

## **DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

CCC Project Name: Dargues Gold Mine

Reporting Period: 1/7/23 to 30/6/24 (covering meetings 49-52)

Independent Chairperson: B A Weir PSM

Members:

P Cormick

M Darwon

P Owen

B Royds

Dr K Waddell

W. Waterhouse

S Needham – Coast Watchers Assoc. Representative

Cr J Preston – Queanbeyan -Palerang Reg. Council representative

A Jagelman/ W Inglis/ B Walker – Eurobodalla Shire Council representative

A Wylie – Proponent (Big Island Mining/Aurelia Metals) representative

A Saunders – Proponent (as above) representative

Proponent Contact: M/s Abigail Saunders.

#### **1. Executive summary/introduction.**

The Committee has operated in a consultative, transparent and co-operative manner in accordance with the purpose and objectives of Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) as outlined in the Department of Planning and Environment's Guidelines.

The Members were able to represent their respective interests to their satisfaction and took an active interest in the mining operations and its effects (positive and negative), the environmental standards and compliance thereof, data adequacy/analysis/availability/reporting, and the future care/ management/ environmental rehabilitation/use of the site in the long-term.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- Number of meetings: 4
- Attendance at meetings: Being a large Committee whose Membership covered a wide geographic area, as well as having work commitments, flexibility was undertaken to maximise attendance at meetings. An average attendance above 80% was achieved.
- The meetings discussed the matters shown below as being “Key Issues”.
- Governance: The reports were distributed in advance of the meetings. The Members engaged in discussion in a mutually respectful manner. The Proponent’s representatives were co-operative wherever possible with the Community representatives’ suggestions.
- Site visits: At the Annual Inspection (December) the Committee inspected the dam spillway. Its design features and environmental objectives were explained. The Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) was then inspected. The Committee observed the dam height as well as the current tailings and water levels. The proposed capping and sloping objectives, in order to create a stable land form, which would blend into the surrounding land mass, was explained by the proponent’s representatives.
- Review of effectiveness: A review of the effectiveness of the Committee during 2023/24 was undertaken. The feedback from the Members was that they consider that the Committee acted in accordance with the objectives of the Department’s Guidelines by operating in a transparent, co-operative and consultative manner. The Committee adopted and operated in accordance with the Committee’s Terms of Reference and meeting procedure.

## 3. Key issues:

Issue 1: Future of mine.

During the year the Committee was continually advised and updated regarding the future of the mining operations.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Committee was advised that, following extensive site exploration, it had been decided to cease mining operations in July 2024 and for the mine to go into care and maintenance. From July 2025 major site rehabilitation would be undertaken. The Community representatives sought assurances from the Proponent’s representatives that there was a strong commitment, and a sufficient budget allocation, to ensure that a “best practice”

standard of site rehabilitation would be undertaken, and that assurance was given.

Issue 2: Current environmental practices and compliance.

The Committee continued to interrogate the mining data supplied by the Proponent to ensure that the highest possible level of environmental monitoring, analysis, operational standard and compliance was achieved.

Issue 3: Community engagement.

All Members sought to maximise information sharing and engagement with the local community. The basis and accuracy of community complaints was discussed at each meeting, together with any remedial action deemed necessary. The future role of the CCC was also considered to be of importance to ensure continuing community engagement and information sharing with respect to the future site rehabilitation work and future use in the long-term.

Issue 4: Governance.

The Committee adopted a Terms of Reference, and most Members executed the Members' Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interest Declarations in accordance with the updated CCC Guidelines from the Department of Planning and Environment.

**4. Focus for next 12 months:**

The focus for the next 12 months will be the ongoing engagement between the community representatives and the proponent's representatives with respect to:

- a. The statutory requirements , planning, methodology and implementation related to the short-term post mining shut down of the site, including the sealing of the TSF and the disposal of excess water.
- b. The long term environmentally sustainable site rehabilitation,
- c. Future long-term use of the site, and
- d. Community engagement with respect to a, b and c.

B A Weir PSM  
Independent Chairperson.  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.