

Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) – Annual Report 2024

CCC project name:	Dendrobium Mine CCC	Reporting period:	June – December 2024
Independent chairperson:	Deborah Palmer (from June 2024)	Proponent contact:	Antony Leone, GM ³

1. Executive Summary / introduction

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) is a key engagement forum between GM³ (formerly South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal), local stakeholders, and the community. The committee facilitates discussions on operational updates, environmental concerns, and community impact related to the Dendrobium Mine.

During the reporting period, the DCCC held four meetings, covering topics such as mining operations, environmental monitoring, regulatory approvals, and community engagement. This report highlights the key activities, membership changes, and priorities for 2025.

2. DCCC activities over the last 6 months

Number of meetings

Four meetings were held between June and December 2024:

- 6 June 2024
- 29 August 2024
- 10 October 2024
- 5 December 2024

All meetings took place at Dendrobium Mine, Dendrobium Nebo Room.

In addition, a separate meeting was held on 27 August 2024 to brief new members on the Dendrobium mine operations.

Minutes of the regular meetings are published on the project website: www.gm-3.com.au/dendrobium-mine

Site visit

A site visit of the Sydney Catchment area WC 21, Gas Drainage Plant and Swamp 7 was conducted over four hours on 2 October 2024. This site tour occurred after several failed attempts due to Catchment Closure because of poor weather. The impact of mining activities on WC 21, swamp health and flora and fauna were a key concern for DCCC members.

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 GM³ and was replaced by Melynda Kensey. Mira Speer took over as GM³'s DCCC lead, replacing Rod Mapstone.

- Two new community representatives, Franca Facci and James Newton, were welcomed in August 2024 following a recruitment process.
- Cr Michael Banasik did not stand for re-election in Wollondilly Shire, and Wollondilly Shire Council was invited to nominate a new representative, confirmed as Cr Benn Banasik.

Meetings overview

June 2024 meeting

- Commencement of Longwall 19A and upcoming relocation to Longwall 22.
- Underground water balance updates and discussion of air quality concerns.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) for new community members initiated.

August 2024 meeting

- Introduction of new members, Franca Facci and James Newton.
- Completion of Longwall 19A and commencement of Longwall 22.
- Increase in LDP5 discharge flow, with EPA monitoring ongoing.
- Subsidence Management Plan for LW21A submitted, awaiting regulatory feedback.
- Debris removal near the rail bridge reviewed, with continued monitoring planned.

October 2024 meeting

- The sale of Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC) was finalised on 29 August 2024, with GM³ assuming operations. Transitional support from South32 continues until early 2025.
- Longwall 22 production commenced, with continued development in MG21A and Pioneer Mains.
- Noise exceedance recorded at R39a due to an inversion event.
- Wingecarribee Swamp Rehabilitation project discussed, awaiting regulatory approval.
- Community concerns previously raised by community representative members over the squealing train brakes was investigated, rail contractor confirmed no major defects.

December 2024 meeting

- Continued Longwall 22 production, planned maintenance works on Kemira Valley conveyor gantry.
- Longwall Subsidence Management Plan and variation for Longwall 23 Subsidence Management Plan approved.
- NRAR Enforceable Undertaking focused on Wingecarribee Swamp Rehabilitation awaiting regulatory approval.

The Longwall 19A End of Panel report was circulated to the DCCC in December 2024 with opportunities for questions provided.

Effectiveness Review

The DCCC effectively facilitated discussions on mine operations, environmental management, and community engagement. There was strong interest from the local community in a call for two new representatives on the committee with the successful recruitment of two new members. The group held comprehensive discussions on environmental issues, including water management, air quality,

and noise compliance. Ongoing impact on the Sydney Water Catchment is a key concern for some of the committee members.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Health of the Sydney water catchment	Regular monitoring and reporting of water levels pre and post longwall mining.	Site visits to inspect the health of flora and fauna within the catchment. Continued monitoring and appraisal of performance against regulatory standards.
Long term future for mine site in view of end of mining within the foreseeable future	Only preliminary discussion at this stage.	A closer and more detailed understanding of when mining might cease, the future of the mine site and plans for rehabilitation.
Rail noise complaints	Rail contractor reviewed braking systems.	Continued reporting and engagement on mitigation strategies.
Environmental compliance	Monitoring framework reviewed for LDP5 discharge.	Ongoing EPA and NRAR engagement. Regular reporting to the DCCC.

4. Focus for the next 12 months

The DCCC will continue to:

- Monitor mine operations and regulatory compliance
- Oversee environmental monitoring, particularly related to subsidence, water discharge, and air quality
- Facilitate additional site visits, including monitoring the progress of swamp rehabilitation projects
- Monitor long-wall mining impacts in water catchment
- Monitor coal wash emplacements
- Be updated on assessment and planning around mine closure/possible extension.

Name of chairperson:	Deborah Palmer
Date:	30 January 2025