

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – Annual Report

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

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Western Region Community Consultative Committee (CCC), was established in response to Project Conditions of Approval for Centennial Coal’s mines and related activities in the Central West region of NSW. Since 2014, the CCC combines the previously established Angus Place, Springvale and Western Coal Services CCCs to facilitate a single channel of communication regarding current operations in the area. The purpose of the CCC overall is to provide an independent forum for consultation between the community and mine representatives, as well as for sharing information and receiving feedback.

The CCC held four meetings during the reporting period on the 28 March, 7 June, 12 September, and 6 December. The committee discussed various aspects of operations, environmental performance, and community engagement for the Centennial coal mining sites, including Angus Place, Springvale Colliery, and Western Coal Services (Springvale Coal Services and Lidsdale Siding).

This year advertising for a new community representative resulted in an additional member James (Jim) Sharp being appointed. Jim is a resident who lives close to the Angus Place mine. The Committee acknowledges the passing of Jeff Smith. Jeff was a well-regarded member of the committee who contributed to the committee’s deliberations.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

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

- **Number of Meetings:**

Four 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 in person at the various site locations. All meetings facilitated regular discussions and updates.

Minutes of each meeting are published on the project website, as well as being attached to this Annual Report as an Appendix.

- **Attendance:**

The committee functions well and members have sustained participation. There is a high level of engagement from the proponent, with solid attendance by community representatives and Council.

- **Site Visits:**

No site visits were undertaken during the year, although the rotation of meetings across the three site locations enabled members to see the locations.

- **Meetings Overview:**

March 2023: This was the first meeting chaired by the new chairperson. The code of conduct was revisited, with an emphasis on its significance in maintaining a respectful and collaborative environment. Water management at Angus Place was discussed including temporary options until main water support is in place. Management of complaints was also discussed with the observation that community members are now more aware of who to call at Springvale Coal Services and Lidsdale Siding

In the planning session for the 2023 Clarence Colliery Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings, the Chair prompted reflection on the committee's performance, seeking insights on strengths, areas for improvement, and priorities for the upcoming year. The group acknowledged Centennial's transparency in reporting incidents and community complaints. Enhancing communication with the community about Centennial's operations emerged as a key opportunity.

June 2023: The second meeting covered reports across all sites. A particular focus was on the Angus Place Rehabilitation Management Strategy. To meet the rehabilitation requirements of the Angus Place Mining Consent, DPE now mandates a Rehabilitation Management Strategy, providing a higher-level summary of sites' rehabilitation objectives. The detailed rehabilitation plans are outlined in RMPs, with annual progress and 3-year targets available in Annual Rehabilitation Reports and Forward Work Programs on Centennial's website. The CCC was invited to provide comments on the Strategy by June 30, 2023, emphasising stakeholder involvement in the rehabilitation process.

September 2023: In this session the CCC adopted new terms of reference Terms of Reference and members agreed to the Code of Conduct for meetings as required by DPE. Centennial presented the operational reports for each site, highlighting activities from June to September 2023. The reports covered various aspects such as environmental performance, operations, monitoring, and ongoing projects. The CCC members raised questions and discussed key points related to each mine, including environmental impact statements, noise monitoring, and upcoming activities. It was noted the Angus Place West Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment late Q3 or Q4 2023.

December 2023 Meeting: The final meeting of the year, held on 6 December 2023, served as a reflection on the year's progress and a forward-looking planning session. The Committee also welcomes James Sharp as a new community member following the advertising for new members.

An update on the Angus Place West EIS was noted. It is anticipated the EIS will be submitted in Q1 2024. This submission is a crucial step in the regulatory process, allowing relevant authorities to assess the potential impacts of the Angus Place West project on the environment and surrounding communities.

- **Effectiveness Review:**

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
Issue 1: Rehabilitation Management Strategies for Angus Place and Springvale Colliery.	CCC members invited to provide comments on the strategies, promoting transparency and community involvement.	Closed.
Issue 2: Angus Place West Environmental Impact Statement	Updates to the CCC given by Centennial	Centennial will keep the CCC updated of status of the proposal as it progresses.
Issue 4: Recruitment of additional community members	EOI process run in 2023 the successful recruitment of James Sharp as a community representative.	CCC members to continue to generate interest in the local community for additional members.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

The focus of the CCC in 2024 will be to

- Continued collaboration and communication between Centennial, the CCC, and the community.
- Ongoing monitoring of environmental performance and community engagement efforts.

The Western Region CCC remains committed to facilitating open and constructive dialogue between Centennial, stakeholders, and the community, ensuring transparency and accountability in the mining operations within the Western Region.

Name of chairperson:	Deborah Palmer
Date:	29 January 2024