

## Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – Annual Report

CCC project name:	Clarence Colliery CCC	Reporting period:	January – December 2023
Independent chairperson:	Deborah Palmer	Proponent contact:	James Marshall

### 1. Executive summary / introduction

The Clarence Colliery Community Consultative Committee is established as a requirement of the Development Consent for DA 504-00. The role of the CCC is to oversee the environmental performance of the mine.

A series of five meetings were held throughout 2023, serving as a crucial forum for dialogue between Centennial, local stakeholders, and the community. Each meeting addressed various aspects of the Clarence Colliery's operations, environmental performance, and community concerns.

Throughout 2023, the CCC showcased a commitment to transparency, community engagement, and safety. The meetings provided a platform for robust discussions, ensuring that community concerns were addressed.

### 2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

Below is a summary of the CCC's activities over the last 12 months:

- **Number of Meetings:**

Five meetings were held over the reporting period to enable discussion and resolution of key matters. These meetings took place on:

- 28 March 2023
- 7 June 2023
- 12 September 2023
- 23 October 2023 (extraordinary meeting)
- 5 December 2023.

All meetings were held at the Clarence Colliery, except for the October extraordinary meeting that was held online. All meetings facilitated regular discussions and updates.

Minutes of each meeting are published on the project website.

- **Attendance:**

Attendance at meetings, which have been held both online and in-person, has been good. There is a high level of engagement from the proponent, with solid attendance by community representatives and Council.

- **Site Visits:**

A site visit occurred following the 12 September 2023 meeting with a focus on rehabilitation areas, enhancing the committee's understanding of on-site activities.

- **Meetings Overview:**

**March 2023 Meeting:** The first meeting of the year delved into the Clarence Colliery Operational Report, spanning September 2022 to March 2023. The report covered diverse areas, from operations and environmental performance to ongoing projects. Key discussions highlighted challenges in coal extraction, Centennial's commitment to stringent water criteria, and progress in transitioning water discharge from the Wollangambe River to the Oakley Water Treatment Plant. Noteworthy actions included sharing aerial images of the REA 3 Rehabilitation Area and briefing Lithgow Council on DA 174-93 Modification 2 work.

**June 2023 Meeting:** The second meeting, held in June 2023, continued the discourse with a focus on operational updates and ongoing projects. The discussions addressed challenges in coal extraction, community concerns about any potential future mining under the Clarence township, and the anticipated life of the mine until 2037. The meeting also emphasised the importance of the Clarence Pipeline Project and clarified that the continuance consent would not influence mining under the township.

**September 2023 Meeting:** This session encompassed discussions on the CCC's Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. The committee members engaged in reviewing guidelines, emphasising the commitment to work health and safety. Centennial presented the operational report, highlighting activities from June to September 2023. Topics included ongoing challenges in coal extraction, community concerns about water accessibility and quality, and discussions around Aquifers Interference Policy. The meeting concluded with a site visit, offering members insights into rehabilitation areas.

**October Extraordinary Meeting 2023:** An extraordinary meeting in October and held online focused on a significant incident in 2021, presenting details of the incident resulting in serious injuries. The discussions provided insights into the incident, investigations, and proposed actions. Centennial explored the possibility of an Enforceable Undertaking, seeking CCC members' views. Support for such an undertaking was expressed by the committee, emphasising the importance of safety measures in mining operations.

**December 2023 Meeting:** The year concluded with an update on correspondence, expressions of interest for additional members, and the Clarence Colliery Operational Report covering September to December 2023. The report highlighted safety priorities, environmental performance metrics, and ongoing projects like the Clarence Continuation Project. Discussions also revolved around Modification 10, the Enforceable Undertaking status, and proposed activities for the next period including continuing to recruit additional CCC community members.

- **Effectiveness Review:**

The committee reviewed detailed operational reports, triggering discussions on coal extraction challenges, environmental performance, and ongoing projects including the Clarence Continuation Project and transport of coal from the site via road.

The CCC's engagement, insightful discussions, and commitment to transparency and community involvement were evident throughout 2023, reflecting a comprehensive and collaborative approach to managing the concerns and interests of the community and stakeholders.

### 3. Key issues

Several emerging issues have been raised and addressed throughout the reporting period. These are outlined below:

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
<p><b>Issue 1:</b> Operations including coal extraction challenges, short wall mining, water criteria, discharge plans, and REA 3 Rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Aerial images of REA 3 Rehabilitation Area shared.</p> <p>Proponent briefing of Lithgow Council on DA 174-93 Mod 2 work undertaken.</p> <p>Site visit of REA3 Rehabilitation completed.</p> <p>Invitation to CCC to review and comment on draft Extraction Plans</p>	<p>Site visit of underground mining operations in early 2024 to further understand site operations.</p> <p>Provide updates on short wall mining in 2024</p>
<p><b>Issue 2:</b> Clarence Continuation Project, and life of the mine.</p>	<p>Centennial Clarence is undertaking a feasibility of mining beyond 2029 (the current expiry date of DA 504 -00)</p>	<p>Centennial Clarence will keep the CCC updated of any projects and approvals as well as the status of the Project as it progresses.</p>
<p><b>Issue 3:</b> Enforceable Undertaking</p>	<p>Presentation on an incident in 2021, investigation details, Clarence Colliery's response, and proposed Enforceable Undertaking.</p>	<p>Continue communication with the CCC on the status of the Enforceable Undertaking.</p>
<p><b>Issue 4:</b> Recruitment of additional community members</p>	<p>EOI process run in 2023 without any nominations.</p>	<p>CCC members to continue to generate interest in the local community for additional members.</p>

#### 4. Focus for next 12 months:

- The focus of the CCC in 2024 will be to continue to oversee the mine operations; deepen the CCC's understanding of the mine operations and be a consultative forum on key aspects of the colliery's operations.

<b>Name of chairperson:</b>	Deborah Palmer
<b>Date:</b>	29 January 2024