

United Wambo Joint Venture Project Community Consultative Committee Annual Report – 2022-2024

CCC / Project Name:	United Wambo Joint Venture Project	Reporting Period:	March 2022 to March 2024
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Peter Jaegar/Aislinn Farnon

1. Executive Summary

The Wambo Coal Mine is located in the Hunter Valley about 15 kms west of Singleton, near the village of Warkworth. The mine is bounded by several coal mining operations to the north and east, agricultural activities associated with Wambo Creek and Wollombi Brook to the south and Wollemi National Park to the southwest.

The mine originally commenced operations in 1969 and its project operations involve the Wambo open cut, multi-seam longwall mining in the South Bates Underground Mine (Whybrow Seam) progressing to the Wambo Seam and South Wambo Underground Mine.

In 2016 Wambo Coal Mine together with United Colliery applied for a joint venture project. This project, which is located approximately 16kms west of Singleton, proposed to expand and integrate open cut mining operations at the existing Wambo Coal Mine and the United Colliery to allow for the extraction of an additional 150Mt. This application was approved by the Independent Planning Commission in August 2019. As a result of this, the Department approved the combination of the Wambo Coal Mine and United Colliery's Community Consultative Committee's to create the United Wambo Joint Venture Project Community Consultative (CCC).

The joint venture arrangement proposed a new open cut coal mine to optimise future open cut coal mining operations across the two mining areas by maximising resource recovery and enabling extraction of an additional 150 million tonnes of coal over 23 years.

The United Wambo Joint Venture Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development. The combined membership now consists of:

- Six community representatives
- Two Stakeholder group representatives (Hunter Gliding Club & Hunter Environmental Lobby)
- One Singleton Council delegate
- Three company representatives from each company (Peabody & Glencore); and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The inaugural meeting of the United Wambo Joint Venture Project CCC was held in August 2020. And the CCC continues to meet on a quarterly basis February, May, August & November.

The CCC receive two separate presentations at the meetings. One on the existing Wambo Coal project (Peabody) and the other being the United Wambo Joint Venture Project (Glencore & Peabody)

Topics of discussion for the Wambo project include:

- Current and future operations plan for review
- Weather statistics
- Update on the South Dam Project
- Surface Water Inventory
- Update on the Independent Environmental Audit (IEA)
- Update on the Annual Review
- Rehabilitation areas
- Compliance & performance criteria summaries
- Environmental Monitoring Results
- Reports and Management Plans
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- North Wambo Creek Diversion Update/Rehabilitation
- Biodiversity Offset Strategy
- Long Wall Operations/Progression
- Approvals update (MLA 632)
- Extraction Plans
- Management Plans reviews and updates
- Construction of infrastructure (buildings, etc) on site
- Complaints
- Community support and sponsorship program

The United Wambo Joint Venture project includes presentations on:

- Mining Operation Plan
- Production totals
- Corporate changes
- Final Landform & Rehabilitation Plan
- Mine Infrastructure Area
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust update, including stewardship agreements
- Offsets update
- Tree screening along Golden Highway
- Exploration Program
- Environment & Community Metrics
- Independent Environmental Audit (IEA)
- Annual Review
- Meteorological data
- Air Quality data
- Noise
- Cultural Heritage Program
- Community Update
- Infrastructure & machinery
- Management Plans updates
- Feral Animal Management
- Consultation with governance agencies (MEG, Resources Regulator, EPA, etc)
- Dam Safety inspections
- Community Newsletters
- Community Sponsorship/Smarty Grants Program

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

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Comprehensive updates on both the Wambo project and the Joint Venture Project:
- The CCC received a briefing from the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue in November 2023 who provided a presentation on the history of the group, community consultation, its air quality monitoring network data analysis and mine tours program.
- Management Plan reviews and approvals.
- Updates on Indigenous Employment Pathways Program, Archaeological Salvage & Potential Cultural Tree Determination, Cultural Heritage funding/involvement
- Community Information Nights at Jerrys Plains
- Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements
- Exploration Activities.
- Wambo Singleton Hall of Fame nominees and recipients.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to other commitments.
- 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.

3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Noise	The company operates in accordance with its approved Noise Management Plan. All noise complaints are recorded and staff take appropriate action at the time they are reported.	Noise complaints and investigations are presented at each CCC.
Dust	The company operates in accordance with its approved Air Quality Management Plan. With the expansion of the project's mining activities, into new areas, additional dust impacts are being experienced.	Dust monitoring results are presented at each CCC.
Lighting Complaints	With some of the mining activities occurring on ridges, some lighting complaints have been received from residents and motorists.	The company reacts swiftly to mitigate any complaints.

Feral Animal Control	Baiting programs organised in cooperation with Local Land Services for foxes and wild dogs. Pig trapping and kangaroo culling program.	Ongoing issue.
Biodiversity Offsets	Information provided on Biodiversity Stewardships and Conservation Agreements. Negotiations underway with National Parks & Wildlife Service to transport some land.	Ongoing.
Emission Reductions	Electric hybrid vehicles are being integrated to site activities.	Ongoing.

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:

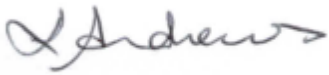
- Meet on a quarterly basis (February, April, August and December).
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on Community Support Program.
- Keep CCC abreast with groundwater monitoring.

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

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

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.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	30 April 2024