

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee Minutes (Final)

Item	Action item	Responsibility
1	Address the topics in the document prepared by FF on LW19A EoP report in future meetings (with June Knowledge Share to be postponed until August meeting)	GM ³ / MA
2.	Organise for the CCC to inspect the catchment (aiming for 13-17 July 2026 - not Thursday 16 July. Should include Little John Tree Frog habitat, Swamp 7 and 9)	MS
3	Advise GM ³ of any other areas of interest for the catchment inspection before, or when, the inspection date is confirmed	PD
4	Provide more information about other proactive initiatives from GM3 are in place to reduce any impact on the local community or the environment	MA
5	Confirm with DPHI that the DCCC would like the Planning Secretary to talk to the function of the DPHI at the June meeting	DP
6	DCCC members to identify specific information, issues or questions they would like addressed and provide these to the Chair. GM ³ will then review the request and advise whether the information can be provided from existing internal data or reporting. If the information is not available, or if further interpretation is required, the Chair will consider whether an appropriate external subject matter expert should be invited to assist the Committee, consistent with the CCC guideline	DCCC

Meeting Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

Date 23 April 2026

Time 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Venue Dendrobium Mine, Dendrobium Nebo Room

Independent Chair Deborah Palmer

Attendees Phil Clunas, Community Representative
Phil Diamond, Community Representative
Jenny Evans, Community Representative (VC)
Franca Facci, Community Representative
Phil Grant, Community Representative
Anita Mulrooney, Community Representative
James Newton, Community Representative
Luca Franceschini, GM³
Joah Furney-Goodwin, GM³
Matt Rubbi, GM³
Mira Speer, GM³
Yvonne Walker, Minutes

Apologies

Matt Anderton, GM³
Simon Thomas, GM³
Ron Zwicker, Wollongong City Council

Absent

Cr Benn Banasiak,
Wollondilly Shire Council

Item Discussion Point

1. 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.

2. Apologies

- Apologies were received from:
 - Matt Anderton, GM³
 - Simon Thomas, GM³
 - Ron Zwicker, Wollongong City Council
- Absent
- Cr Benn Banasiak, Wollondilly Shire Council

3. Declaration of interests

- The Chairperson declared a pecuniary interest, advising their time as Independent Chairperson is paid for by GM³. YW is paid as minute taker by DP.

4. Correspondence

- 21 April – RZ apology for the April meeting
- 13 April 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Final April Agenda
- 8 April – Email from the Chairperson to Wingecarribee Council - remaining dates for 2026
- 31 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Update on Secretary attendance
- 26 March 2026 – Emails between the Chairperson and the Office of the Secretary DPHI re meeting attendance in June
- 27 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Draft April agenda and questions on notice Terms of Reference attached.
- 23 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to Wingecarribee Shire Council re vacant position for Council on the CCC
- 23 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to PD – follow up actions from the February meeting
- 11 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Final February minutes
- 6 March – 2026 Calendar invitations updated to JN who provided new email address
- 3 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the CCC – Draft February minutes
- 3 March 2026 – Email from the Chairperson to the Dendrobium and Appin CCC members who agreed to share contact details linking these people together
- 2 March 2026 – Correspondence from DPHI on the CCC sent via the Chairperson.

5. Questions on notice / Business arising from previous minutes

- Action Item 1: Address the topics in the knowledge share document prepared by FF in future meetings.

Underway. April question: Given an increase to the population relying on water from our catchment; how does the water loss and water quality now compare? To be covered in the Environment section. **Action 1**

- Action Item 2: MS to organise inspection of the catchment in 2025.

Group discussed school holidays 13-17 July 2026 - not Thursday 16 July. **Action 2**

- Action Item 3: DP to follow up with PD to identify areas of particular interest for the catchment inspection.

Some areas were noted during the course of the meeting and are captured in general business.

- Action Item 4: PD to register inspection of fire trails along Benjamin Road to the RLF Community Complaint Line.

PD spoke with Mark Davidson and Krishna Mac (RFS). Fire trail maintenance on the GM³ lease will be raised at the next RFS meeting. The RFS will return to PD after their meeting.

The DCCC discussed tree loppers who had been working on Benjamin Road. GM³ confirmed the Company had organised this; the RFS inspected it and were satisfied with the work.

It was noted there are three fire trails on the GM³ lease – Benjamin Road, Stones Road, and the Dendrobium Fire Trail.

The DCCC discussed whether Mysore Thorn is still being removed and GM³ confirmed a contractor clears it twice a month.

- Action Item 5: LF to check who owns the land adjacent to Matthews Flat for follow up about Mysore Thorn on the property.

