

Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2019

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting Period:	January - December 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Alarna Bristow

1 Executive Summary

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2003 as part of the Duralie Coal Mine Development Consent approval and operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The Committee is currently comprised of:

- four local community representatives;
- two - three MidCoast Council representatives (elected and staff);
- two Duralie Coal representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

As mining operations are now complete at Duralie, in February 2019, the CCC decided to reduce the frequency of its meetings to biannual. Site tours of the mine site and surrounding places of interest still occur each year and at the behest of the committee. Attendance numbers at meetings remain consistent, with occasional apologies because of other commitments. The CCC members share a very strong community interest and their insights and ongoing dialogue to building partnerships and social capital within the local community is a valuable ingredient to a competent committee.

The committee has maintained a specific focus on mine closure planning, land rehabilitation and management and future land use, all of which remain regular agenda items at each meeting. Biodiversity offsets has been raised at meetings during the past year, the mechanisms to provide long term security in accordance with the project's approval and the biodiversity legislation, past and present practices.

Invited speakers for the period included MidCoast Council's Director of Community Spaces and Services, MidCoast Council's Catchment Officer and Yancoal's Business Optimisation Manager on the Duralie Community Enhancement Funding, Karuah Catchment and Landcare Projects and Stratford and Duralie operations, respectively.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management & monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- Duralie Nest Box program
- water management
- community complaints
- broader community engagement and the CCC's print media articles

- Duralie community enhancement contributions to Council and allocation thereof
- Karuah River Catchment Management
- Biodiversity Offset area
- Yancoal land management
- Yancoal internal environmental assurance audit
- Yancoal community support program
- Agricultural rehabilitation possibilities
- Stratford Extension Project updates and transition from Duralie Mine.

As stated in previous reporting, the committee members are an integral part of the local community and as such, the CCC forum is a good example of an effective committee working together to improve community engagement within the mine's area of operation, between the villages of Stroud Road and Wards River and to achieve beneficial outcomes in the MidCoast Council Local Government Area. Staff of Duralie Coal Pty Ltd provide a high level of information regarding the mine, in advance of each meeting and in response to committee requests.

All members of the committee fulfil their roles with due diligence and the rapport between all stakeholders is self evident and ongoing between and during meetings.

1. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held in the months of February and August 2019 with the view that this will remain whilst mining operations are scaled down.
- Attendance at meetings is static with mostly a full contingent, excepting apologies due to ill health or unforeseen work commitments. Absences are rare as the committee sets its meeting dates at the end of each calendar year for the ensuing year.
- A site visit of the rehabilitation areas was undertaken at the August meeting.
- No joint Committee meetings were held, although the Duralie Committee maintains an interest in Yancoal's sister operation at Stratford. Stratford updates are included on the agenda for each meeting.
- Through aligned networks, the committee is kept informed by Duralie Coal and Midcoast Council of other events occurring in the region throughout the year such as Karuah Catchment Landcare group and Land Service field days.
- Two representatives of the Duralie CCC are members on the Duralie Community Fund Panel under the auspice of MidCoast Council established May 2018.

2. Key issues

The Duralie CCC maintains its interest in the process and distribution of the community enhancement contributions paid to Council each year. MidCoast Council staff address the committee on an annual basis and continue to provide financial reports and updates throughout the year.

During August and as a result of ongoing drought conditions, a request was received from Advance Gloucester, a local grassroots association formed in 2014 to promote and

support activities for the betterment of the Gloucester area and the benefit of the general population. The request was for a controlled release of water from the Stratford East Dam for drought relief to the downstream landholders. This matter was taken up by the Stratford CCC as the dam is located within its jurisdiction. It was subsequently referred to the Government agencies for determination. It prompted a discussion on the need for retaining water management infrastructure such as dams in mine closure planning, the benefits such assets may provide to the region's future use and Duralie Coal's obligations to meet statutory requirements such as dam decommissioning.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Stratford Coal Education Program	Actively support ongoing success of Stratford Coal Education Program through CCC networks and media	Ongoing
Yancoal Community Support Programs	Disseminate information through CCC networks and media	Ongoing
Post mining requirements	Planning for post mining landforms	Ongoing interaction through CCC and workshops as required
Request for controlled release of dam water	Noted by CCC. Taken up by Stratford CCC.	Referred to EPA and DPIE with request that holistic strategic planning be given to future water harvesting and potential security of water resources
Duralie Nest Box Program	CCC viewed video on success of the program and dissemination to wider community	Circulated in local newspaper
Request for options on biodiversity security mechanisms	Discussion on Biodiversity Conservation Trust Agreements and Public Positive Covenants (PPC) during CCC meetings	Information supplied to CCC on restrictions on land titles. Confirmed with DPIE PPC are in perpetuity


3. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- continue to investigate potential opportunities to increase agricultural land capability whilst meeting rehabilitation requirements.
- Engage with Yancoal and the broader community on post mining options, including landscape and potential uses of infrastructure and maintaining the committee's presence through local media releases
- further discussion on biodiversity conservation area.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	March 6 2020