

## Appin Mine Community Consultative Committee (ACCC) – Annual Report 2024

<b>CCC project name:</b>	Appin Mine CCC	<b>Reporting period:</b>	June – December 2024
<b>Independent chairperson:</b>	Deborah Palmer (from June 2024)	<b>Proponent contact:</b>	Antony Leone, GM <sup>3</sup>

### 1. Executive summary / introduction

The Appin Community Consultative Committee (ACCC) serves as a key platform for dialogue between GM<sup>3</sup> (formerly South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal), local stakeholders, and the broader community. The committee ensures transparency in the ongoing mining operations at Appin Mine, facilitating discussions on environmental management, community concerns, and regulatory compliance.

During the reporting period, the ACCC held four meetings to discuss updates on mining activities, environmental monitoring, project developments, and community engagement. This report highlights the key discussions, membership changes, and priorities for 2025.

### 2. CCC activities over the last 6 months

#### Number of meetings

Five meetings were held between June and December 2024:

- 13 June 2024
- 8 August 2024
- 14 October 2024 (special out of sequence meeting with Subsidence Advisory NSW)
- 16 October 2024
- 11 December 2024

All meetings took place at Menangle Rural Fire Service (RFS) except for the 14 October 2024 meeting which was an additional session held online with Subsidence Advisory NSW on subsidence claims framework proposed changes and consultation.

Minutes of each meeting are published on the project website at: [www.gm-3.com.au/appin-mine/](http://www.gm-3.com.au/appin-mine/)

#### Attendance

- Engagement from stakeholders remained strong, with active participation from community representatives, Wollondilly Shire Council and GM<sup>3</sup>.

#### Changes in membership

- Mike Archer retired as Chairperson in May 2024, and Deborah Palmer was appointed by DPHI as the new Independent Chairperson.
- Rod Mapstone departed from GM<sup>3</sup> and was replaced by Melynda Kensey. Sandra Moreno took over as GM<sup>3</sup>'s ACCC lead, replacing Rod Mapstone.

- Following council elections, Cr Matthew Deeth continues as Wollondilly Shire representative with Cr Paul Rogers appointed as alternate.

## **Site visits**

During the period, members of the Committee toured North Cliff rehabilitation site and old-growth trees at the Nepean River Biobanking site.

## **Meetings overview**

### **June 2024 meeting**

- Update provided on the Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) Abatement Project with a focus on the Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO) technology at Vent Shaft 6. The CCC was notified of a community information session scheduled for 27 June.
- Reporting on the Nepean River Gas Zone with two active gas zones recorded in May 2024, with no new zones detected.
- Discharge levels and water quality monitoring reviewed at Brennans Creek Dam.
- AMVA Project was discussed with discussions about the Noise and Blast Management Plans.

### **August 2024 meeting**

- Longwall 710B mining update was provided with mining commencing 18 June 2024; expected completion by Q2 2025.
- Discussion regarding the number of properties that requires engagement for LW710B.
- An update on the sale of IMC to GM<sup>3</sup> and the transition plan discussed.
- . Update provided to the committee relating to the progress of the Ventilation Air Methane Abatement Project, proposed at VS6 site in Douglas Park.

### **October 2024 meetings**

- Committee briefed by Subsidence Advisory NSW on subsidence claims framework proposed changes and invited to provide comment during the consultation period.
- The sale of Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) was finalised on 29 August 2024, with GM<sup>3</sup> assuming operations. Transitional support from South32 continues until early 2025.
- Longwall 710B progress and upcoming Longwall 711 mining schedule reviewed.
- Routine monitoring updates for gas zones along the Nepean River.
- Noise Monitoring at Vent Shaft 6 was discussed with the Committee raising concerns over temporary diesel compressors used after a fire; GM<sup>3</sup> confirmed mitigation efforts.
- GM<sup>3</sup> newsletter (the first under new ownership) to be distributed to the communities related to our operations.

### **December 2024 meeting**

- An update on Georges River Rehabilitation Project was provided with grouting at Rockbar 39 complete; new sites identified for 2025 work.
- No water quality exceedances reported at the Brennans Creek Dam since October.

- An update on the AMVA Project was provided with the helipad construction and infrastructure updates presented.
- Enquiry regarding potential for Community Investment fund to include CPI, under review. The ACCC were invited to provide comments to the Appin Mine Heritage Management Plan.

### **Effectiveness review**

The ACCC effectively facilitated discussions on mine operations, environmental monitoring, and community concerns. Detailed discussions on environmental management, particularly subsidence, gas monitoring, and water quality were a focus of the members. The Committee continues to request and take up the opportunity to undertake site visits to understand firsthand impacts and mitigations.

GM<sup>3</sup> is considering a request for the provision of funding to the ACCC in line with section 4.10 of the community consultative committee guidelines- allowing for engaging independent expertise to help inform the Committee.

### **3. Key issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Actions taken</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b>VAM abatement project</b>	Community consultation and modification planning underway.	Public exhibition in early 2025.
<b>Subsidence impacts</b>	30 active claims; additional monitoring initiated.	Ongoing reporting to ACCC and ongoing communication with land holders.
<b>Rehabilitation progress for Northcliff site</b>	Rehabilitation strategy developed.	Update and involvement of CCC in progress of rehabilitation.
<b>Nepean River Gas Zones</b>	Monitoring framework reviewed.	Continued monitoring and appraisal of performance against regulatory standards.

### **4. Focus for the next 12 months**

The ACCC will continue to:

- Monitor mine operations, ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations.
- Continued monitoring and reports in subsidence impacts with a focus on ensuring these impacts are being managed fairly.
- Monitoring of the construction of the AMVA/VAM Projects and their possible impacts of the amenity of local communities.
- Continued monitoring and assessment of long-wall mining.
- Continued monitoring and assessment of coal wash emplacements and beneficial re-use.
- Review of the need for a fund to help inform the CCC.
- Facilitate additional site visits, focusing on subsidence impacts, rehabilitation progress and project developments.

<b>Name of chairperson:</b>	Deborah Palmer
<b>Date:</b>	30 January 2025