the Bulli Seam Project Approval was previously consulted on and was made available for public exhibition prior to approval. The Extraction Plan is a subsequent component of the Mine Plan, providing detailed information on how mining activities will be conducted and how potential risks will be managed.

Members reiterated their ongoing concerns on the likely lengthy timeframes for resolving subsidence claims given the scale of mining planned in these panels.

There was also discussion about the timing of pre-mining property inspections, noting that these are typically undertaken one longwall panel ahead of extraction.

Members further discussed the consultation requirements with the CCC set out in the Extraction Plan Guidelines and questioned whether the current approach represents genuine consultation or primarily information provision. Members expressed a strong preference to receive the draft Extraction Plan for LW712–716 well in advance of submission to allow sufficient time for review and to provide informed feedback. SM to raise this request with GM³ **Action 3.**

It was agreed that the Chairperson would write to DPHI on behalf of the CCC seeking clarification on the consultation requirements with the CCC in relation to the draft Extraction Plan. **Action 4.**

6.2 Environment

- **Brennans Creek Dam**
 - Dam level – 12.5 metres.
 - Discharge is currently occurring at approximately 3.5 ML/day.
- **Appin North Water Treatment Plant**
 - 1203 ML has been discharged through LDP 40 (36.5 ML in June and 37.3 ML in July).
- **Nepean gas zones**
 - Eleven (11) active on last inspection in June 2025. River not inspected in July due to increased rainfall and river levels.
 - No new gas zones.
- **North Cliff rehabilitation**
 - Gas monitoring system fabrication is about to commence.
 - Contracts for the powerline removal have been awarded. Mobilisation to site is expected to occur in September with work to commence soon thereafter.
- **Coal Wash Emplacement Area – Stage 4**
 - Detailed design plans continue to be developed.
- **Audits**
 - Independent environmental audit (IEA) of the Bulli Seam Operations Project (BSO) scheduled for end 2025 with site inspection in October.
 - Onward Consulting will be reaching out to consult with the CCC (through the Chair). The Chair has emailed the ACCC the information on 20 August. Onward Consulting have invited comment from the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) regarding

the Project, as they relate to the relevant consents/approvals. The CCC have also been invited to comment on the Project's performance with other requirements. It was noted that comments regarding the performance of the Project in meeting these obligations were welcome under the following headings (as relevant):

- compliance with requirements
 - progress to meeting requirements
 - details of incidents of non-compliance
 - adequacy of actions taken
 - adequacy of the requirements of the approval / licence
- Comments are sought by 3 October (or earlier to allow for consolidation) and can be sent to the Chairperson to send to Onward Consulting. **Action 5.**

- **Georges River rehabilitation**

- Rehabilitation of the final site Rockbar 49 was completed 25 July 2025.
- Monitoring of rehabilitated sites is ongoing. Determination of success will be two (2) years post rehabilitation pending favourable climatic conditions.
- Pointe Engineering have demobilised from site.
- Consistent wet weather has hampered final rehabilitation grout patching of the sites, however the boreholes that were accessible on Rockbar 39, 40 and 45 were rehabilitated in early August.
- Grout patching will continue over the coming months when lower flow conditions allow for it.
- Hydrogeologist has been engaged to review the monitoring data available but early indications show that flows have been too high to determine the success of the project.

Members discussed the grouting methodology and expressed an interest in seeing how the rehabilitation performs in a few years. This was noted by GM³.

GM³ to confirm when longwall extraction of the area occurred. **Action 6.** J(Post meeting note: June 2025 Meeting noted- Mining occurred in the vicinity of Rockbar 45 in the West Cliff mining area in August 2011 (LW34), then June 2013 (LW35), then August 2015 (LW38)).

- **EPA review – water management and toxicity**

- Draft Pollution Reduction Program provided.
- Feedback was provided to the EPA and further discussions have occurred.
- Additional information to be provided to the EPA prior to finalisation.
- An update will be provided to the CCC at the October 2025 meeting.

- **Management plans**

- *Persoonia hirsuta* Offset MP yet to be approved by DCCEEW.

- **Biobanking sites**

- Contractor engaged for goat control at Nepean River site. Only one goat removed to date.

