

**Draft Meeting Minutes  
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting  
Thursday 21 February 2019**

**Attendees:**

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Michael Plain	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Brian Eastoe	CCC Member	Gavin May	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Rod Williams	CCC Member	Tom Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
Cr Karen Hutchinson	MidCoast Council	John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd

**Guests:** Nil

**1. Site Tour**

No site tour was undertaken at this meeting.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:31pm.

Apologies: Noel Smith, Alan Fisher-Webster, Ryan Fenning (MCC).

**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.

Ms Macdonald-Hill advised the Mine Subsidence Board has been dissolved and as such is no longer a member.

Mr Eastoe advised at Item 4 in General Business his son is an employee of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The declarations of the Duralie CCC members remain current.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were confirmed.

Moved: Brian Eastoe; Seconded: John Cullen.

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

1. **Action Item 1:** MidCoast Council to investigate removing the community enhancement funds from the Section 94 reserves.

Mr De Szell (MCC) was available to dial into the meeting via phone call although the Committee members decided it was not necessary as the Chair could provide information from the preceding Stratford CCC meeting. The Chair conveyed information from Mr De Szell that the community enhancement funds are managed by MCC and separate to the Section 94 funds and moving forward they would be allocated through the Duralie Community Fund established in 2018. MCC would continue to provide an annual report on the *“Duralie Community Enhancement Funding”* each August.

2. **Action Item 2:** Discussion topic for next meeting – Potential opportunities to increase agricultural land capability in addition to the rehabilitation requirements for agricultural lands.

SCPL provided an update on Stratford Coal rural land management. Mr Plain advised a program to amalgamate the Stratford Coal rural landholdings and establish new licencing agreements had commenced approximately five years’ prior although for various reasons the program had been postponed. The program was recommenced following the appointment of a new Property Coordinator in 2018. Advertising was undertaken during late 2018 with expressions of interest received in December 2018. Property inspections were undertaken in January 2019 with interested parties submitting their applications by the end of January. Notification to the successful applicants was completed in February. The new leases aim to improve the overall management of rural lands owned by Stratford Coal.

3. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to include updates and progress on the potential final land use options and mine closure and rehabilitation plans in the quarterly reports to the CCC.

A slide on mine closure planning has been included in the CCC quarterly presentation. This information will be progressively updated each meeting.

4. **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.

A CCC print media wasn’t prepared for the preceding quarter. An advertisement for the Community Support Program was published in December 2018.

## **6. Correspondence**

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda.

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

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. **Progress at the Mine:** DCPL advised the fourth quarter production at the Duralie mine. Operations at the Duralie Mine temporarily ceased at the end of 2018.

2. Environment & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception.

- a. The Committee discussed the mine closure planning progress as detailed in the presentation.

Mr Williams asked if consideration would be given to retain any infrastructure during the closure phase, particularly water management infrastructure such as dams. Mr Plain provided an update on the decommissioning requirements for the prescribed dams. Mr Plain indicated DCPL would aim to maintain any infrastructure if it could provide added value and benefit to a future landholder. This would include the consideration of dams and drains. Mr Williams and Mr Eastoe encouraged DCPL to consider maintaining valuable infrastructure where possible.

- b. DCPL provided information on the internal Environmental Assurance Audit program implemented by Yancoal. Mr Plain advised the Stratford & Duralie audits had been undertaken in February 2019. Mr Eastoe asked if a copy of the report would be made available. Mr Plain advised the report was not a public document although a summary of the findings could be made available at the next meeting.

## **8. General Business**

1. Duralie Operations & Stratford Extension Project Update

DCPL provided an update on the progress of the Duralie operations and the transition back to the Stratford Mining Complex. Mr May advised coal mining at Duralie was completed in October 2018 and all operations temporarily ceased at the end 2018. During the last quarter of 2018 operations focused on the rehandle of PAF material and rehabilitation of the waste emplacements. A crew is expected to return to Duralie in the second half of 2019 to undertake further rehabilitation work.

2. Duralie Coal Mine CCC Annual Report 2018

The Chair advised the CCC Annual Report for 2018 had been prepared and submitted to DP&E. The 2018 report used the new template from the CCC guidelines. Mr Plain advised the CCC Annual Report would be made available on the Duralie Coal website.

3. Meeting Schedule

The Chair suggested moving to 6-monthly meetings whilst the operations at the Duralie Mine have reduced. Mr Eastoe suggested there was still significant undertakings required for the rehabilitation and offset areas. Mr Plain advised the rehabilitation and offset works would continue to be undertaken and updates on the activities would be provided. The Committee members present agreed a change to 6-monthly meetings would be suitable. The Chair advised the May 2019 meeting could be postponed and she would confirm the meeting schedule with the absent Committee members.

***New Action Item 1: The May 2019 meeting will be postponed and the next meeting held in August 2019. The Chair to confirm with all Committee members changing to 6-monthly meetings.***

#### 4. Biodiversity Offset Security Mechanisms (Mr Eastoe letter)

Mr Eastoe tabled a letter prior to the CCC meeting requesting an explanation of the process for identifying the appropriate long-term security mechanism for the Duralie biodiversity offset. Mr Plain provided information on the security mechanisms which had been considered in accordance with the Project Approval and biodiversity legislation. DCPL was advised by OEH that a Voluntary Conservation Agreement would not be suitable for the Duralie offset due to the existing vegetation. DCPL pursued a Public Positive Covenant and Restriction In The Use of Land instruments. These instruments establish a set of conditions which permit or preclude certain activities within the offset areas. The draft PPC and Restriction In Use instruments are approved by DP&E and subsequently lodged with the Land Registry Service for registration against the land titles. The above instruments have effect in perpetuity.

Mr Eastoe noted that in relation to Yancoal's investment in the Duralie Biodiversity Offset Area, the new Biodiversity Conservation Act provides an enhanced form of Ministerial security along with financial conservation incentives for future owners. Mr Eastoe suggested to the meeting that Yancoal consider this additional option. The Chair advised a request would need to be on behalf of the entire Committee and she would investigate potential options. Mr Plain advised the current security mechanism had been established in accordance with the Project Approval and it was unlikely DCPL would establish any additional arrangements at this stage.

***New Action Item 2:** The Chair to investigate options for biodiversity offset security mechanisms and provide for consideration by the CCC members.*

No further business.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 12:00nn on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 at the Duralie Mine Site.

Meeting closed at 2:07pm.

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

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** The May 2019 meeting will be postponed and the next meeting held in August 2019. The Chair to confirm with all Committee members changing to 6-monthly meetings.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** The Chair to investigate options for biodiversity offset security mechanisms and provide for consideration by the CCC members.
3. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual report each August on the spending of the Gloucester and Great Lakes components of the Duralie contributions made to Council.
4. ***Ongoing Action Item:*** DCPL to include updates and progress on the potential final land use options and mine closure and rehabilitation plans in the quarterly reports to the CCC.
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.