

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 16 February 2017**

**Attendees:**

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Lisa Schiff	MidCoast Council	Michael Plain	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Karen Hutchinson	LRC MidCoast Council	Scott Fittler	Yancoal Australia Ltd
Tony Tersteeg	CCC Member	John Turner	MidCoast Council
Rod Williams	CCC Member		
Brian Eastoe	CCC Member		
Donald Carroll	CCC Member		

**1. Site Tour**

No site tour was undertaken at this meeting. A site tour will be planned for the May 2017 meeting.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:01am. The Chair welcomed Mr John Turner the appointed administrator for MidCoast Council who was invited to attend the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Scott Fittler, Yancoal Community Relations Coordinator.

Apologies: Alan Fisher-Webster.

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair, approved by the Secretary of the Department of Planning & Environment and a member of the Mine Subsidence Board.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were confirmed.

Moved: Brian Eastoe; Seconded: Rod Williams.

## **5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

1. **Deferred Action Item 1:** MidCoast Council to update the CCC on the allocation of funding from the Duralie Project previously provided to Gloucester Shire Council.

Lisa Schiff provided an update on the funding contributed to the former Gloucester Shire Council, which is \$40,000 (indexed for CPI). Mr Plain asked if a detailed breakdown of contributions could be provided similar to that reported for the contributions to the former Great Lakes Council. Ms Schiff advised the Council would be able to provide a report moving forward however the details would not be available retrospectively.

***New Action Item 1:** MidCoast Council to provide a report on the spending of the Gloucester component of the Duralie contributions to council as details become available.*

2. **Action Item 2:** The Chair to provide a letter to MidCoast Council requesting an update on the total funding required for the Stroud Showground repairs and releasing of the Duralie community infrastructure contributions for other community projects.

The Chair, on behalf of the Duralie CCC, provided a letter to MidCoast Council inviting Mr John Turner to attend the meeting and provide an update on this action.

As discussed in previous CCC meetings, approximately \$360,000 in community infrastructure funds from Duralie Coal had been held by MidCoast Council whilst funding for the repairs to the Stroud Showground was being resolved. Ms Schiff advised approximately \$900,000 in funding had now been secured from the NSW Government and an additional \$200,000 of the Duralie funds would be allocated to complete the showground repairs. As such, the remaining \$160,000 would be released for other community infrastructure projects which was yet to be allocated.

Mr Williams commented on the four tonne load limit which had be enforced on the Johnsons Creek Rd bridge and asked if the funding component for roads and bridges could be allocated to the repairs required. Ms Schiff advised the funds would be spent locally.

Mr Williams suggested Council could communicate the information with the community when a plan had been developed for the allocation of Duralie funding. Ms Schiff advised the MidCoast Council Community Relations Officer would be able to assist with distributing information.

***New Action Item 2:** MidCoast Council to provide an update on the remaining funds allocated to community infrastructure projects which have been released from the Stroud Showground repairs.*

3. **Action Item 3:** The Chair to provide a letter to the RFS raising the concerns of the Duralie CCC regarding hazard reduction burning.

The Chair, on behalf of the Duralie CCC, provided a letter to the Gloucester RFS to request a response on concerns regarding delays to hazard reduction burning. DCPL also continued to engage directly with the local RFS.

The Chair advised an email response had been received. Mr Plain advised the RFS had concerns with the burns proposed near the Duralie biodiversity offset area and would require additional controls, to which DCPL agreed. Due to current constraints the burns would also not take place until autumn 2017 at the earliest. In the meantime DCPL have continued with slashing of pastures

within the Duralie offset in preparation for planting which has assisted with hazard reduction. Further works are proposed for autumn 2017.

Mr Eastoe asked if burn plans had been proposed for other Yancoal owned lands. Mr Plain advised the offset areas and surrounds had remained the priority whilst other lands were proposed to follow. This hazard reduction burning would be planned during 2017 and updates provided at each meeting. Mr Eastoe emphasised that the recent catastrophic weather event fires in the Gloucester RFS region emphasises the importance of management of fuel loadings on all the non-mine lands owned by Yancoal and the consequent safety of the community.

