

Meeting Minutes
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
via video/teleconferencing
Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Brian Eastoe	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council	Noel Smith	CCC Member
Cr Karen Hutchinson	MidCoast Council	Mike Plain	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd
John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Thomas Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd

Guests:

Mathew Bell, Senior Ecologist MidCoast Council
Lyndie Hepple, Community Development Coordinator MidCoast Council
Terry Inkson, Weeds Management Officer MidCoast Council
Paul De Szell, Director - Community Spaces & Services MidCoast Council

1. Site Tour

No site tour was scheduled for this meeting due to Covid restrictions.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:34pm.

Apologies: Mr Rod Williams

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 Wednesday 11th August 2021 were confirmed.

Moved: Ryan Fenning; Seconded: John Cullen.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** Mr Fenning to liaise with weeds officers from MidCoast Council to gain latest advice regarding Giant Parramatta Grass control and management techniques.

Mr Fenning introduced Mr Inkson, Weeds Management Officer for MidCoast Council. Mr Inkson provided a briefing to the Committee on the latest management advice for the control of Giant

Parramatta Grass (GPG). The priority for GPG is control rather than eradication. The naturally occurring crown rot fungus has proven to be effective in controlling the overall spread and density of GPG within agricultural pastures. This can be applied as a naturally occurring soil ameliorant. Chemical treatment of GPG has reduced. Mr Inkson also provided an update on the work undertaken by David Officer, including the trial project near Wards River.

The Committee thanked Mr Inkson for his presentation.

2. **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.

3. **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 print media was published in October 2021 and included topics on the recommencement of rail operations at Duralie and the success of the tubestock planting and nest box program in the Rehabilitation area.

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.

Ms Hepple presented the 2020/21 MidCoast Council annual financial report on the Duralie Coal community enhancement and environmental contributions. This report included the contributions to both the Stroud area (former Great Lakes Council) and the Gloucester area (former Gloucester Council). Mr Plain stated the 2020/21 report was a comprehensive summary of all financial contributions required by the Development Consent. Mr Williams (not in attendance) sent his thanks for the Council report. The Committee thanked Ms Hepple for the report. A copy of this report will be included with these minutes.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence was listed in the CCC meeting agenda. No further discussion.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Cullen advised operations continued in the Weismantel pit. Mr Cullen also advised the railing of ROM coal to the Stratford mine had continued. DCPL expected to rail three trains per day on a campaign basis until the end of 2021.
2. Environment & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception.

Biodiversity works and rehabilitation planning at DCM for 2022 was discussed, focusing on planting programs and rehabilitation maintenance. Mr Plain indicated that the planning phase had been completed as well as the 2022 work plans for the biodiversity offset planting program.

Rehabilitation progress was discussed, including the completion of approximately 17 hectares of seeding completed in October 2021.

DCPL provided an update on mine closure planning progress including the requirements of the Resources Regulator rehabilitation reform. DCPL advised work on the preparation of the final closure plan was ongoing

Mr Eastoe asked for an update on the proposed bushfire hazard reduction activities proposed for the Duralie Coal properties. Mr Plain advised the current approach is to continue maintaining access tracks and fire breaks within the biodiversity offset areas. The young tubestock plantings in the biodiversity offset areas require the exclusion of fire for approximately 5 years, which limits the ability to undertake any hazard reduction burning. The surrounding rural landholdings will continue to be maintained via a combination of grazing, slashing and back-burning. These properties will act as a buffer to stop spread of any potential fires either to or from the biodiversity area.

Mr Eastoe asked how any unoccupied property was managed. Mr Plain advised DCPL aim to manage all property as either Mining Lease, Biodiversity Offset or under rural licence agreement. The area of unoccupied/unused landholding is minimal. Furthermore, the bushfire management obligations on rural landholdings are a requirement of the rural licences and is the responsibility of the licensee as part of their farm management plan.

8. General Business

1. MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework

Mr Mathew Bell, Senior Ecologist at MidCoast Council, gave a presentation on the recently developed MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework. A copy of this presentation will be included with these minutes.

Mr Eastoe commented on the positive coordination from MidCoast Council for a catchment wide approach.

Currently conservation sites are managed on an individual basis and it can be difficult to extract information. Mr Bell informed there had been engagement between the relevant agencies and that council had appointed a Conservation of Private Lands Officer who will assist in engagement with stakeholders and landholders. Mr Plain suggested there would be significant benefit in a combined framework for providing advice and guidance on conservation sites within the MidCoast Council area. Mr Plain also suggested the mapping of conservation sites would be beneficial.

The Committee thanked Mr Bell for the presentation and commented on the positive relationship between Duralie Coal and MidCoast Council and the sharing of information.

2. The Chair recommended moving to 6-monthly meetings during 2022. This is on the basis that mining operations at Duralie will cease on 31 December 2021 and there will be no activity at

Duralie until rehabilitation works recommence in the second half of 2022. This was agreed by the Committee.

2022 proposed Meeting dates:

- 12:30pm on Wednesday 11th May 2022
- 12:30pm on Wednesday 9th November 2022

Next Meeting date: Proposed 12:30pm on Wednesday 11th May 2022.

Meeting closed at 2:00pm.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

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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.