

Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

Meeting	Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee	Date	15 April 2026
		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 Andy Hyslop (AH), GM ³ Sandra Moreno (SM), GM ³ Antony Leone (AL), GM ³ James Alichin (JA), GM ³ David Henry (DH), Wollondilly Shire Council (observer)	Apologies	Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Advise the CCC when visual assessments of the Coal Wash Emplacement Area Stage 4 are available.	GM ³
2	Reshare the Mountbatten House Conservation Management Plan (CMP) with the CCC.	GM ³
3	Continue including the gas zone mapping in future CCC presentations.	GM ³
4	GM3 to review historic records to confirm if Cataract/Nepean River remediated (grouting) following subsidence ~30 years ago. If so, provide details (i.e. flow rates etc.)	GM ³
5	Provide the Modification Report for Coal Wash Emplacement Area Stage 4 (BSO MOD 7) to the CCC and seek member feedback.	GM ³
6	Provide the visual impact assessment for Coal Wash Emplacement Area Stage 4 (BSO MOD 7) to the CCC once completed.	GM ³
7	Confirm the expected life of Stage 4.	GM ³
8	Request Subsidence Advisory to provide information to the CCC on the typical timeframe for assessment and resolution of subsidence claims.	Chairperson
9	Provide the CCC with the monitoring data for the Navigation Creek site at the next meeting.	GM ³
10	Update the Terms of Reference to include revised position titles and the current	Chairperson

date, and circulate the final version to members, noting that members may attend meetings online where required.

11	Write to members who were not in attendance at the meeting to seek formal recommitment to the Code of Conduct.	Chairperson
12	Submit a signed copy of the Code of Conduct agreement.	James Alchin

Item	Discussion Point
1.	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members and GM³ representatives. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held, the Dharawal People, and paid respect to Elders past, present and emerging.
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shane Simpson (SS), Community Representative Danny Stewart (DS), Community Representative Barbara Weber (BW), Community Representative Matthew Deeth (MD), Wollondilly Shire Council
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"> 18 February – email from the Chairperson to DPHI seeking for the CCC meet to discuss Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 – 716 23 February – email from SD to the Chairperson on DPHI meeting and return email from the Chairperson to SD. 24 February – email from the Chairperson to DPHI – follow up on meeting request to discuss Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 - 716 24 February – Email from DPHI agreeing to meet to discuss Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 - 716 26 February -email from the Chairperson to DPHI and CCC members – meeting initiation for 5 March to discuss Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 - 716 2 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – correspondence from DPHI on Community Consultative Committees 2 March – email from SD to the CCC re Joint meetings 2 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – happy to discuss at the April meeting – would want to know the purpose of the meeting 3 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – sharing of Appin CCC and Dendrobium CCC member details

- 3 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC - seeking confirmation of who will attend the DPHI meeting (and follow-up emails from members confirming)
- 5 March – email from the Chairperson to DPHI meeting attendees – draft notes of the meeting
- 9 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – February final minutes
- 16 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – summary of key points of meeting with DPHI
- 16 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Reminder to RSVP to attend the Vent Shaft 7 and 8 tour (and follow-up emails 17 and 18 March)
- 19 March – email from the Chairperson to the CCC - draft agenda and QON by Wed 1 April
- 1 April – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – April meeting – final agenda
- 1 April – email from the Chairperson to the CCC – April meeting – Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct
- 13 April – email from the Chairperson to the CCC as requested by GM³ -Bulli Seam Operations Project Approval (MP 08_0150) known as Modification 7 (MOD 7) - to be discussed at the April meeting.

5. Actions arising from the previous minutes and question on notice

Actions arising

1. RSVP to AL or the Chair to attend the tour to Vent Shafts 7 and 8 on 26 March 2026 from 1–2pm.

GM³ advised this action was completed. It was noted that GM³ will endeavour to arrange another tour for the Appin CCC members in the future.

2. Confirm whether gas zones are still being monitored east of the twin bridges at Douglas Park along the Cataract River.

GM³ confirmed that monitoring is continuing monthly up to the extent shown on the map in the presentation (Gas Zone 10). Action closed.

3. Show visual assessments of the Coal Wash Emplacement Area Stage 4 when available.

GM³ advised the CCC would be informed when those visual assessments are available. The CCC will be notified when the modification goes on public exhibition and there will be opportunity to comment at this stage. Action remains open to be discussed at the June meeting (**Action 1**)

4. Provide an update on Mountbatten House.

GM³ provided an update on Mountbatten House and the associated heritage works. An updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Mountbatten was developed and approved in 2025. GM³ noted the CMP outlines measures and recommendations for change and maintenance to support the long-term management of the heritage item. Key heritage principles include retaining original fabric and minimising changes, ensuring works are reversible and respectful, removing intrusive or non-significant elements, demolishing later additions that impact heritage value, and careful dismantling under heritage supervision.