Complete. The land is owned by Redgum Ridge. It will be handed over to WCC later this year along with funds for management of the area.

- Action Item 6: MS to speak with the contractor responsible for tree cutback near Central Avenue about the amount of cutback.
Complete. The contractors have fixed a lot of it up and understand the brief moving forward.
- Action Item 7: DP to ask CCC members whether they are comfortable with their details being shared with the Appin CCC.
Complete.
- Action Item 8: DP to write to Wingecarribee Shire about the vacant position on the CCC.
Complete.
- Action Item 9: DP to follow up with the CCC about the vacant position on the DCEP.
Complete. While AM expressed interest, when the DCEP Constitution was reviewed there was found to be no vacancy.

6. Company and other reports

6.1 Operations

The operations update was provided by MR.

- Mine operations have continued in Area 3C.
- LW21A extraction commenced on Tuesday 17 February – anticipated to continue until the end of August.
- LW21A-23 relocation expected to occur over September / October.
- Development continuing at Corrimal Mains, MG24 gate road, and Figtree Mains
- <http://youtu.be/Qe128tRWNwU> link to Dendrobium Operational Video.

6.2 Approvals

The approvals update was provided by MR.

Longwall 21A

- Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) approved 9 July 2025.
- GM³ has provided additional material to DPHI as required by the SMP approval conditions.

Longwalls 24-29

- SMP for Area 3C is currently with the Government for review.
 - Longwalls have been designed to be setback from an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site of high significance and other significant surface features including Cordeaux Dam and Wongawilli Creek.
 - Mining is scheduled until approximately 2033 so a modification to the existing Consent is required for mining to continue past 2030.
 - LW23 SMP Modification has been approved by DPHI. As previously advised, the Planning Secretary has approved:
 - Changing the mining direction by retreating the longwall from the west towards the east
 - Shortening the commencing (western) end by approximately 47m
 - Narrowing the overall void from 305m to 210.5m.
 - The Planning Secretary did not approve extending the finishing (eastern) end by approximately
-

74m.

- An interactive mining map is available on the GM³ webpage at the link below.

[Dendrobium Mine - GM3](#)

6.3 Environment

The environment update was provided by LF.

- Quarterly noise monitoring undertaken 12th and 13th February – it was confirmed there were no exceedances of the noise criteria.
- Progression on feral deer management – two shoots conducted on GM³ lands at Kemira Valley during March and April. GM³ is working with Water NSW and the National Parks and Wildlife Services to incorporate programs west of the escarpment.
- Noise mitigation – pump installed at GWTP to reduce use of vacuum truck.
- APZ inspection with RFS around Mt Kembla and Kembla Heights – no major issues identified. A new contractor has been engaged to manage the Kembla Heights APZs.
- Littlejohns Tree Frog Habitat: February inspection found an unconfirmed LJTF tadpole sighting. March inspection did not go ahead due to catchment closure. Planned again for later this month.

University of Newcastle will be monitoring quarterly for 3 years – water quality, depth, flow, vegetation; looking for the presence and abundance of LJTF adults and tadpoles and collect genetic data, and record male breeding calls.

It was noted that the LJTF habitat should be included as part of the catchment tour.

- Partnership with Symbio has been approved to be extended. This has been publicly announced with MPs Park and Scully.
- LDP 5 Discharge was presented.
 - LDP 5 flow in March was an average of 9.78ML/day (max: 11.26 ML/d and min: 5.94ML/d) which is a slight decrease from the previous month. The majority of water removed from the mine was from Areas 3B and 3C.
 - One of the members noted that records from 10 years ago would show that the discharge was 5 ML/day
- LW21A Impacts and Triggers – graph was presented and a map shown.
 - There were 2 groundwater triggers in Swamp 9 and one in borehole S2208A (more information below), and a rock movement.
- Area 3C: Swamp 09 Groundwater and Soil Moisture – graph was presented.
 - Site 09_01 mined under by LW21A on 17 March 2026, level 2 Rate of water recession trigger identified and reported on 8 April 2026
 - Site 09_02 mined under LW21A on 14 March 2026, level 2 Rate of Water recession trigger identified and reported 8 April 2026
 - No soil moisture triggers in Swamp 9 identified to date.
- Area 3C: Swamp 145 Groundwater and Soil Moisture – graphs were presented.
 - Site 145_01 has been within LW21A mining area since the start of mining. No groundwater nor soil moisture impacts identified to date.
- Area 3C: HBSS Groundwater in Borehole S2208A – graph was presented.
 - Borehole 2208A was passed by LW22 on 16 February 2025 at a distance of 476m and is

approximately 930m from the current LW21A position.