- Annual Reports provided and submitted for the Nepean and Appin West sites.
- **General**
 - Dosing chamber at Appin East stormwater pond was damaged and is under repair. Dosing is currently occurring using a manual as opposed to automatic process.
 - Annual Review and Annual Return being prepared.
 - Two (2) exceedances of BOD 50 percentile limits – one at LDP 4 and one at LDP 38. Compliance achieved for reporting period.
- **Rainfall**
 - No issues occurred with recent rainfall.
- **Aquatic Health Monitoring – Georges River**
 - The summary report (Niche, 2025) on the aquatic health monitoring program in Autumn 2025 (and relevant previous seasons) is summarised below.
 - *Although there were reductions in Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Tricoptera (EPT) taxa indices recorded during Autumn 2025 at upstream and downstream sites (when compared to Spring and Autumn 2024), these scores are indicative of continued apparent trends as part of the long-term monitoring program and no indicators of any acute stream health issues were identified associated with mine water discharge.*
 - *These increases and decreases of macroinvertebrate index scores are likely attributed to the changes in site specific microhabitat compositions, and changes to this associated with weather events and above average rainfalls for the locality.*
 - *The differences in relative declines or relative increases among the sites likely reflect site specific habitat constraints and how these factors influence the type of change observed.*
 - An update will be provided to the CCC at the December meeting.

DS raised if the boreholes at Douglas Park reserve, Park Street and Durham Street are still monitored. GM³ committed to provide a response at the October meeting. **Action 7.**

6.3 Exploration

- 1 drill rig (surface-to-inseam) was on private property located on Plateau Drive. Rehabilitation in-progress.
- 1 drill rig (standard) is on private property located on Mt Hercules Rd – two (2) boreholes planned. 1st borehole in progress. 2nd borehole will commence following completion of the 1st hole.
- Exploration activities at Appin Mine to be temporarily paused from Q4 2025. Drilling activity to continue at Dendrobium Mine.
- **Seismic survey**
 - 3D – Phase 1 & 2: *COMPLETED*
 - 2D – Phase 1: *COMPLETED*
 - 2D – Phase 2: *UPCOMING*
 - Proposed to commence in 2026 - details and dates to be confirmed.

6.4 Projects

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

- Approval received for continuing 24/7 Blasting granted 29 July 2025;
- VS7 and VS8 continuing 'Main Sink' construction.
- Sound-dampening temporary headframes and shaft blast doors are now fully installed at both shafts to reduce blast noise, which is typically inaudible at receivers.
- Monitoring continuing (GM³ property and private landholders).

Siteworks

- Visual bund construction from shaft spoil ongoing (image previous slide)
- Civil works for the fan switch rooms, transformer skids, and fan ducting foundations began in February 2025 and are ongoing (image below).
- Mechanical fittings to the fan ducting foundations will commence in the near future.

VS 7

- Main sinking operations commenced in April and are continuing at ~81 m depth (target 590 m)
- Blasts generally not audible.

VS 8

- Main sinking operations continuing at ~165 m depth (target 560 m)
- Blasts generally not audible

Project Update 14 has been issued in the Menangle area.

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

- Modification Report was submitted to the Department on 24 January 2025.
- An updated Modification Application was submitted on 6 June 2025.
- Public Exhibition has been announced by the Department.
- Project Update flyer was distributed to Douglas Park community via letterbox, online.

Questions on notice relating to the VAM Abatement Project

1. Why the extra ducting linked to all 3 VS6 fans when the CO2 equivalent abated is trivial?

The reason for the design change was:

- The pipeline linking the Regenerative Thermal Oxidisation (RTO) unit and VAM stream has been designed with mine safety and future scalability in mind, potentially allowing for the integration of additional RTO units (which would be subject to separate approvals).
- Testing of the Safe Duct connection method (between the discharge point of VS6 and the new unit) for effectiveness and scalability.

- A Visual amenity study was conducted indicated negligible visual impact due to the surrounding existing terrain and screening.

2. Given the RTO system is proven (unlike the VAMMIT system proposed earlier), why not go to a full abatement system now?

