

**MANDALONG MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022**

Mandalong Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Mandalong Mine	Reporting Period:	January - December 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Jeffrey Dunwoodie

1. Executive Summary

The Mandalong Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 1998 following a Commission of Inquiry into the then State owned mine. Centennial Coal purchased the mine in 2002 and subsequently became part of Banpu Public Company in 2010. Mandalong Mine is an underground longwall operation located on the western side of Lake Macquarie near Morisset and west of the M1 Motorway, approximately 130 km north of Sydney and 50 km from the Port of Newcastle. It supplies up to 6.5 million tonnes of coal to the domestic power and export markets.

The Committee operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

The committee is comprised of:

- seven local community representatives, three of whom are members of the Mandalong Community Association (MCA) with two designated alternates;
- one Lake Macquarie City Council elected representative;
- two Mandalong Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Minute Taker;
- one independent Chairperson.

The committee has been in operation for over two decades and attendance numbers at all meetings remains consistently high, other than elected council representation. The 2022 meetings again avoided any impact from Covid-19 concerns while observing all necessary precautions.

During 2022, the Department approved two new members representing the communities of the Morisset and Wyee areas, which will assist in broadening the committee's focus and the allocation of funds from the established Mandalong Community Fund, now administered by the committee as discussed in previous reporting. The committee was actively involved in the development of the charter, governance, application and eligibility criteria for the fund throughout the year. The October meeting was followed by the inaugural assessment and allocation of the first round of funding which assisted six local community groups, with Centennial supporting another group through the company's community support sponsorship.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been on the Mandalong South Surface Site construction and increased noise complaints emanating from the ventilation fans, the detrimental effects of inclement weather, local flooding and the inadequacy of the roads system to withstand increased traffic volume and safety.

Flood modelling by Engeny has progressed throughout the Mandalong Valley and has been reviewed by the members and at their request, public forums arranged. The concern was the modelling was not entirely accurate. With input from local residents, this new model has taken in the whole watershed, instream storage within upper catchments and flexibility for future modelling. The discussion led to what information was available to the general public and for those purchasing property in the Mandalong Valley. GIS information and links on Lake Macquarie Council's Flood Report Tool were provided to the committee, in addition to further collaboration with council staff on flood modelling.

At the June meeting the committee, through its nominated member on the Banpu Energy stakeholder reference group for the underground pumped hydro energy storage project, was saddened to hear the research pilot project into the potential use of underground coal mines as a reservoir for pumped hydro storage was unsuccessful.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- subsidence and increased ponding - potential flooding impacts to property and infrastructure
- remnant ponding remediation
- general environmental management and monitoring
- review of rehabilitation management strategy
- management of Centennial owned land; weed management and property sales
- approvals update and current mining status
- Mandalong South Surface Site infrastructure
- exploration activities
- triennial independent environmental audit
- community complaints
- broader community engagement and sponsorship.

The committee enjoys the benefit of comprehensive pre-meeting reports prior to every meeting, covering current mining status, exploration, environmental monitoring, planning approvals, community consultation and land management. Centennial also provides a further report and PowerPoint presentation at each meeting on the mine's production, geological updates, subsidence results, environmental monitoring and extraction plan updates, upcoming projects and sponsorship. Interaction between all members is cordial. The committee functions well and meets its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Observance of Covid-19 requirements and the timing of committee meetings worked well for the committee which met February, June and October during the reporting period.
- No site tours took place during the year.
- There were no joint CCC's held for this period, although the committee is kept well informed of other Centennial operations, including those in Lake Macquarie.

3. Key issues

The main topics of committee discussion throughout 2022 were mainly the Mandalong South Surface Site and noise from the ventilation fans, the Engeny flood model and public roads mitigation, development of the Community Fund Charter and lack of council representation at meetings.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
traffic from Mandalong South Surface Site construction	Additional road safety signage, road pavement, enforceable road safety and speed limits, hours of operation, induction for all contractors to Centennial Mandalong.	Ongoing.
Use of former Mandalong Rural Fire Shed as community hub	Land vested in Council, liaison between Council and MCA, in principle support from Council. Successful grant application for concept plan.	MCA to develop feasibility study and seek funding from State Government. Centennial to support where applicable.
Validation of flood study modelling Request for public forum	Pre and post mining depth, pre and post hazard category and public roads included in flood modelling presented to CCC. Two community meetings held with interested residents.	Updates and presentation to committee. Presentation by Engeny postponed to 2023 meeting due to illness.
Noise complaints from ventilation fans at Mandalong South Surface Site	Mitigation offered to affected property owners. Further information provided to residents. Redesign, manufacture and replacement of outlet silencers for three fans instigated.	Planned for installation and testing of two fans early 2023. To be completed by March 2023. Installation of third fan and commissioning in June 2023. Report to June meeting of CCC.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- site inspections of ventilation fans at the Mandalong South Surface Site.
- Progress of community hub at former Mandalong Rural Fire Shed.
- updates on Centennial owned land; property sales, land management and remediation, including flood mitigation
- invitations to State Local Member and elected councillor representatives to attend 2023 meetings.

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 21 2023