

**AIRLY MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2023**

<b>Project Name</b>	Airly Mine Community Consultative Committee
<b>Reporting Period</b>	Calendar year 2023
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Gerard Martin
<b>Proponent Contact</b>	SamPrice, Airly Environment & Community Coordinator

**1. Executive Summary/Introduction**

The key issue for Airly mine management has been addressing the ongoing challenges of the subsidence issue following subsidence incidents exceeding the limits set out in the mine's original approval of 125 mm. The company has devoted considerable resources to finding a solution to the problem.

Specialist geological and hydrological reports have been commissioned to assist mine staff to develop a feasible Mine Operating Plan. The work is ongoing and is being monitored by the Independent Expert Panel of the NSW Department of Mines.

A major part of the 3 CCC meetings held during 2023 were devoted to addressing the subsidence issue. It has the potential to seriously affect the future viability of the mine.

Staffing has been an ongoing problem for Airly. A decision has been made to introduce 12 hour shifts to better utilise current employees and to attract new ones.

**2. CCC Activities during 2023**

The committee met three times during the year, February 28, May 30 and September 12. An underground inspection was organised to coincide with the September meeting and was well attended. There was unanimous agreement that the experience gave attendees a heightened appreciation of the issues relevant to Airly Mine. All members have inspected the surface operations of the mine site.

Current membership of Airly CCC is 12. 6 are women which is not common in mining operations. Overall the committee is well balanced with a high level of tertiary qualifications and work experience and local community involvement.

Current committee members are:

Gerard Martin	Independent Chair
Ryan Davidson	Airly Mine Manager
Sam Price	Airly Mine Environment and Community Coordinator
Sarah Kimm	Airly Mine Technical Services Manager
Jill Rowling	Capertee Valley Landcare and Community Representatives
Keith Muir	Colong Foundation
Des Bowden	Rylstone Environmental Society
Dr. Jane	Aiken Community Member
Emma Nicholson	Community Member
Esme Martens	Community Member
Lisa Menke	Area Manager NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Clr Maree Statham	Lithgow City Council

Attendance at meetings is good especially as some members travel long distances to attend. Attempts have been made to conduct meetings online but due to the topography of the mine site and the unreliable internet connection it has been difficult. The majority of our members prefer face to face meetings. Discussion at meetings is robust and there is a good feeling of camaraderie amongst members.

CCC members are constantly discussing ways to operate more effectively especially in relation to consultation with the community. Airly staff are cooperative in responding to issues that enhance the committee members having a better understanding of reports etc.

### **3. Key Issues**

#### **a. Subsidence Control**

This issue is the the major problem confronting the continued operation of Airly Mine. The company have thrown considerable resources at the problem. Cooperation with decisions of the Independent Expert Panel is being constantly monitored. The surface cracking caused by the subsidence is visually unappealing.

As the mine production plans for mining under Mount Genowlan the subsidence control plans are of vital importance. Mine management advises there have been no exceedance of subsidence criteria under Mount Genowlan and monitoring results from Point Hatteras are operating in accordance with the modelled predictions.

CCC members have been offered an onsite inspection of the surface cracking.

#### **b. Enforceable Undertaking**

The Independent Expert Panel has issued as Enforceable Undertaking Agreement in relation to the subsidence issues which the company is complying with. CCC members are being briefed on the issue constantly. An independent consultant report has confirmed Airly mine has complied with the directives in the IEP. The report also confirms that the surface cracks have not changed the hydrology of the overlaying mesas.

#### **c. Modification 5**

The Modification 5 (SSD5581) asks for an increase of employees from 155 to 190 full time equivalent employees to allow adoption of 12 hour shifts and a 3 day week.

The company's application is based on issues around having to adopt a much more conservative mine design to deal with the subsidence issues mentioned elsewhere in this report. It is expected that a decision should be made in the first half of 2024.

#### **4. Focus for 2024**

It is expected to be business as usual for Airly Mine in 2024.

The Community Consultative Committee will be focusing on the major issues of complying with the Enforceable Undertaking which is crucial in developing a viable mining plan for Airly.

Attention will also be paid to the timing of the Departmental decision on the MOD 5 application.

Gerard Martin

Chair

Airly Mine Community Consultative Committee