

Draft Meeting Minutes
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Duralie Mine Site
Thursday 8th August 2024

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council	James Harris	CCC Member
John Cullen	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Rod Williams	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Eastoe	CCC Member
Graham Chase	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		
Jarrad Galvin	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		
James Hughes	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		

1. Site Tour

No site tour was held.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:35 pm

Apologies: Mr Noel Smith, Mrs 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, Housing and Infrastructure.

The declarations of the Duralie CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th of February 2024 to be corrected as Mr Harris was an apology. Minutes moved with correction.

Moved: Brian Eastoe, Seconded: Ryan Fenning

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- 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 under review by Chair.*

The committee discussed the benefits of print media, Mr Eastoe raised the point that it was a valuable source for those not using the web, however, Mr Harris noted the minutes and presentations on the website and the benefit of this being able to quickly address misinformation. The Chair said the updates provided by Yancoal on both mines and the SREH project planned regularly were a good source of current information, Mr Eastoe also suggested that Yancoal publish the updates on social media which focus on the Gloucester

and Stroud Valleys. Mr Williams enquired about the distribution of current Stratford and Duralie Updates and suggested locations like Stroud Library for distribution.

2. **Ongoing Action Item:** DCPL to provide Mr Clinch with further information regarding redundancies/transfers and workforce demographics.

Item was actioned by Mr Kirkwood, noted in correspondence and action completed.

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. This will be sent to the Committee, expected November 2024, ahead of the Duralie CCC meeting.

4. **New Action Item:** Ms MacDonald Hill to seek further information surrounding the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund.

Ms McDonald Hill provided information in correspondence. Action completed.

The Committee thanked Mid Coast Council for the koala presentation.

6. Correspondence

Chair noted the correspondence. No further discussion ensued.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

DCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities.

1. **Activities at the Mine:** (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Cullen provided the Overview of Activities. Mr Cullen explained that the closure works and management of water has been the focus on site.

2. **Environment & Community Activities including monitoring and community programs:** (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Kirkwood presented an update on the Environmental Management and Monitoring Programs.

Mr Williams asked about the higher deposition results in the D4 and D9 dust gauges. Mr Kirkwood explained dust gauges are prone to contamination and the presented elevated results do not represent an increase in dust generation from the operation. Mr Chase added that contamination can be caused by things such as insects.

Mr Williams enquired about the plan for the AD02 dam wall. Mr Chase explained that the final design is yet to be confirmed. Mr Eastoe asked if the whole wall is to be removed, with Mr Chase adding that it would be lowered so that it is not a declared dam. Mr Williams enquired on the threshold to be a declared dam. Mr Chase explained that declared dam status is a result of risk rating.

Mr Kirkwood provided an update on the progress in the Biodiversity Offset Areas and Rehabilitation areas, with a 7000 infill planting program completed in May, information was also provided on the targeted nature of the planting to suit the vegetation types which are found in the Vegetation Management Units. Mr Eastoe enquired on the outcomes from the Rehabilitation Monitoring and what findings will be reported in the Annual Review. Mr Kirkwood explained the Monitoring report is not yet final, but preliminary findings had found the rehabilitation areas and biodiversity offset areas are progressing towards the targeted outcomes

however, due to recent weather conditions, there had also been an increase in juvenile weed species and areas identified requiring additional infill planting.

3. Community Complaints

Mr Kirkwood presented an update on Community Complaints.

4. Community Programs

Mr Kirkwood provided an update on Community Programs. Mr Kirkwood highlighted the change in the Community Support Program guidelines, expanding the focus to include programs which assist on the socio-economic transition for the region.

Cr Smith raised the issue that the Education Support Fund running over the Christmas period can make it difficult for applicants to gain the necessary signatures, Mr Kirkwood agreed and will look into options to address this.

5. Mine Closure Planning

Mr Chase gave an update on Mine Closure Planning.

Mr Harris asked about post mining land use and the holdings which will remain post mining and what Yancoal's divestment intentions may be. Mr Chase explained that the management of property holdings is undertaken at a Yancoal wide level, that the site was not aware of any current divestment plans for Duralie, and that future landuses and/or divestment would likely take a number of years to be developed.

Mr Williams question if the 'buffer' properties will be divested earlier. Mr Chase explained while bulk earthworks continue land would not be sold. Mr Williams expressed the view that the community is interested in future land uses and divestment to provide security, and a strategic staged divestment of properties would be beneficial to the community and land values. Mr Eastoe agreed with Mr Williams that strategic divestment is important for community and stated that the divestment of large agricultural holdings may pose significant investment opportunities. Mr Williams suggested that the community should be consulted as part of divestment planning and future land uses. Cr Smith noted that the sale of the land may lead to different land uses in the future. The Committee members discussed having someone from Yancoal corporate present on the future direction of land sale and use in the area.

Mr Harris questioned if land designated as grazing or as native vegetation will be zoned to reflect the status. Mr Chase stated that in the rehabilitation areas, no changes are proposed, while in the offset areas, there are covenants on the land title which protect the offsets and native vegetation.

Mr Eastoe enquired on the status of the Coal Shaft Creek reconstruction. Mr Chase provided information that the reconstruction will be completed in two-phases, with the aim of the first phase to commence next year, the second phase would not be able to be completed until the main haul road is removed.

Mr Chase provided further information on the planned activities with proposal to remove the rail ballast, diversion drain above the former AD01 and other small scale infrastructure. Mr Chase added that geotechnical and geochemical drilling has been completed this year, with further drilling to take place around Clareval.

8. General Business

At the request of the committee, Mr Galvin provided an update on the SREH project. Mr Galvin explained that the EIS submission was waiting for the issuing of revised SEAR's, which had been issued the previous day. Mr Galvin stated the approvals team was aiming to submit the EIS within the next few weeks.

Mr Galvin added that letterbox drops will be taking place in the areas surrounding Stratford and Gloucester, and community information sessions will be held which are aimed to be within the EIS exhibition period. Mr Kirkwood raised to the Committee that they can register with the NSW planning portal to be notified when a project is on exhibition.

Mr Eastoe asked if similar projects to the SREH had been investigated for the Duralie site, with Mr Cullen explaining that the Yancoal Project team assessed Duralie for potential suitability for similar projects, and based on several factors determined the Duralie would not be suitable.

Mr Williams raised concerns that it appears that potential other land uses at the Stratford Coal site such as manufacturing which could be of high economic value had not been adequately investigated for use. Mr Williams added that perhaps discussions with committees in renewable energy zones could take place to see the positive and negative impacts of renewable energy projects. The Chair said she was aware of committees established by the Government's EnergyCo within renewable energy zones, which had representation from multiple stakeholders. She would investigate what information is available and inform the committee.

Cr Smith stated that this will be her last Duralie CCC meeting as she will not be running in the next Council elections. The Committee expressed thanks to Cr Smith for her time and input.

The Chair confirmed the terms of reference with the members as required by DPFI.

The Chair discussed in the future potential changing content based on what is important and of interest to the committee. Mr Eastoe thanked DCPL for the meeting, and asked how the next agenda could be adapted to fit what was discussed today.

10. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

2024 proposed Meeting dates:

- Thursday 6th February

Meeting closed at 2:15 PM.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***Ongoing Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council's annual financial report in November to be forwarded to the committee when received.