

# Moolarben Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2023/2024

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Moolarben Coal	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	April 2022 to August 2024
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Rebecca Shanks</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

The Moolarben Coal Mine is an open cut and underground coal mine located about 40 kilometres northeast of Mudgee in the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area.

The site comprises of four approved open cut mining areas, three approved underground mining areas and other mining related infrastructure.

The mine commenced operations in 2008 and has received modified consents from that time.

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development. The committee was established following the mine's approval and the membership consists of:

- Four local community representatives
- One Mid Western Regional Council delegate (and alternate)
- One stakeholder group (Mudgee Business Chamber)
- One local aboriginal land council delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The meetings are held quarterly March, June, September & November and attendees receive a comprehensive presentation from the proponent. Topics of discussion during the report period included:

- Community Support Program (Sponsorships & Donations)
- Operational Updates – Open Cut & Underground
- Water Treatment Plan Operations
- Annual Review
- Independent Environmental Audit
- Longwall operations & movements
- Extraction Plans
- Exploration Updates (Drilling)
- Environmental monitoring (Water, Air Quality, Blasting, Noise & Meteorology)
- Water Release data
- Stream flow of the Goulburn River
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Blasting
- Noise Monitoring
- Community Complaints
- Rehabilitation Update

- Biodiversity offset areas update
- Open Cut 3 Extension (Amended Project)
- NSW EnergyCo Transmission Infrastructure & Biodiversity Management
- Employment and recruitment (including Apprentices & Traineeships)
- Updates on progress of Modifications
- Management Plan reviews
- Rehabilitation activities and status
- Mine Subsidence
- Approvals update
- Pest Management and baiting

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The CCC meet quarterly.
- Attendance at the meetings is good, with the occasional apology due to competing commitments.
- Briefing on the Underground Mine 2 modification. (Stage 2 Project Approval updated to incorporate the modification.)
- Briefing on the Open Cut 3 Extension – Proposed Amended Project
- The CCC received a presentation by the Independent Chairperson on the Department of Planning's revised guidelines for SSD CCCs; outlining the changes and providing an opportunity to reinforce the objectives of the CCC and role of members. The members of the CCC have developed a specific Terms of Reference for this committee as well as completed the necessary governance forms (Pecuniary Interest Declarations and Code of Conduct), which will be reviewed annually.
- There were no joint CCC's held in the area.

## 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
<b>Water data and monitoring information</b>	Community representative requesting water data	Requests made and information provided to CCC.
<b>Open Cut 3 Extension – Proposed Amended Project</b>	Briefings are provided on the Open Cut Extension (lodged March 2024)	Ongoing. Currently under assessment by DPPI
<b>The Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS)</b>	Information provided to CCC.	Study complete.
<b>Exploration Updates</b>	Drilling program presented at meetings.	CCC being kept informed.

<b>Biodiversity Offset Management</b>	Regular updates provided on the management of biodiversity offsets associated with the project.	CCC being kept informed.
<b>Underground 2 Modification</b>	Regular updates provided on the progress of the application throughout the reporting period.	Approved 22/12/23.
<b>Management Plans</b>	All management plans continue to be reviewed/updated in accordance with regulatory requirements.	Keep CCC informed of amendments to Management Plans following modification approvals.

#### 4 Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2024 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- A site inspection.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Ongoing requests for water data and monitoring information.
- Ongoing updates on rehabilitation and biodiversity management.
- Ongoing updates on operational activities and exploration.
- Continued updates on the progress of Open Cut 3 Extension application currently before DPHI.

#### Review of Effectiveness of the CCC

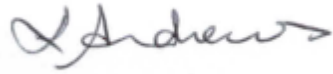
In accordance with the revised CCC guidelines, it is deemed that the CCC operates effectively. The proponent provides comprehensive presentations, ongoing notifications, timely responses to requests and completion of action items. There have been no concerns raised by CCC members.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes are available on the project website.

*Note: At the Q1 meeting of the MCO CCC, the Independent Chair advised that she had informed the Department of Planning that she was stepping down, thereby handing back the CCC to DPHI. In July 2024, DPHI appointed a replacement Chairperson from its Talent Pool.*

Signature of Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew" with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date:

30 August 2024