- Piezometric head in piezometer located at 23.5m declined below the lowest level recorded during the baseline period and remained below this level for a period exceeding 6 months, which caused the Level 1 trigger.

Some members of the DCCC noted swamps 7 and 9 should be included as part of the catchment site tour.

Environment – Water Availability

- As part of the ongoing knowledge share, an overview of water availability was provided by GM³.
- Greater Sydney's water supply system is under sustained pressure from both population growth and increasing climate variability, with average demand of around 600GL per year (approximately 1.5GL/day), serving a population of around five million and rising. This demand is supported by a relatively large but environmentally sensitive drinking water catchment of approximately 22,000km² which is highly dependent on rainfall reliability.
- While total demand has risen, system losses have remained consistent - generally around 48GL per year (130ML per day) is lost. This equates to 52 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day. Losses are caused by leakage, ageing infrastructure, and operational inefficiencies. This means that although volumes fluctuate slightly from year to year, losses remain a persistent and significant component of the water balance.
- Dendrobium is licensed to take 850-890ML per year from the catchment. Total water handled is 1-2GL per year, including reuse. 850-890ML per year is, on average, 40 times smaller than the consistent losses experienced by Sydney water and 300 to 600 times smaller than the total demand for water from Sydney. The mine footprint is 45km², which is equivalent to 0.16% of the catchment.
- Water behaviour at Dendrobium is strongly influenced by rainfall conditions, with the highest inflows observed in 2022, during a period of extreme rainfall. Since that peak, inflows have decreased by approximately 34% and are now consistent with historical averages observed in earlier longwalls (eg LW17 and LW18). This indicates that variability in inflows is driven by climatic conditions, not by cumulative mining impacts.
- The source of water entering the mine has also remained consistent over time, with analysis indicating that the majority (80 to 85%) is derived from deep groundwater systems, and only a small percentage from recent rainfall. While there has been some short-term variation in the proportion of modern water, particularly following wet periods, there is no evidence of a sustained increase in water inflows.
- At a whole-of-catchment scale, the primary pressures on Sydney's water supply are population-driven demand and ongoing system losses. Dendrobium's contribution is small both in terms of water use and physical footprint, with impacts that are localised, well understood, and largely influenced by natural rainfall variability rather than cumulative mining effects.

The DCCC discussed whether the presentation showed the true impact of mining on water availability and the connection between surface and mine water. GM³ advised that the conclusions presented are based on observed data. Recent studies have been undertaken in relation to whether surface and mine water are connected and there is no evidence to suggest they are.

One member noted their observation that as the footprint of the mine expands, so does the pump out and the information provided by GM³ undersells the effect of mining on the catchment. This was discussed as an area where some members of the DCCC would like expert opinion (see General

business below for detail about Pr Ian Wright).

The DCCC asked whether there is an appetite by GM³ to perform better than the consent requirements (eg using less water than the consent requirement). GM³ indicated that while water monitoring is conducted in line with the consent requirements, there are other things that the Company is doing that exceed the requirements that the community may not be aware of.

Action 4: MA to provide more information about other proactive initiatives from GM3 to reduce an impact on the local community or Environment

6.4 Projects

The projects update was provided by MS.

NRAR Enforceable Undertaking

- GM³ has received access consent from WaterNSW to undertake the Wingecarribee Shire Swamp Rehabilitation Project, which forms part of the Enforceable Undertaking (EU) set by NRAR. The consent includes conditions, including the requirement to submit an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) before any on-ground works can commence.
- ILALC has developed the OEMP in collaboration with GM³ Environment team and is now approved by WaterNSW, work on the swamp will commence late April.
- Civil works for the northern foreshore track upgrades have been completed.
- The full project scope can be viewed at the link below, as previously shared with the DCCC: www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/about-us/compliance/regulatory-responses/enforceable-undertakings/illawarra-coal-holdings-dendrobium-mine

6.5 Community

The Community update was provided by MS.

Complaints since last meeting

- There were nine community complaints received since the last meeting.
 - Three Pit Top noise complaints were received in February. Investigations indicated that for the majority of the times reported, the mine was operating within approved noise limits. There were short periods of increased noise associated with larger machinery exiting the mine, linked to the completion of the longwall change-out and shift changes.
 - Three Pit Top Noise complaints were received in March about vehicle noise. Investigations confirmed that in two of these instances, the mine was operating within its approved noise limits. The third instance was attributed to bins being emptied on Portal Road at a time when the remainder of the site was very quiet.
 - One complaint was raised about squealing brakes near the rail crossing. The contractor undertook a rail run-through and was stationed near the crossing on several occasions to investigate the issue. It was identified that due to a lack of recent rainfall, the rail lubrication grease required reactivation and redistribution along the track, and this had contributed to increased noise levels. As an additional safety measure related to the crossing, train speeds had been temporarily reduced from 40km/hr to 30km/hr which resulted in more frequent braking and was also contributing to the brake squeal. Following completion of the maintenance works and safety upgrades at the crossing, train speeds have now returned to 40km/hr.

