

Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2022

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting Period:	January - December 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Thomas Kirkwood

1. Executive Summary

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee was established in 2003 as part of the Duralie Coal Mine Development Consent approval and operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The Committee is currently comprised of:

- six local community representatives;
- two Mid Coast Council representatives (elected and staff);
- two Duralie Coal representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

During 2022, the Committee met biannually as mining operations have ceased at the Duralie Mine. Resumption of normal face-to-face meetings took place in May and November for the reporting year and following the Local Government elections in December 2021, the committee was introduced to a new elected representative, in addition to the staff representative. An approach by a local progress association prompted discussions on recruitment of new members as the mine transitions to closure. Consequently, three new community members representing a variety of interests and stakeholder groups were appointed by the Department and attended the November meeting. The committee enjoys a good rapport amongst all of the members and this has not changed with the new additions. Yancoal personnel maintain their long held practice of producing high quality and informative presentations in advance of each meeting to the committee.

Council's Community Development Coordinator presented the MidCoast Council's annual financial reports on the Duralie Coal Community Enhancement and Environmental contributions at the November meeting. This comprehensive report outlining the three funds; community, roads and bridges and environmental, administered by council, provides transparent accounting of the purpose and allocation of each fund, key activities and expenditure and proposed works for 2023. As in the previous year, the committee acknowledged the quality and efforts of Council's Community Development Coordinator in preparing this report. It has taken a few years to achieve this exemplary reporting and the efforts of the council staff involved cannot be over stated.

Mine closure, rehabilitation and future land use continue to dominate meetings with committee members commenting on how to better inform and involve the broader community in such plans through media, additional social media outlets, meetings and workshops to ensure the area's viability once all mining has ceased.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- postponement of tube stock planting because of ongoing inclement weather
- community complaints
- Draft Rehabilitation Management Plan
- broader community engagement and the CCC's print media articles
- Yancoal land management
- Stratford Community Support Program
- Proposed draft changes to CCC Guidelines and input from the members

2. CCC activities over the last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held during May and November 2022. The committee reviews its meeting schedule for the ensuing year in November each year.
- A reduced site visit of rehabilitation work was undertaken following the May meeting because of members' availability and time constraints.
- No joint Committee meetings were held, although the Duralie Committee maintains an interest in Yancoal's sister operation at Stratford. Stratford updates are included on the agenda for each meeting.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Stratford Coal Education Program	Actively support ongoing success of Stratford Coal Education Program through CCC networks and media.	Ongoing.
Yancoal Community Support Programs	Disseminate information through CCC networks and media.	Ongoing.
Mine closure, post mining requirements/opportunities	<p>Consultant interviews undertaken with committee on Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Stratford Renewable Energy Hub fact sheet distributed to committee.</p>	<p>Ongoing interaction through CCC and workshops as required.</p> <p>Consultant to present to February 2023 meeting.</p> <p>Agenda item for February 2023 meeting.</p>


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 will remain consistent with those of previous years and will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Engage with Yancoal and the broader community on post mining options, including landscape and potential uses whilst meeting regulatory rehabilitation requirements.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting, in addition to those of prior years.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	February 16 2022