

**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Duralie Mine Site**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Attendees:**

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Matt Clinch	CCC Member
Michael Plain	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Eastoe	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Rod Williams	CCC Member
Lauren Byrne	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Noel Smith	CCC Member
John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Cr Paul Sandilands	MidCoast Council

**Guests:**

Nick Staheyeff – IEMA – Mine Closure Consultant  
Mark Sargent – AIGIS Group - Principal Consultant  
Paul Kellner – Yancoal – Mine Closure Supervisor

**1. Site Tour**

No site tour was scheduled for this meeting.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:35pm.

Apologies: Cr Katheryn Smith, Ryan Fenning, James Harris, Annette Baldwin

**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, Industry & Environment.

The declarations of the Duralie CCC members remain current.

Mr Rod Williams stated that he has an application for the Education Support Fund through his business.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 were confirmed.

Moved: Brian Eastoe; Seconded: Rod Williams

**5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

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

Refer to details included in the CCC presentation. Mr Plain advised the CCC on updates on mine closure.

2. **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.*

The Duralie Print Media was sent to the CCC via email on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.

3. **New Action Item 1:** *DCPL to provide print media article to Mrs Baldwin for posting on social media.*

Media article was posted on "Stroud Local (NSW)" Facebook group by Ms Annette Baldwin.

4. **Annual Action Item:** *MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Gloucester and Great Lakes components of the Duralie contributions made to Council.*

Due November 2023 meeting.

Mr Michael Plain noted that the Stratford Coal Education Fund Financial Status Report from Council was received on 27th January 2023 from Phil Brennan.

5. **New Action Item 2:** *DCPL to appoint a Yancoal representative to the assessment panel for the community funding round.*

Mr Kirkwood was delegated as the Yancoal representative.

Mr Eastoe raised concern for the integrity of the system if a Yancoal representative was chosen for the panel. Mr Eastoe stated that Mid-Coast Council's advertisement requested that a member of the CCC was required and although Mr Kirkwood is a CCC member, he would prefer if the Chair was the delegated representative.

The Chair recommended to postpone until a Council Representative could clarify. The CCC agreed.

**New Action Item:** Mid-Coast Council to clarify if a Yancoal Representative or a CCC Member is preferred on the Duralie Community Fund Assessment Panel

## **6. Correspondence**

Correspondence was 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 Mine:** Mr Cullen advised mining operations ceased at Duralie in the Weismantel pit on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and that bulk earthworks at the Duralie Coal Mine recommenced in October 2022 and are continuing into 2023. Bulk earthworks activities are only being undertaken in the Weismantel pit.

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

Mr Plain provided an update on the progress of mine closure planning activities.

Mr Eastoe asked Mr Plain what infrastructure is proposed to be retained on site. Mr Plain responded that infrastructure is likely to all be removed unless DCPL can demonstrate that by retaining infrastructure, it can serve a purpose to the future property owner. DCPL is currently reviewing the scope of infrastructure demolition and removal works.

Cr Sandilands asked if materials are reused elsewhere to which Mr Plain responded most of the fixed plant at Duralie will be scrapped. The feasibility of repurposing infrastructure has been investigated however the cost of dismantling and reinstallation is higher than scrapping it. Duralie infrastructure is also now mostly redundant. Mr Plain outlined Mr Paul Kellner's role in preparing a Duralie Mine Asset Register which will verify what is included on site and how each piece of plant or infrastructure can be reused or if it will be scrapped.

Mr Plain presented the Stratford Closure Planning Approach. Introducing both the ICMC Integrated Mine Closure Guidelines and Internal Yancoal guidelines. Figures outlining the proposed final voids and refined landforms were shared with the CCC including discussion on the bulk earthworks of PAF material.

Mr Eastoe asked Mr Plain if the proposed crew towards the end of closure would be Yancoal staff or Contractors. Mr Plain explained that DCPL is preparing a HR strategy for closure, however it is still to be determined how and by who the rehabilitation and closure works will be executed.

Mr Rod Williams asked about how the Yancoal land will be sold off. Mr Plain presented information on Yancoal's Approvals Relinquishment Strategy, Tenements Relinquishment Strategy and Property Strategy which assists in the long-term plan for property reuse and divestment. Mr Plain suggested that Mr Alan Andrews from Yancoal's Property Team and Mr Thomas Holt from Yancoal's Tenements and Approvals Team could be invited to the CCC to present to the committee.

3. **Social Economic Impact Assessment for Closure:** (refer to Dr Mark Sargent's presentation for further detail). Items discussed by exception:

Dr Sargent was invited to present the findings and recommendations of the socio-economic impact assessment prepared for closure of the mine sites.

Cr Paul Sandilands asked Dr Mark Sargent how many people were local residents prior to being employed by the mine. Mr Plain responded that there was a question within the workforce survey that asked how long they've lived in the local area and statistics from the survey highlight that the mine has a long-term workforce and that a significant percentage have been local 10 years or longer.

