

Mandalong Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2024 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Mandalong Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2024
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Jeffrey Dunwoodie, Environmental and Community Superintendent

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Mandalong Mine Community CCC was established in 1998 following the Commission of Inquiry into the then owned State Mine. In 2002, Centennial Coal purchased the mine which later became part of Banpu Public Company assets in 2010. Mandalong Mine is an underground longwall operation on the western side of the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area, near the town of Morisset, west of the M1 Motorway and approximately fifty kilometres from the Port of Newcastle. The mine supplies up to 6.5 million tonnes of coal to the domestic and export markets.

As part of Modification 10 approved by the Department in 2022, the committee also oversees the allocation of funds of \$50,000 per annum from the Mandalong Community Fund to the communities of Mandalong, Morisset, Dora Creek and Wyee each October. In addition to Mandalong's regular community sponsorship, this investment in the local communities is gratefully appreciated by many local associations with some twenty community groups benefiting since the first round in 2022.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Seven local community representatives, three of whom are members of the Mandalong Community Association (MCA) with two designated alternates;
- A Lake Macquarie City Councillor representative;
- Two Mandalong Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- An independent Minute Taker;
- An independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

The committee met three times in 2024, in March, June and October. No site tours were undertaken. Immediately following the conclusion of the October meeting, the Mandalong Community Fund assessment of applications was undertaken by the committee as a separate meeting.

- Apart from general environmental management and monitoring, operational and exploration activities, land and weed management, subsidence remediation, flood modelling, community fund updates, other topics included the improvements to the Mandalong Southern Extension ventilation shaft, which significantly reduced the number of noise complaints to only three for the year, a marked improvement from previous years, supply of coal to the Eraring Power Station, progress on the Mandalong Community Association's (MCA) utilisation of the old Fire Shed as a community hub, supported by the council and the plans for the area with the Morisset Place Strategy. The committee was also briefed on the stockpile extension project at the Cooranbong site.

- A proposal by the MCA, the Mandalong Forest She-oak project, was introduced to the committee at the March meeting. The project aims to promote the area as one of ecological value, encourage property owners and residents in a significant conservation effort to enhance the local birdlife habitat such as the black cockatoos under threat from tree felling. The committee was supportive and a discussion ensued on various funding and promotional opportunities. At the October Mandalong Community Fund Assessment meeting, the committee subsequently endorsed a funding application, following receipt of further information.
- Meetings are always well attended. The majority of the members have been part of the committee for many years with an extensive knowledge base of the area, including a former councillor. A good rapport exists between all parties with Mandalong staff receptive to members' interests in providing comprehensive reports and presentations. All meeting minutes and information are uploaded to the company website in accordance with departmental guidelines. The currency of the Terms of Reference was confirmed at the October meeting.
- Further consideration will be given to the introduction of new members as mining operations head towards the south west with the progress of the Mandalong Southern extension.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Noise from ventilation fans at MSSS	<p>Noise mitigation installed at three fans and reviewed early 2024</p> <p>Newsletter and action plan distributed to residents</p> <p>Noise complaints greatly reduced.</p>	Updates and complaints review to future meetings.
Validation of flood study modelling	<p>Flooding expert attended previous meetings and met with local residents</p> <p>Information from study shared with Lake Macquarie Council</p> <p>Council contact information supplied to committee for residents to provide photographic evidence of flooding.</p>	Ongoing.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Continued comprehensive reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/responses and planned activities. Progress on use of former RFS fire shed as community hub advocated by MCA.
- As a very effective committee, there are no known outstanding issues and these will be addressed when and if they occur.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 11 2025.