- RTO has been identified as the most suitable GHG abatement technology for the Appin Mine at the site of VS6.
- Existing RTO technology is proven at much higher concentrations than those at typical NSW coal mines (including at VS6), its effectiveness relies on a multitude of factors that are specific to each unique ventilation profile (content, concentration, flow rate, gas composition) to each upcast shaft.
- Testing the effectiveness of the RTO technology at scale for the methane concentrations at VS6 is the purpose of this trial.

3. Government assistance will GM³ receive for this project?

This project received \$15M of funding from Coal Innovation Fund, with a co-contribution of approximately \$18.1M from Illawarra Coal Holdings

GM³ explained that this is a research and development pilot project attracting significant interest from both government and industry. It is the first Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO) to be trialled in Australia's coal industry and aims to test the effectiveness of this technology.

The current pilot system is not designed to manage the mine's total emissions; if the technology proves successful, a larger-scale RTO would need to be constructed in the future.

Members also discussed the image used in the recent community newsletter. GM3 clarified that the image represents what a full-scale VAM system could look like if a larger RTO were built. The infrastructure currently under construction for the pilot is much smaller in comparison.

When asked about potential noise from the project, GM³ advised that a noise assessment was conducted as part of the application process and that noise limits have been set under the project's conditions of consent.

6.5 Community

- **Complaints/Enquiries:**

- No complaints received since our last meeting
- 1 Non-Complaint, A community member in Appin reported noise and vibration allegedly originating from Appin Mine; however, no mining operations are currently occurring in proximity to the residence.
- 37 enquiries mostly related to contractors and employment opportunities. 4 related to subsidence.

SS noted their concern at the use of the term "non-complaint". They noted that it was still a complaint, but not one that related directly to the mine. GM³ acknowledged the observation and provided clarification on the terminology used in their complaints handling procedures. A non-complaint is recorded where investigations have determined GM³ not to be the cause of the of dissatisfaction.

- **Subsidence claims**

- 28 claims lodged as of August 2025

SD sought more detail on the nature of the subsidence claims, particularly regarding the length of time taken to resolve them. SM advised that this information is not accrued in a way that links each claim to the exact timing of longwall extraction. However, GM³ will review the available data to determine what can be included in the next report.

Action 8: SM to review existing data to assess what additional information can be reported for the GM³ on subsidence claims, including resolution timeframes.

- **Community Investment via CPP:**
 - **War Memorial Grant Support**

The CPP endorsed an application from the Appin War Memorial requesting \$13,000 to support the design, planning, construction, landscaping, permits, and signage for the memorial.
 - **Douglas Park Public Primary School equipment Grant:**

The CPP endorsed a \$5,000 grant to the Douglas Park Parents and Citizens Association to purchase three Felton Park settings for the Douglas Park Public Primary School playground.
 - For interest in community projects email: community@gm3.au GM3 or via grant application at: <https://community.gm3.au/grants>
- **Sponsorships**
 - Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council fun day NAIDOC week held on the 11 July 2025
 - Arts Alive Wollondilly Shire Council to occur on the 11 October 2025.
- **Appin Mine Memorial**
 - Annual memorial service honouring the 14 people who tragically lost their lives in the 1979 Appin Mine Disaster the 24 July 2025.

7. General business

- Internal organisational changes were noted with Chris Schultz focussing on Dendrobium mine and will no longer be on the ACCC. Members thanked Chris for his valuable and knowledgeable contribution the ACCC.
- Members were invited to raise questions and general comments.
 - BD noted concerns about the length of the longwalls proposed as part of LW712-716.
 - JS raised concerns about the impact on Westcliff from reject emplacement and questioned why GM³ does not sell all rejects overseas, as Metropolitan reportedly does.
 - GM³ explained that a portion of its coal rejects are already sold overseas and that rejects have beneficial reuse potential, particularly in construction. It was noted that GM³ actively seeks opportunities to sell rejects and competes with Metropolitan in this market.
 - The committee also discussed the potential for underground placement of rejects; however, GM³ advised that this has not been possible in Australia due to significant operational risks.
- **Future Meetings:**
 - Wednesday, 15 October
 - Wednesday, 17 December

8. Next meeting

- **Date:** Wednesday, 15 October 2025
- **Time:** 5:00 pm
- **Venue:** Menangle RFS

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