

Duralie Coal Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2018

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting Period:	January - December 2018
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Michael Plain

1. Executive Summary

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee 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 2016 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The Committee is currently comprised of:

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

Meetings are held quarterly with regular site tours of places of interest within the mine site and surrounds, nominated by Committee members. Attendance numbers at the meeting are consistently high as all members take a very strong interest in their local community and environment.

Over the last two years and in anticipation of cessation of mining, the committee has had a specific focus on mine closure planning, land rehabilitation and management and future land use. At the committee's behest, these matters have been a regular agenda item at each meeting and as a consequence of such discussions, Duralie Coal has taken the initiative to broadly engage with the local community and CCC members at a specific purpose Agricultural Rehabilitation Planning Workshop held in September 2018. Mining of ROM coal at the Duralie Coal Mine was completed in October 2018 and the dialogue established is timely, relevant and ongoing.

The committee regularly has invited guests to present on a variety of subjects that the members express an interest in. Speakers for the reporting period included MidCoast Council representatives; the Community Coordinator, the Catchment Officer and the Director of Community Spaces and Services, the Chairperson of the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council and Yancoal's Business Optimisation Manager for Stratford and Duralie operations.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management & monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- 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
- Agricultural rehabilitation possibilities
- Stratford Extension Project updates and transition from Duralie Mine.

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. The committee is fortunate in the amount of information provided by Duralie Coal Pty Ltd in advance of each meeting and in response to committee requests. A clear example of efficient two-way communication and working together between the community representatives, the Council and the company.

My observation is that all members of the committee are very committed to fulfilling their roles and such enthusiasm comes from the broader recognition of finding the balance to a better co-existence. They share a strong community interest and their insights and the ongoing dialogue to building partnerships and social capital in the local community is a valuable ingredient to a competent committee.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held in the months of February, May, August and November 2018. The committee resumes its meeting schedule in February 2019 and will maintain a similar schedule as in previous years.
- Attendance at meetings is high 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.
- Following the death of a long term community member in early 2018, a new member was sought and the vacancy filled by a new community representative; a landowner of almost three decades within the local area. His contribution will be a valuable asset to an already effective committee.
- Site visits of the rehabilitation areas and biodiversity offsets were undertaken during May and November 2018.
- No joint Committee meetings were held, although the Duralie Committee maintains an interest in Yancoal's sister operation at Stratford, has held a meeting at the Stratford mine and inspected the site in a previous reporting period. Stratford updates are included on the agenda for each meeting.
- An additional consultation activity emanating from the CCC was the Duralie Agricultural Rehabilitation Workshop held in September 2018. This was an interactive field day held in the Duralie rehabilitation area and was attended by a cross-section of the local community, Government and industry stakeholders. The focus was on property planning for the long term layout and operation of agricultural rehabilitation areas and integration with the surrounding lands.

Topics of discussion at the workshop included stock rotation, water infrastructure and pasture management.

- 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 representative of the Duralie CCC were nominated by the CCC and accepted on the Duralie Community Fund Panel under the auspice of MidCoast Council established May 2018.

3. Key issues

The Duralie CCC has been keen to understand the process and distribution of the community enhancement contributions paid to Council each year. This originated from a split of funding between the two Local Government areas of Gloucester and Great Lakes Councils prior to the merge into MidCoast Council. In the past year, Council has provided comprehensive history and reporting, reviewed management practices and financial reporting to the committee to address concerns. Whilst this has taken some time to achieve, the CCC is fully appraised of funding components, key activities and allocations, expenditure and proposed future works. At Council's invitation, two members of the committee are also on Council's Duralie Community Fund Panel.

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


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2019 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- 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 and maintaining the committee's presence through local media releases.

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:	February 8 2019