- Two complaints were received about traffic on Cordeaux Road. In one instance, a street sweeper departed site on a Saturday at 1:28pm, which was outside the approved curfew. The vehicle was not operated by the regular driver and the contracting company has been spoken to about the breach. A separate concern was raised by a community member who reported a truck travelling through the village before 7:00am, and queried trucks being parked early in the morning at the bottom of Cordeaux Road. Following investigation, it was confirmed that the truck travelling through the village was not associated with the mine, but was instead *en route* to a council worksite in Windy Gully. In relation to trucks parking on Cordeaux Road in the early morning, the majority of these vehicles arrive shortly before the curfew window opens and begin travelling up the hill once access is permitted. Due to a business now operating near the designated truck bays, available parking has become constrained. For safety reasons, trucks are unable to turn around in that area, and, as a result, have on occasion been required to park along the street at the base of Cordeaux Road.

Community Investment

DCEP

- The DCEP endorsed the following projects:
 - Mt Kembla Football Club – equipment
 - Wests Hockey – junior equipment
 - Wests Leagues – female development.

The DCCC discussed whether the sporting groups affiliated with for-profit Clubs are funded by those Clubs and, if so, whether it is appropriate for them to be awarded funding by DCEP. GM³ confirmed they are not funded on an ongoing basis by the Clubs they are affiliated with.

- GM³ Dendrobium Mine has once again partnered with Symbio Wildlife Park to continue its research on koalas and greater gliders, while also expanding into new projects focused on microbats, stuttering frogs, and community education and awareness initiatives.
- GM³ Dendrobium Mine has also partnered with Southern Stars, with funding supporting the Indigenous dance group and the On-Country Day initiative.
- As always, if someone has a community project in mind, please get in touch by emailing community@gm3.au.

7. General business

DPHI Secretary Visit

The DPHI Secretary has confirmed their attendance at the 18 June CCC meeting.

Action 5: DP to confirm that the DCCC would like the Secretary to talk to the function of DPHI.

Expert Presentation – Professor Ian Wright

The DCCC asked whether GM³ would consider inviting Professor Ian Wright to present to the DCCC. Pr. Wright specialises in freshwater ecology, water pollution, and water management and focuses on the impacts of urban development and mining.

The DCCC discussed the potential for the Committee to seek expert advice on matters relevant to

its role. The Chairperson asked members to consider the specific topics they would like addressed and any key questions they would like to put forward.

Action 6: DCCC members to identify specific information, issues or questions they would like addressed and provide these to the Chair. GM³ will then review the request and advise whether the information can be provided from existing internal data or reporting. If the information is not available, or if further interpretation is required, the Chair will consider whether an appropriate external subject matter expert should be invited to assist the Committee, consistent with the CCC guideline.

Cordeaux Hazard Reduction

The DCCC discussed recent hazard reduction activity and asked whether GM³ is aware of any reason that it is being done now. GM³ advised it was conducted by Water NSW and believe it has been scheduled for some time, and it was an optimal time recently to do it.

Maintenance of Fire Trails

The DCCC asked for information about recent maintenance on the fire trails on the lease. GM³ advised that Benjamin Road and Stones Road have been recently cleared. The Dendrobium Fire Trail has been scheduled for some time awaiting an optimal opportunity.

Knowledge Share – June meeting

GM³ confirmed that the DCCC approved postponing the June knowledge share until August, to allow for discussion with the Secretary of DPHI in June.

Action 1: June Knowledge Share to be postponed until August

Catchment Inspection areas or items of interest identified during the meeting

- Littlejohns Tree Frog Habitat
- Piezometers, evaporation stations, and monitoring systems
- Swamp 9 and 7

Action 3: PD to advise any other areas of interest before, or when, the date is confirmed for the inspection.

Dates for remainder of 2026 meetings.

- 18 June 2026
- 13 August 2026
- 15 October 2026
- 3 December 2026.

8. Next meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 18 June 2026 (Dendrobium Nebo Room).

Time: 5.30pm.

Meeting closed: 7:00pm.
