

Duralie Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2023
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Tom Kirkwood, Environment and Community Superintendent

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee was established in 2003 with the approval of the Duralie Coal Mine Consent. The mine is located on The Bucketts Way between the villages of Wards River and Stroud Road within the MidCoast Local Government Area.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Six local community representatives;
- Two MidCoast representatives; one elected councillor and one staff member with a designated councillor alternate;
- Two Stratford Coal representatives with attendance from other personnel as required;
- One independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- As mining has now ceased at Duralie and mine closure planning is underway, this has been the main focus of the committee for the last two years and the reduced meeting cycle.
- The committee held two meetings for the reporting period, in February and August. A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment was carried out for Duralie and its sister mine at Stratford, a summary of which was presented at the February meeting by the consultant, who also is conducting broader community engagement sessions with key stakeholders. Committee members are keen to investigate potential land use options and opportunities for the area to remain sustainable. Concern has been raised that as the mines close, the need for the current population and workforce to stay in the area so the local services and businesses remain buoyant. What form this may take varies amongst the committee and will be an ongoing investigation and discussion as their interest determines and closure plans are developed. One option of interest to the committee proposed by Yancoal is the potential to transition to a renewable energy hub, currently under a feasibility study.
- Committee presentations still include general environmental management and monitoring, operational activities including decommissioning, land management and rehabilitation activities, potential use of voids and final land use options, complaints, company reports and community sponsorship and revised DPE CCC guidelines and requirements.
- Meetings are held on site and a tour of the Weisemantel and Clareval Pits, Pasture and Nature rehabilitation areas visits was undertaken as part of the August meeting.

- The meetings are well attended and with the addition of recent members with new interests, the committee meets the requirements of the revised Departmental Guidelines. All members have completed the Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest and agreed on the Terms of Reference.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Mine Closure Planning	<p>Consultation with CCC on Socio-economic Impact Assessment – presentation of findings.</p> <p>Dedicated webpage created for mine closure.</p> <p>Appointment of specialist staff to assist with ongoing community liaison.</p>	<p>Information will support preparation of detailed mine closure planning and guide future consultation with all key stakeholders including CCC – ongoing.</p> <p>Mine Closure Specialist and Community Liaison Advisor to attend February 2024 meeting.</p>
MidCoast Council Annual Financial Report on Community Enhancement Funding	<p>Comprehensive Report provided by Council to CCC.</p>	<p>Ongoing annual action.</p>

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Engage with Yancoal and the broader community and other specialists as required on post mining planning and options in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Address any emerging issues of the committee.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	January 18 2024.