Cr Sandilands recounted his time working in Western Australia and that when the Salt Mine closed all the mine workers left town and now all of those businesses struggle as the population isn't there to support them. Dr Sargent reiterated that the Socio-Economic study and survey statistics are indicating that DCPL employees are unlikely to leave the area. Mr Eastoe raised concern regarding the small sample size of the survey to which Mr Plain responded that the entire Yancoal workforce between Stratford Mining Complex and Duralie Mine is roughly 100 people and receiving over 80 survey responses is a good outcome. Mr Eastoe agreed and stated that the data is indicating a

positive outcome by people not wanting to leave the area, it is likely to attract new industry and it should prompt Yancoal to invest in capacity building.

Cr Sandilands stated there is a lot of business development planning being undertaken within Council and asked DCPL if they are aware of the economic work being undertaken locally? Dr Sargent stated that that channel is open and discussions are underway.

Mr Eastoe told the CCC not to forget about the Councillors for knowledge. Dr Sargent agreed and stated that not to discount the State or Federal Members either. Cr Sandilands stated that State and Federal Members do not have the same influence as Councillors to create movement locally. Mr Matt Clinch stated that the data presented in this report would assist with State Significant Development applications and helping townships grow and be attracted to the Gloucester area.

Mr Eastoe made comment on the Community Contributions from Yancoal and brought up the concept of flexible royalties. Mr Eastoe recommended that with the serendipitous rise in coal prices, Yancoal's Accountants should be more flexible and share the increase with the community. Mr Eastoe then discussed the proposed Stratford Renewable Energy Hub and how similar projects should be considered for Duralie. He proposed that Duralie Mine could potentially be used as a training hub for renewables in the local area and asked that Yancoal investigate other land uses. Mr Eastoe continued his discussion in reference to the lost 16 full time equivalents (FTE's) and the expenditure of \$1.7M annually in Gloucester outlined in Dr Sargent's presentation. He stated that the figures were significant, they were not too significant to become a very manageable contribution by a benevolent Yancoal to underwrite ongoing facilitation of new renewable energy work force skill training on both the Stratford and Duralie sites, with the goal of proactively reducing the lost 16 FTE's throughout Gloucester to a smaller figure.

Mr Plain responded that Yancoal did commission an independent study at all their operations and property holdings for viable renewable projects. Stratford warranted further investigation whilst Duralie was deemed low on the list due to features such as the geology and topography of the site. Mr Eastoe recommended that Yancoal tender out the Duralie Mine site to private enterprises to encourage additional renewable projects and that offering a free long-term lease on the site would entice industry.

Mr Eastoe then discussed the importance of holding more one-on-one or small group community consultation sessions and inviting businesses like Stroud Lodge and small cafes to create focus group sessions. Mr Plain suggested that there will certainly be more consultation sessions and DCPL will take that recommendation on board.

#### 4. ***Mine Closure Fact Sheet***

Mr Plain handed out the new Stratford Mine Closure Fact Sheet that has been prepared. Mr Plain also discussed the proposed ongoing community engagement for Mine Closure and the proposed consultation schedule.

Mr Eastoe proposed that the Mine Closure Fact Sheet be the subject of the Duralie Print Media Article and that it should also be included on Social Media. Mr Kirkwood and Mr Plain agreed.

#### 5. ***Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH)***

Mr Plain introduced to the CCC the new Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project. The project has completed a Pre-Feasibility Assessment and is currently completing a Feasibility Study which is expected to take around 18 months to complete. The Feasibility Study includes baseline environmental studies and investigations which includes initial stakeholder engagement.

Mr Plain stated that Yancoal welcomes discussions and questions around the SREH within the Duralie CCC as discussions will be needed to be had on how the project fits in with both Duralie Mine Closure and Stratford Mine Closure.

Mr Williams raised concern regarding who would be the long-term land custodian for the SREH project, Mr Plain explained that at the moment its just a concept and Yancoal is only investigating the feasibility of the SREH and these questions would be answered as part of this process. Mr Williams suggested advertising Duralie Mine, and potentially Stratford Mining Complex, as free land to any larger entities that could bring in new industry to the area.

Mr Plain and Mr Kirkwood also gave a brief overview to the new Duralie Website changes.

## **8. General Business**

No general business

1. 2023 proposed Meeting dates:
  - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Meeting closed at 2:59pm.

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

1. ***Ongoing Action Item:*** DCPL to include updates and progress of the rehabilitation and mine closure planning in the reports to the CCC.
2. ***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.
3. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Gloucester and Great Lakes components of the Duralie contributions made to Council.
4. ***New Action Item:*** Mid-Coast Council to clarify if a Yancoal Representative or a CCC Member is preferred on the Duralie Community Fund Assessment Panel