Mr Williams asked if any surrounding landholders had been engaged with the potential for undertaking group burning. Mr Plain advised the areas currently planned for burning were not directly adjacent to other landholders although this would be considered for future burn plans.

4. **Action Item 4:** Yancoal to consider coordinating an open day at a suitable time in the future.

Mr Cullen advised the current stage of mining at Duralie would not be suitable for holding an open day at the mine site. Mr Cullen suggested this would be more appropriate and of greater value to the community when rehabilitation and mine closure has progressed to a suitable point. DCPL would be able to consider this in the future.

5. **Action Item 5:** The Chair to invite MidCoast Council's Debbi Delaney to provide and update on the Karuah River Catchment Management Plan.

An invitation has been extended to MidCoast Council's Debbi Delaney who has accepted and will attend the next CCC meeting to be held in May 2017.

***New Action Item 3:** Debbi Delaney to provide an update on the Karuah River Catchment Management Plan.*

6. **Action Item 6:** DCPL will update the layout of the CCC presentation and provide for comment prior to the next meeting.

The CCC presentation was updated by DCPL with positive feedback from the CCC members.

7. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to provide updates on the potential final land use options and mine closure plans as details become available.

Mr Plain advised since the last CCC meeting a Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) officer had undertaken a site visit to the Duralie Mine and discussions had included the development of a mine closure strategy and ongoing engagement with DRE. DCPL have commenced discussions regarding a high level mine closure strategy at a meeting with representation from corporate, regional and site staff members. The strategy would be progressed during 2017 with further engagement with regulators and the CCC to be undertaken during this process.

Mr Tersteeg asked if there had been any advancements with the Stratford Extension Project (SEP). Mr Cullen advised Yancoal has full approval for the SEP and a decision on commencement was dependent on market conditions and required approval from the Yancoal board. A decision is not expected prior to 2018.

8. **Ongoing Action Item:** The CCC's print media to be drafted following each CCC meeting and provided to the committee for comment prior to finalising and submission by DCPL.

Print media completed and published.

Suggestions for the next print media topics included a reminder regarding mine site contacts for community information and complaints and advice on the new Duralie Coal website.

Mr Williams queried the consensus on removing Duralie Coal media releases from the Dungog Chronicle. There was a general agreement with aligning any information released to the community within the Gloucester Valley including Stroud to Gloucester.

9. **Ongoing Action Item:** The committee extended an open invitation to Mr Stringer for future meetings pending availability.

Mr Cullen advised Mr Stringer would be invited to attend the May 2017 CCC meeting.

#### **10. Address from Mr John Turner (MidCoast Council)**

Mr John Turner was invited to provide an address to the Duralie CCC on behalf of MidCoast Council.

Firstly Mr Turner advised the CCC that management regarding mine closure and/or care and maintenance was not within the jurisdiction of the council however it would be involved in consultation with the DCPL. MidCoast Council has an interest in maintaining the workforce in the local area and encouraging businesses within the region. Under the terms of the council amalgamation there are provisions for retaining the existing Gloucester Shire Council employees within their current or similar position and there is a focus on maintaining a vibrant economy in Gloucester and the Council region.

The Chair suggested where other areas may be in decline the Gloucester region was well positioned with the extensive diversity across the MidCoast Council. Ms Schiff advised a Destination Management Plan was being developed which focused on tourism and maximising the opportunities available across the diverse environments within MidCoast Council. Further work was required to incorporate the previous councils whilst maintaining their individual identity. The discussion continued amongst the committee.

The committee thanked Mr Turner for his contribution.

## **6. Correspondence**

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda. There was no further discussion regarding the correspondence.