GM³ further advised it is progressing the works outlined in a letter of advice dated 3 February 2026, being:

- removal of intrusive elements from the Cottage (arches), better presentation of the significant fabric and reroofing of the building; and

- modification of the Mountbatten House courtyard entry to provide safe mobile plant access to areas of the roof requiring repair and maintenance.

GM³ advised that Archive Heritage is preparing a Statement of Heritage Impact and that the contractor has been asked to prepare a scope of works, including details of materials and construction methods, as the next step. Photographs and a floorplan identifying retained, removed, replaced and new fabric were included in the presentation. Action closed, with further updates to be provided as works progress.

There was discussion about the meaning of the CMP requirement that works be “reversible and respectful”. It was noted that, in this context, reversible means that changes made to the heritage building could be undone in the future if required.

A member requested that the CCC be given an opportunity to undertake a tour of the cottage. Another member asked whether a development application would be required for the proposed works. In response, it was noted that there would be heritage consultation with Council as part of the process.

There was also discussion about the long-term use of Mountbatten House following mining. It was noted that the mine closure planning process would require GM³ to consult with stakeholders about future arrangements for the site.

Members recalled that, many years ago, there had been discussion at the CCC that the building may be donated as a community asset in the future. GM³ noted this comment.

Action 2: GM³ to reshare the CMP with the CCC.

6. GM³ update

6.1 Operations

GM³ provided an operations update for Appin Mine. The presentation noted the following indicative longwall timing, subject to change:

- LW711A commenced on 2 July 2025 and was completed on 1 February 2026, with an expected duration of approximately 8 months.
- LW711B commenced on 22 February 2026 and is planned for completion in Q1 2027, with an expected duration of approximately 12 months.

GM³ advised that, as at the meeting date, approximately 273 metres of LW711B had been extracted, with approximately 2,194 metres remaining. GM³ also referred members to the interactive online mine plan map.

Approvals – Extraction Plan 712–716

GM³ provided an update on the approvals timeline for the Extraction Plan for Longwalls 712 to 716. The presentation noted:

- survey and fieldwork completed
 - technical assessments completed
 - CCC feedback received in October 2025
 - The Extraction Plan was submitted for consultation with government agencies and public authorities in December 2025
 - agency and public authority consultation material, including the ACCC, was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in February 2026
 - DPHI-led consultation with agencies and public authorities occurred in February 2026
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- some late submissions from agencies and the outcomes of DPHI consultation were to be addressed by ICH in April 2026.

Approval was noted as anticipated in Q3 2026.

The chairperson noted the meeting members of the CCC had with DPHI regarding the Extraction Plan. The key points of that meeting were shared with the CCC on 5 March 2026.

Extraction Plan variation

GM³ also advised that shortly after approval of the Longwalls 712 to 716 Extraction Plan, ICH proposes to submit a variation to amend the proposed longwall lengths to align with the current mine plan. The presentation stated that this revised longwall layout would reduce the total mining period for Longwalls 712–716 from 81 months to 65 months, with Longwalls 713 to 716 each between 3 and 5 months shorter.

GM³ presented the following comparative information:

- number of houses directly mined beneath reduced from 110 to 95, being 15 fewer houses, with 22 houses having reduced predictions;
- predicted repair category "no claim / R0" increases from 63–73% to 72–82%;
- predicted repair category "R1 or R2" reduces from 18–24% to 12–18%;
- predicted repair category "R3 or R4" reduces from 7–11% to 4–8%; and
- predicted repair category "R5" remains at 2–3%.

6.2 Environment

GM³ provided the following environment update:

Brennans Creek Dam

- The dam level was 12.01 metres as at 7 April 2026.
- Discharge was occurring at approximately 2.95 ML/day.

Appin North Water Treatment Plant

- 67.13 ML had been discharged through LDP 40, comprising 33.66 ML in February and 33.47 ML in March.

Nepean gas zones

- On 13 March 2026, four releases were active and no new gas zones were identified.

There was discussion about the cause of the gas releases, with GM3 advising that the current longwalls were not responsible for these releases. A member commented on the extent of the gas zones shown on the map, and GM3 advised it was willing to continue including this information in future presentations. There was also discussion about the extent of grouting undertaken in the area. GM3 committed to confirm when the grouting was undertaken and whether there is an inspection record showing the flow at that time.

Actions:

- GM3 to continue including the gas zone mapping in future CCC presentations. **(Action 3)**

GM3 to review historic records to confirm if Cataract/Nepean River remediated (grouting) following subsidence ~30 years ago. If so, provide details (i.e. flow rates etc.) **(Action 4)**

Georges River rehabilitation

- GM³ advised rehabilitation is complete at all sites, with patching of boreholes still awaiting water levels to recede. GM³ noted that post-rehabilitation rainfall and catchment flows have been reviewed by a specialist, who recommended continued monitoring until conditions are more representative of the pre-rehabilitation period.

