

Draft Meeting Minutes
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Duralie Mine Site
Thursday 10th August 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 Whitelaw	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Cr Katheryn Stinson	MidCoast Council
John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Cr Paul Sandilands	MidCoast Council
James Harris	CCC Member	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council

Guests:

Nil

1. Site Tour

A site tour was held prior to the meeting which visited the Weismantel Pit, Clareval Pit, Pasture Rehabilitation and Native Rehabilitation areas.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:45pm.

Apologies: Ms Annette Baldwin and Mr Noel Smith.

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.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023 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.*

As proposed in the meeting held 9th February 2023, the Mine Closure Fact Sheet was provided to Ms Baldwin via email on 3rd March 2023 for posting on the Stroud Community Facebook page. The Fact Sheet was posted on the 'Stroud Local' Facebook page on 3rd March 2023.

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.*

Due November 2023 meeting. The Chair stated that the Annual Financial Report will be sent to the Duralie CCC once available as the next CCC is scheduled in February 2024.

4. **New Action Item 1:** Mid-Coast Council to clarify if a Yancoal Representative or a CCC Member is preferred on the Duralie Community Fund Assessment Panel

Mr Kirkwood was delegated and confirmed as the Yancoal representative.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence was listed in the CCC meeting agenda.

The Chair noted that additional correspondence that was not included in the meeting agenda was received from Mr Brian Eastoe on the 1st June 2023 which would be discussed in general business.

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 21st December 2021 and that bulk earthworks at the Duralie Coal Mine recommenced in November 2022 and are expected to end in September 2023. This will also coincide with a reduction in workforce. Bulk earthworks activities are currently only being undertaken in the Weismantel pit. Mr Cullen stated that discussions with the workforce have been ongoing since September 2022 and final discussions on workforce changes happen this month.

Mr Eastoe recommended amending the current CCC presentation format to reflect closure and rehabilitation, instead of operations. Mr Eastoe said to report on the number of nest boxes, PAF areas and rehabilitation areas as examples. Mr Kirkwood agreed it would be more appropriate that future CCC presentations focus on Mine Closure and Biodiversity work and will amend the presentation format to reflect this. Mr Kirkwood also stated there will be relevant monitoring requirements from the Project Approval conditions included. Mr Eastoe made further recommendations on amending the CCC presentation to report on monitoring by exception. DCPL noted Mr Eastoe's comments.

Mr Williams asked about the management of rehabilitated pasture areas and suggested benefit of introducing grazing. Mr Kirkwood agreed that the rehabilitated pasture areas would benefit from grazing and that DCPL intend to introduce cattle to the areas when it becomes practical in regard to watering and stock movements.

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

CCC was updated on the Section 240 Notice issued by the Resource Regulator to DCM in August 2021 with directives for closure planning. Further update was provided on a Penalty Infringement Notice issued by the Resources Regulator in December 2022 for not complying with the directives listed in the Section 240 notice. The matter was discussed by the CCC members, including the current status of closure planning.

Mr Plain provided an update on the progress of mine closure planning activities. Mr Plain provided a further update on the original mine closure risk assessment which was undertaken as part of the RMP. As DCPL is now halfway through the mine closure project, DCPL has completed a mid-point mine closure risk assessment to review new risks and assess mitigation measures of original risks.

Mr Eastoe asked about the advertised Community Liaison Position and Mr Plain stated that DCPL and SCPL has identified the need for a more streamlined community engagement approach which would be facilitated by the new position.

Mr Clinch and Mr Williams raised discussion on the proposed changes to the DCPL workforce. Mr Cullen stated that the workforce has been notified and in September SCPL/DCPL would lose approx. 38 to 40 people. The reduction in workforce would be a combination of redundancies and transfers that have been undertaken in consultation with the workforce and union over the past 9 months. Mr Clinch stated the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce have engaged their own Stakeholder Engagement Specialist to prepare a socio-economic impact assessment and started discussions with the Government to seek advice. Mr Clinch stated he is concerned about the reduction in local expenditure more so than the reduction in workforce which was inevitable. Mr Clinch requested additional information, in particular numbers of redundancies, transfers and workforce ages to inform economic modelling and so they can discuss welfare with the Government. Mr Cullen stated the workforce numbers and demographics could be made available.

Mr Clinch suggested the chambers focus is on fostering new business and development in addition to supporting existing business.

Mr Plain stated that DCPL welcomes discussion and engagement from community groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, or from individuals outside of the CCC forum.

New Action Item 1: DCPL to provide Mr Clinch with the number of redundancies/transfers and workforce demographics.

