

Moolarben Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report September – December 2024

CCC project name:	Moolarben Coal CCC	Reporting period:	September – December 2024
Independent chairperson:	Deborah Palmer (from September 2024)	Proponent contact:	Rebecca Shanks, Yancoal

1. Executive summary/introduction

The Moolarben Coal Mine is an open cut and underground coal mine located approximately 40 kilometres northeast of Mudgee in the Mid-Western Regional Council local government area. The site comprises four approved open-cut mining areas, three approved underground mining areas, and associated infrastructure. The mine commenced operations in 2008 and has received modified consents over time.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) continues to operate in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development. The committee serves as a communication channel between the community, council, and the company.

The CCC includes:

- Four local community representatives
- One Mid-Western Regional Council delegate
- One stakeholder group (Mudgee Business Chamber)
- One local Aboriginal land council delegate
- Three company representatives
- One Independent Chairperson

Meetings are held quarterly in March, June, September, and December, with discussions covering a range of topics. Key topics discussed during the September – December 2024 period include:

- Community Support Program (Sponsorships & Donations)
- Open cut and underground operational updates
- Water treatment plant operations
- Annual Review and Independent Environmental Audit
- Longwall operations and extraction plans
- Exploration updates (Drilling and Environmental Impacts)
- Environmental monitoring (Water, Air Quality, Blasting, Noise & Meteorology)
- Water release and Goulburn River flow assessments
- Community complaints and responses
- Rehabilitation updates and biodiversity offset areas

- Open Cut 3 Extension Project and amendments
- NSW EnergyCo Transmission Infrastructure impacts and biodiversity management
- Employment and recruitment (Apprenticeships & Traineeships)
- Approvals and regulatory compliance updates
- Subsidence monitoring and impacts.

2. CCC activities over the last four months

During the September – December 2024 period, the CCC:

- Held two quarterly meetings (Meeting 70 on 3 September and Meeting 71 on 3 December 2024).
- Reviewed updates on Open Cut and Underground Operations, including the OC3 Extension.
- Provided community representatives with updates on environmental monitoring (water quality, air quality, noise, blasting, and meteorology).
- Discussed rehabilitation efforts, including the completion of 33 hectares in OC4 and 18 hectares in OC3.
- Received updates on exploration drilling, including activities in ML1715, ML1605, EL6288, and EL7073.
- Addressed water release compliance and sediment control after heavy rainfall events.
- Discussed employment and apprenticeships.
- Received information on NSW EnergyCo Transmission Infrastructure and its interaction with biodiversity offset properties.
- Considered subsidence impacts and groundwater monitoring associated with underground mining activities.
- Engaged in mine closure planning discussions and community concerns over long-term rehabilitation.

All CCC minutes are available on the Moolarben Coal website: <https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/moolarben/>

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Water quality and river turbidity	Investigation into the Goulburn River water turbidity following rainfall events	Monitoring data provided to CCC, confirming compliance with regulatory requirements
Open Cut 3 Extension Project	Updates on environmental assessments and IEAPM reviews	Ongoing assessment by DPHI
Groundwater monitoring	Requests for additional monitoring bores in Triassic aquifer	Awaiting approvals for additional bore installations

Subsidence impacts	Updates on surface impacts from underground mining	No exceedance of predicted subsidence impacts recorded
Community complaints	Noise and blasting complaints investigated	No non-compliances recorded
NSW EnergyCo transmission infrastructure	Discussion on biodiversity offsets and modifications to project approvals	Approved modification under EPBC 2007/3297

4. Focus for the next 12 months

The planned activities for 2025 will be guided by CCC contributions and ongoing project requirements. These activities are expected to include:

- Site inspections to review rehabilitation efforts.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring and compliance measures.
- Further discussions on the Open Cut 3 Extension Project, including regulatory assessments.
- Monitoring of water management and sediment control measures after extreme weather events.
- Engagement on the Saddlers Creek Road intersection upgrade.
- Discussions on mine closure planning and long-term rehabilitation strategies.
- Ongoing updates on employment and workforce development.

5. Review of CCC effectiveness

As per CCC guidelines, the purpose of the CCC is to:

- establish good working relationships and encourage the proponent, committee members and other relevant stakeholders to share information
- allow the proponent to seek feedback from community representatives, stakeholder groups and councils or respond to project-related matters
- give community representatives, stakeholder groups and councils a forum to ask for information or give feedback on a project.

The CCC is operating effectively with good participation from most members. The proponent has provided comprehensive presentations, timely responses to queries, and completion of action items. No concerns were raised by CCC members regarding transparency or engagement.

The CCC remains an effective platform for community engagement and exchange of information. The CCC fulfills its objectives under the DPHI guidelines.

Name of chairperson:	Deborah Palmer
Date:	7 February 2025