

Draft Meeting Minutes
Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Duralie Mine Site
Thursday 13th February 2025

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	James Harris	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd	Brian Eastoe	CCC Member
James Hughes	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		
Jarrad Galvin	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		
Graham Chase	Duralie Coal Pty Ltd		

1. Site Tour

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

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 13:35 pm

Apologies: Mr John Cullen, Mr Noel Smith, Mr Rod Williams and Mr Ryan Fenning.

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 August 2024 were confirmed.

Moved: James Harris; Seconded: Brian Eastoe.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **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 agreed to close out the action item with the current Yancoal newsletter providing sufficient updates on the closure activities and schedule for the Duralie operations.

2. **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 MacDonald-Hill requested a future embargo on the distribution of the MidCoast Council Annual Financial Report on Community Enhancement Funding by committee members. Ms MacDonald-Hill explained that the 2024 report was distributed to an organisation that was unsuccessful in applying for funding who misinterpreted that they would receive funding from Council when in fact they had been unsuccessful in receiving funding.

3. **New Action Item 1:** *Ms MacDonald Hill to extend an invitation to Yancoal corporate to present to the committee on future divestment and use of Yancoal owned land.*

Item was actioned by the Chair. An invitation has been extended to Yancoal corporate dated 26 August 2024. A response was received on 27 August 2024 with Yancoal corporate agreeing to present to the committee at a future meeting at an appropriate time when more information is available.

4. **New Action Item 2:** *Ms MacDonald Hill to seek further information on the decision by EnergyCo to exclude the MidCoast Council area from the states Renewable Energy Zones.*

Item was actioned by the Chair. Further information was provided in correspondence dated 26 August 2024.

6. Correspondence

Chair noted the correspondence as listed in the agenda.

Ms MacDonald-Hill advised the committee that MidCoast Council had decided to no longer appoint an elected representative to the Duralie CCC and that MidCoast council staff members Ryan Fenning and Lyndie Hepple had been appointed to the committee.

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 Kirkwood provided the Overview of Activities. Mr Kirkwood highlighted the operational milestone of the completed PAF rehandle campaign over October and November 2024, and further discussed works commencing in the quarry to claim rock for the Coal Shaft Creek reconstruction project and future road infrastructure. Mr Eastoe enquired into the use of the quarry as a source of material, Mr Kirkwood explained that the quarry being existing infrastructure allowed for recovery of the resource with disturbance consistent with the operations consent.

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 Kirkwood recapped the EPA site visit on 13 November 2024 as part of the Environmental Risk Assessment of EPL 11701.

Mr Eastoe enquired into the elevated HVA5 result in December at the Twin Houses HVA5 unit and if the bush fires at Mill Creek potentially impacted the result. Mr Kirkwood explained that the unit is near the unsealed Johnsons Creek Road, the localised nature of the result and prevailing weather conditions indicated the source of the elevated result to be from activity on Johnsons Creek Road. Mr Hughes added that the Mill Creek fires were not active during the date of the elevated results.

Mr Eastoe enquired as to the reasoning of the removal of the farm dam above the former Auxiliary Dam 1 (AD1) site. Mr Kirkwood explained that as part of decommissioning of infrastructure, the drains above the former AD1 site will be removed and that the dam is required to be removed prior to the commencement of these works.

Mr Kirkwood updated the committee on the Biodiversity Offset Area (BOA) infill planting program and the works proposed for 2025 which would target areas that have not reached target densities. Mr Eastoe highlighted the establishment of native vegetation in the rehabilitation areas and questioned what challenges are found in comparison to infill planting in the BOA. Mr Kirkwood discussed the competition between native vegetation and exotic grasses in the planted BOA compared to the seeded rehabilitation areas. Mr Eastoe enquired into the different plant communities planted into the lower lands and the mountain ranges and what has informed the planting program, Mr Kirkwood explained the communities planted reflected the remnant vegetation found in these areas.

3. Mine Closure Planning: *(refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)*

Mr Chase provided an update on Mine Closure Planning.

Mr Chase highlighted the studies being finalised to inform the detailed mine closure plan. Mr Chase noted that the closure team is reviewing options to reduce the capacity of the Mine Water Dam and Auxiliary Dam 2 and the design of Coal Shaft Creek is being reviewed to integrate the Mine Water Dam and optimise the surrounding landforms.

Mr Eastoe noted that the Coal Shaft Creek project has been an ongoing topic for discussion with the timeline being unknown and questioned if the project would be adapted during construction. Mr Chase advised the construction would reflect the design and discussed the detail work which will be undertaken regarding the geomorphic design so that when the project does begin it will not take a “gun barrel” form.

4. Community Complaints: *(refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)*

Mr Kirkwood presented an update on Community Complaints.

5. Community Programs: *(refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)*

Mr Galvin presented an update on Community Programs. Mr Galvin highlighted the 32 successful applicants from the 2025 Community Support Program and the closing of the Education Support Fund with successful applicants to be announced around the end of February 2025.

6. Stratford Renewable Energy Hub Updated: *(refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)*

Mr Galvin provided an update on the SREH. Mr Galvin noted that since the last meeting the Environmental Impact Statement was submitted and Yancoal was preparing a response to submissions. Mr Eastoe commented that the approach Yancoal had taken in providing information regarding the project was transparent.

8. General Business

The Chair raised with the committee reducing the frequency of meetings to annually. Mr Kirkwood and Mr Chase both highlighted with the detailed mine closure plans to be finalised around the middle of the year there was potential updates which could be provided in August or November. The Chair indicated that if meetings did reduce, the committee members can request an extraordinary meeting. Mr Eastoe added that annually is potentially too long between meetings but that the meeting schedule doesn't need to be set now and wait for more information regarding closure plans. Mr Harris agreed that meeting annually would be too long. The Chair advised the views of Mr Williams and Mr Smith, sought prior to the meeting and the committee agreed to postpone any decision until the next meeting when the detailed mine closure plans will be finalised.

Mr Chase explained, to maximise the amount of information to be provided to the committee, the next Duralie CCC meeting should be scheduled later in the year.

New Action Item 1: Mr Kirkwood to propose the H2 meeting dates prior to 30 June 2025.

10. Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

2025 proposed Meeting dates:

- TBC

Meeting closed at 2:17 PM.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***Ongoing Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council's annual financial report in November to be embargoed when forwarded to the committee when received.
2. ***New Action Item 1:*** Mr Kirkwood to propose the H2 meeting dates prior to 30 June 2025.