## **7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. Progress at the Mine: DCPL advised of the fourth quarter production at Duralie mine. Operations are currently ongoing in Clareval pit and Weismantel pit.
2. Environment & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (refer to CCC presentation for further detail). Items discussed by exception.

- a. DCPL discussed the key activities and projects undertaken during the previous quarter. The committee discussion included the air quality, blasting and water monitoring results.
- b. Mr Eastoe advised he had received comments from local landholders that the evaporative fan noise had been noticeable in recent weeks and asked if they had been running during the night. Mr Plain advised they have typically been shut-down at the end of shift at approximately 10pm and started again at 7am, however in recent weeks the sprays had been utilised during the night-time during the hot and dry weather. The operational hours of the evaporative sprays would be reduced leading into autumn and winter. Mr Eastoe suggested there was a reluctance of some community members to use the community hotline as they were not getting a response from DCPL. Mr Plain advised this was the process required by DP&E for managing community enquiries and a return call would be provided when requested. Mr Plain also offered to initiate contact directly where the Community Consultative Committee has identified a community member who has a specific issue. Mr Carroll advised there was a perception within the local community that the mine was closing.

Mr Williams suggested information could be included in the CCC print media regarding details for receiving community information or lodging complaints.

- c. DCPL provided information on the Education Support Program and the Community Support Program which were currently in the process of taking applications.
- d. Mr Fittler advised the committee of Yancoal Australia's partnership with the Clontarf Foundation. Clontarf is an organisation providing support to young indigenous men within their Highschool academies across Australia. The individual Yancoal sites had commenced engaging with their local Clontarf academies, which included Duralie mine staff visiting the academy at Chatham Highschool in Taree.

## **8. General Business**

1. The Chair provided information on the revised guidelines for Community Consultative Committees. The Chair provided "Code of Conduct" forms and "Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-pecuniary Interests" forms to be signed by the Duralie CCC members.

The Chair suggested maintaining the function for confirming the minutes of previous meetings which had been removed from the CCC guidelines. This was supported by the committee.

2. Mr Tersteeg raised a motion regarding the visual screen along the Bucketts Way to have this removed and replaced with an observation area as he considers the existing mine exposure on the road to be a safety issue and the wall ineffective. Mr Plain informed the screen was required to be removed following rehabilitation of the mine site. Ms Schiff suggested there would be significant difficulties and a potentially long timeframe to gain approval to remove the screen. The motion was discussed by the committee and generally not supported.
3. Mr Williams asked for an update on the modification at Stratford to receive ROM coal from Rocky Hill. Mr Plain advised both parties were currently preparing responses to the public submissions and these would be submitted to the Department of Planning & Environment to make a determination on the modification.

4. DCPL advised a new website has been launched for the Duralie Coal Mine. The website address remains unchanged, [www.duraliecoal.com.au](http://www.duraliecoal.com.au).

No further business.

Guests proposed for the next meeting are Debbi Delaney (MidCoast Council) and Paul Stringer (Yancoal).

A site tour is proposed at the May 2017 meeting.

Next Meeting date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Duralie Mine site at 9:00am.

Meeting closed at 11:22am.

### **Summary of Action Items from this meeting**

1. **New Action Item 1:** *MidCoast Council to provide a report on the spending of the Gloucester component of the Duralie contributions to council as details become available.*
2. **New Action Item 2:** *MidCoast Council to provide an update on the remaining funds allocated to community infrastructure projects which have been released from the Stroud Showground repairs.*
3. **New Action Item 3:** *Debbi Delaney to provide an update on the Karuah River Catchment Management Plan.*
4. **Ongoing Action Item:** *DCPL to provide updates on the potential final land use options and mine closure plans as details become available.*
5. **Ongoing Action Item:** *The CCC's print media to be drafted following each CCC meeting and provided to the committee for comment prior to finalising and submission by DCPL.*
6. **Ongoing Action Item:** *The committee extended an open invitation to Mr Stringer for future meetings pending availability.*