Management plans

- Water Management Plan continues to be reviewed.
- Coal Wash Emplacement Management Plan has been submitted to the Department, with agency feedback received.

Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project (VS6)

- Project approval was received on 24 November 2025.
- Construction commenced on 13 April 2026 for early works, including access track preparation.

Catch4 VAM Abatement Project Trial (VS2)

- GM3 advised the CATCH4 program is testing a new approach using catalysts to convert methane into carbon dioxide and water at much lower temperatures than regenerative thermal oxidiser technology
- GM3 advised approvals are being sought for construction.

Coal Wash Emplacement Area – Stage 4 (BSO MOD 7)

GM³ advised that a letter had been issued to the CCC and that feedback is being sought from members. GM³ presented a comparison between the approved Stage 4 concept and the optimised Stage 4 concept proposed under the modification. The key differences presented were:

- footprint / landform area reduces from approximately 60 hectares to an optimised Stage 4 design of approximately 49 hectares, while retaining the approved footprint to allow for potential future design refinements, meaning no overall reduction in disturbance;
- maximum landform height increases from 331 m AHD to 357 m AHD;
- slope design changes from some slopes greater than 1V:4H to all slopes being less than or equal to 1V:4H;
- water management will involve new clean water and mine water diversions; and emplacement volume remains unchanged at approximately 26 Mt.

GM³ advised that the Modification Report will be provided to the CCC and that member feedback will be sought. GM3 also advised that the visual impact assessment will be provided to the CCC once complete.

In response to a question about why Stage 3 had not yet been completed, GM³ advised that this was due to heritage constraints. GM³ also noted that Stage 3 is expected to be completed by 2028/29 (depending on beneficial reuse rates).

Members noted concern about the proposed increase in height, particularly in relation to potential visual impacts, and stated that they would need to review the visual impact assessment before forming

a final view. There was also a question about whether the EPA would be consulted as part of the process.

A question was raised about the expected life of Stage 4. GM³ took this question on notice.

Actions:

- GM³ to provide the Modification Report to the CCC and seek member feedback. **(Action 5)**
- GM³ to provide the visual impact assessment to the CCC once completed. **(Action 6)**
- GM³ to confirm the expected life of Stage 4. **(Action 7)**

General

GM³ reported:

- one exceedance of the Total Nitrogen 80 percentile limit at LDP 24 (AW WTP), being 0.38 mg/L against a limit of 0.35 mg/L; and
- one exceedance of the lower pH 50 percentile limit at LDP 4 (AN STP), being 6.29 against the lower limit of 6.5.

Updated NSW policy settings

GM³ advised that on 19 March 2026, the NSW Government announced a suite of interconnected policy changes that reshape the regulatory environment for coal mines in NSW. The presentation referred to the NSW Coal Industry 2026–2050 strategic framework as establishing the government’s position on coal production to 2050. The presentation also quoted Minister Houssos that demand for the State’s metallurgical coal is expected to remain strong in support of Australia’s sovereign steelmaking capability.

GM³ further noted:

- the EPA Climate Change Licensee Requirements introduce mandatory greenhouse gas obligations for EPL holders emitting 25,000 tonnes or more of CO₂-e per year, including annual reporting, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans, and compliance with sector-specific mitigation requirements;
- the EPA Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Guide for NSW Coal Mines prescribes mandatory fugitive and VAM abatement requirements with phased deadlines from 1 July 2027 to 1 July 2034; and
- the Emissions Reporting and CCMAP Guidance provides requirements for annual emissions reports and CCMAP content, with the POEO (General) Regulation 2022 to be amended to give those requirements legal force through EPL conditions.

A member asked how these policy settings and abatement requirements relate to methane releases in the Nepean area. GM³ advised that these emissions are nominally accounted for in GM³’s reporting, but are immaterial related to overall emissions. GM³ further noted that the primary focus of the abatement program is on targeting the largest methane release areas, which are located around the vent shaft.

6.3 Projects / construction

GM³ provided a construction update for VS7 and VS8. GM³ advised that:

- visual bund construction from shaft spoil is ongoing, with Stage 1 at the northern end finished and landscaped in April 2026;
- the switchyard, which runs power underground, is operational;

- civil works for the fan switch rooms, transformer skids and fan ducting foundations began in February 2025 and are ongoing; and
- replacement tree planting near the Finns Road intersection occurred in November 2025 and has established well.

GM³ further advised:

- VS7 main sinking operations commenced in April and are continuing at approximately 200 metres depth, around 34% complete; and
- VS8 main sinking operations are continuing at approximately 322 metres depth, around 58% complete.