8. General Business

Mr Eastoe raised that when stakeholder engagement commenced as part of the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) process, the Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) report by Dr Mark Sargent was not made publicly available although the outcomes and recommendations were presented to the CCC. Mr Eastoe indicated he was concerned that this was not a transparent process of community views. He raised this in his submission (circulated to the CCC) as part of the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) and the need for open engagement with the local community by capacity building suggestions which included the formation of a group of 10 to 15 local businesses/community members to garner as many ideas on "capacity building" during the

closure transition. Mr Eastoe proposed an additional meeting in November this year to discuss further. Mr Eastoe suggested the CCC could lead this process, although someone like Dr Sargent could assist in initiating the discussion.

Mr Eastoe stated that the Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) written by Dr Mark Sargent was not made publicly available, however the outcomes and recommendations were presented.

Mr Plain stated that Duralie and Stratford are the first Yancoal sites to approach closure so the process is new to all parties and welcomed discussion from the group. Mr Plain presented an update on Dr Mark Sargent's Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) – Dr Sargent has been engaged by SCPL to provide information on options for closure legacy strategies, including case studies within the mining industry and other industries where companies have closed and the resulting impact on the local community. The report will look at what has been done well and what hasn't been done well in regard to legacy programs and provide recommendations on what structures could be implemented by Yancoal to mitigate the socio-economic impacts on the local community.

Mr Clinch stated that Yancoal isn't the only company to transition to closure and provided the examples of the Hazelwood and Goldfield projects. Mr Clinch stated that opportunities for the community may be lost if decisions are not made prior to the bulk of the workforce finishing. He stated that he does not want to see too much of the workforce leave Gloucester and mentioned that the age bracket of 30 – 40-year-old would be the potential target market for local businesses. He stated that if the workforce is making decisions based on information available to them now, rather than what could be made available to them, including capacity building, these people may leave and relocate out of the community.

Mr Clinch also made comment on the potential interaction between Government and Yancoal to provide support to the local community impacted by closures. An example raised by Mr Clinch was fast tracking projects outlined in Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

Cr Paul Sandilands stated that any expectation on Yancoal should be presented with factual information (e.g. a dollar amount).

Mr Rod Williams suggested the land zoned Heavy Industrial near the Stratford Mine Site provided a significant opportunity for alternative land uses, however required engagement from Yancoal and Council. Mr Williams asked what are the proposed management measures for the area and what it looks like for new industry. He presented the idea of supporting new industries relocating to the Gloucester Basin by offering land incentives.

Mr Plain responded that studies into the post-mining land use are continuing. He stated that it is not within the Yancoal's current capacity to develop the heavy industrial area, however stated this was being investigated and welcomed discussions with Council on potential post-mining land uses. Mr Plain suggested the CCC may benefit from attendance of Yancoal staff involved in the post-mining land use strategies and community initiatives in the Gloucester Basin.

Mr Plain provided an update to the CCC on the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project. The project is still completing the Feasibility Study which is expected to be completed in Q1 2024 (approx. February). The Feasibility Study includes baseline environmental studies and investigations which includes initial stakeholder engagement. Drilling works to investigate ground conditions are progressing well and are expected to end in December 2023.

Mr Plain added that Yancoal is still investigating the proposed approval pathway (e.g. Critical State Infrastructure, or State Significant Development).

Mr Eastoe stated the potential for development tendering for SREH project. Mr Eastoe asked if Yancoal decides not to do the project, would Yancoal approach others to take on the project? Mr Plain replied that those decisions haven't been made yet and that would be discussed post feasibility study.

Mr Clinch asked for any update regarding the Minerals X (now called First Nations Minerals and Energy) Exploration Licence Application and the potential to use SCPL coal washing facilities. Mr Plain stated that Yancoal had been approached previously for discussions, however was not aware of any further progress.

The Chair discussed the revised Department of Planning and Environment Guidelines for CCCs. To meet the department's requirements and time frame, the Committee will need to sign off on the Terms of Reference outside the meeting schedule and finalise all declarations and code of conduct with the Chair.

New Action Item 2: Chair to send final draft of TOR to committee for approval and all members to complete the declarations and code of conduct and return to Chair to meet department requirements.

9. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

2024 proposed Meeting dates:

- 8th February 2024

Meeting closed at 3:35pm

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 1:** DCPL to provide Mr Clinch with the number of redundancies/transfers and workforce demographics.
5. **New Action Item 2:** Committee to sign off on Terms of Reference (TOR) and finalise all declarations and code of conduct with the Chair to meet department requirements.