

Mandalong Mine Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Mandalong Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2023
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Jeffrey Dunwoodie, Environmental and Community Superintendent

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Mandalong Mine Community CCC was established in 1998 following the Commission of Inquiry into the then owned State Mine. In 2002, Centennial Coal purchased the mine which later became part of Banpu Public Company assets in 2010. Mandalong Mine is an underground longwall operation on the western side of the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area, near the town of Morisset, west of the M1 Motorway and approximately fifty kilometres from the Port of Newcastle. The mine supplies up to 6.5 million tonnes of coal to the domestic and export markets.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Seven local community representatives, three of whom are members of the Mandalong Community Association (MCA) with two designated alternates;
- A Lake Macquarie City Councillor;
- Two Mandalong Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- An independent Minute Taker;
- An independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

The committee meets three times per year, in March, June and October. In addition, as part of a modification approved by the Department, the committee also oversees the allocation of funds of \$50,000 per annum from the Mandalong Community Fund to the communities of Mandalong, Morisset, Dora Creek and Wyee. This investment in the local communities is gratefully appreciated by resident groups, particularly as existence of the grants has spread since the first round in 2022. The grant allocation occurs via a separate meeting immediately following the October meeting of the committee.

- Three meetings were held, plus the additional grant funding allocation meeting. Apart from general environmental management and monitoring, operational and exploration activities, land management and subsidence remediation, flood modelling, revised DPE CCC guidelines and requirements, community fund updates, other topics included the condition of Mandalong Roads, allocation of State funding for a new fire shed and new developments in the Morisset area.
- Meetings are always well attended. The committee had the benefit of three guest speakers during the year, the State Member for Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper and Dr Adam Wyatt from Engeny attended the February meeting and Lake Macquarie Councillor Jason Pauling the October meeting.

- The October meeting included a tour of the Mandalong South Surface site (MSSS). Several CCC members also completed an underground visit at the Mandalong Mine on 26 May 2023.
- The majority of the members have been part of the committee for many years and their knowledge base is extensive. As the mine moves to the east, the addition of new members and sharing of experience has been beneficial to all. The committee is effective and fulfils its purpose under the current Departmental guidelines. All committee members have signed the revised Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest documents and adopted a Terms of Reference as required by the department.
- At the Committee’s request, additional consultation was undertaken on the flood modelling with Dr Wyatt outside of the CCC meetings.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Noise from ventilation fans at MSSS	Noise mitigation installed at three fans, including replacement of outlet silencers Newsletter distributed to residents	Review of efficacy to March 2024 meeting.
Validation of flood study modelling	Dr Wyatt attended March CCC meeting and met with interested residents	Information from study shared with Lake Macquarie Council.
Committee request for road names to be included on map presentations	Included on slide presentations to October meeting	Ongoing.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Continued comprehensive reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/responses and planned activities. Progress on use of former RFS fire shed as community hub advocated by MCA with support from Lake Macquarie Council and Centennial.
- There are no known outstanding issues and these will be addressed when and if they occur.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 6 2024