

Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2021

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting Period:	January - December 2021
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:

- three 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.

In February 2019, the Committee resolved to move to biannual meetings as mining operations had ceased at Duralie in late 2018. However, Duralie Mine personnel advised the February 2021 meeting that operations would resume for remnant coal throughout 2021 and subsequently recommended a return to quarterly meetings for the year. Accordingly, meetings were held in February, May, August and November for the reporting year. The February and May meetings were carried out as a combination of attendance on site and video conferencing, with a site tour following the May meeting. The August and November meetings were held via video/teleconferencing only. Despite interruptions to normal meeting procedures with the ongoing escalation of Covid-19, the May and November meetings were fortunate to include invited guest speakers and good attendance numbers.

At the May meeting, the MidCoast Council Catchment Officer presented an update on the Karuah River Catchment Management Plan and the progress of the Karuah-Borland Landcare Project, which is partially funded by the Duralie catchment contributions paid to Council. With Council and the Catchment Officer's proactive approach and the benefit of careful planning and seed funding, this has led to the Branch/Karuah Catchment Grants, Beyond the Shed and a major demonstration project. The community are interested and actively involved in these projects.

The November meeting had three invited guest speakers from MidCoast Council. The Senior Ecologist spoke on Council's newly developed Biodiversity Framework, the goals, responsibility and shared vision to 2030. As with the Catchment Officer's presentation, the committee was suitably impressed with Council's stewardship and protection of the environment.

In response to a request for an update on the management of Giant Parramatta Grass, Council's Weeds Management Officer was able to join the meeting and provide the information to the committee.

The final speaker to the November meeting was Council's Community Development Coordinator, who presented the annual financial reports on Duralie Coal Community Enhancement and Environmental contributions, in a comprehensive format, which has taken a few years to finesse but certainly meets the committee's expectations. Her efforts have received accolades from both the Stratford and Duralie CCCs.

Mine closure, rehabilitation and future land use remain stable agenda items to each meeting. A discussion was held during the May meeting on a Sydney Morning Herald article claiming the NSW Government did not hold sufficient funds within mining security deposits to meet the cost of rehabilitation for all mines across the State. Future use of mining voids was also discussed with the video example of Yancoal's involvement in Lake Kepwari in Western Australia given as a good example of what can be achieved.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- water management
- March 2021 flood event
- community complaints
- biodiversity management and Duralie Nest Box program
- broader community engagement and the CCC's print media articles
- Yancoal land management, maintenance and leasing
- Yancoal Community Support Program

2. CCC activities over the last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held during February, May, August and November 2021. The committee reviews its meeting schedule for the ensuing year in November each year.
- A site visit of the Weismantel mining operations and the rehabilitation was undertaken following the May meeting.
- 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.
- Through aligned networks, the committee is kept informed by Duralie Coal and Mid Coast Council of other events occurring in the region throughout the year such as Karuah Catchment Landcare group, MidCoast Council and Land Service field days and next round of funding grants.
- Two representatives of the Duralie CCC are members on the Duralie Community Fund Panel under the auspice of Mid Coast Council,

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
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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
Post mining requirements	Planning for post mining landforms	Ongoing interaction through CCC and workshops as required
Giant Parramatta Grass Trial	Committee request for outcome of trials and update on management control	Current advice provided to November meeting.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 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:

- to investigate potential opportunities to increase agricultural land capability whilst meeting rehabilitation requirements.
- Engage with Yancoal and the broader community on post mining options, including landscape and potential uses.

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.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	March 15 2022