There was discussion about opportunities to improve the visual presentation of the vent shaft infrastructure. A member suggested that artwork could be incorporated on the side of the vent shaft. GM³ advised that this could be considered in the future and noted that GM³ is also looking at the potential inclusion of artwork on the vent shaft.

6.4 Exploration

GM³ advised that exploration planning for Appin Mine is ongoing. The seismic survey update provided was:

- 3D Phase 1 and 2 – completed;
- 2D Phase 1 – completed; and
- 2D Phase 2 – upcoming in 2026, timing to be confirmed.

6.5 Community / complaints / enquiries / claims

GM³ advised that since the last meeting there had been:

- 2 complaints received, being 1 relating to a window crack and 1 relating to driver behaviour; and
- 0 non-complaints received.

GM³ also reported enquiries for the period 16 February to 15 March 2026 as:

- contractor – 0;
- employment opportunities / HR – 4;
- land management – 1;
- grants / sponsorships / donations – 6;
- subsidence – 4; and
- other – 0.

6.6 Subsidence

GM³ presented a subsidence claims update, noting:

- 28 claims previously;
- 27 current claims as at April 2026;
- 1 determination issued as not mining related; and
- 0 new claims received.

It was also noted that, due to changes in the legislation, any new claims lodged in future will be managed by Subsidence Advisory.

There was discussion about the response previously provided by Subsidence Advisory to the CCC. Members noted that it had not addressed the question of how long it typically takes for a claim to be assessed and resolved. The CCC requested that Subsidence Advisory provide further information on indicative timeframes for the claims process.

Action 8: Chairperson to request Subsidence Advisory to provide information to the CCC on the typical timeframe for assessment and resolution of subsidence claims.

LW711B – Subsidence impact at Navigation Creek

GM³ advised that on Saturday 11 April 2026, it received a community report regarding water and gas emission, including a strong odour, at Navigation Creek above the mining area of Appin Mine Longwall 711B. GM³ advised that:

- an immediate site inspection and monitoring were undertaken;
- gas was detected, localised to the creek area, and the odour was confirmed; and
- subsurface water discharge was confirmed.

GM³ advised the likely cause remains under investigation, with the current hypothesis being sandstone strata gas interacting with an old borehole, likely influenced by subsidence. GM³ advised the following actions had been implemented:

- establishment of an exclusion zone;
- ongoing gas and water monitoring;
- water sampling and sediment controls; and
- notification of the regulator, residents, and relevant agencies.

There was a question about whether the hole presented a fire hazard. GM³ advised that methane is detected at the point of emission, but that the level of risk reduces with distance from the hole (no current risk to the community). An exclusion zone is set up with ongoing gas monitoring and site presence.

The CCC requested that the relevant monitoring data collected for the site be provided at the next meeting.

Action 9: GM³ to provide the CCC with the monitoring data for the Navigation Creek site at the next meeting.

6.6 Community

GM³ provided a community investment update under the Community Partnership Programme, including:

- support for the Miracle Babies Foundation Nurture Time program at Campbelltown Hospital's Special Care Nursery, with funding to assist expansion of the service and increase support visits for vulnerable families;
- funding for the Appin Public School P&C Association Technology for Learning Initiative, including laptop charging stations for every classroom; and
- continuation of support in 2026 for the Rotary Picton Club "U Turn the Wheel – Target Zero" program.

GM³ also advised that funding was provided through the Community Partnership Program to the Douglas Park Public School P&C Association to support new playground facilities in collaboration with

Wollondilly Shire Council, Veolia and the school community. GM³ noted the playground will provide long-term benefits for students by encouraging outdoor activity, social interaction and inclusive play opportunities.

The presentation also included recent community communications material, including community newsletters, project information and meeting notices.

7. General business

Review of Terms of Reference

As required by the CCC guidelines, the CCC reviewed the Terms of Reference and discussed the need to update several administrative details. GM³ agreed to provide an updated list of the relevant position titles for inclusion in the document. It was also noted that the date should be updated.

One member raised the possibility of allowing members to attend CCC meetings online when needed. The Committee discussed this and agreed that members may attend meetings online where circumstances require, subject to arrangements being made to support their participation.

Once these changes have been made, the final version of the Terms of Reference will be circulated to members. **(Actions 10 and 11)**

Review of the Code of Conduct

The CCC reviewed the Code of Conduct and members provided a verbal recommitment to meeting the requirements of the Code. To formalise this, the Chairperson will write to members following the meeting to seek their recommitment to the Code of Conduct.

Action 12: It was noted that James Alchin is to provide a written signed copy of the Code of Conduct agreement. This will complete the formal recommitment process arising from the Committee's review of the Code.

The next 2026 meeting dates were noted as 17 June, 19 August, 21 October and 16 December 2026.

8. Close

The Chair thanked Committee members and GM³ representatives for their constructive contributions and closed the meeting.