

Maxwell Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report 2025

CCC / Project Name:	Maxwell CCC	Reporting Period:	June 2024 – December 2025
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Donna McLaughlin

1. Executive Summary

The Maxwell Underground project is located in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, east-southeast of Denman and south-southwest of Muswellbrook. The site is approved to extract a maximum of 8 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal per year over a period of 26 years.

The site consists of the following areas:

- Underground area comprising the proposed area of underground mining operations and the mine entry area (MEA) to support underground mining and coal handling activities and provide for personnel and materials access;
- Maxwell Infrastructure (formerly Drayton mine) comprising previous open cut mining areas, existing coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP), train load-out facilities and rail loop, Antiene rail spur and other infrastructure and services; and
- Proposed transport and services corridor between the underground area and Maxwell Infrastructure comprising the proposed site access road, covered overland conveyor, power supply and other ancillary infrastructure and services.

The area within and surrounding the site, which has previously been known as Mt Arthur South, Saddlers Creek and Drayton South, has long been identified as having a significant in-situ coal resource. Prospecting for coal commenced in the late 1940s, with exploration intensifying during the 1960s and 1970s. Open cut coal extraction and mining activities commenced at Maxwell Infrastructure in 1983 and ceased in October 2016. The previous open cut mining area is currently in the rehabilitation phase of the mine operations.

The development consent for State Significant Development 9526 (Development Consent SSD 9526) was granted on 22 December 2020. The development consent was modified on 19 November 2021 to allow for the repositioning of infrastructure primarily at the MEA and realignment of a section of the site access road. The site also incorporates the development formerly authorised under the Maxwell Infrastructure Project Approval (PA) 06_0202. Development Consent DA 106 04 00 for the existing rail loop and Antiene Rail Spur was granted on 2 November 2000 and is still current. The development for the Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project (SSD 9526) was formally commenced under the Development Consent on 5 July 2021 which included the requirement to establish a community consultative committee, noting that this could be combined with the existing Maxwell Committee.

Malabar Resources also had an exploration licence for Spur Hill and operated a separate Ministerial Community Consultative Committee, following the acquisition of the Drayton South site by Malabar Resources, the Spur Hill CCC was combined with the Minister's approval with the Maxwell CCC. This provided genuine community representation of the local area and of broader stakeholder interests represented.

Accordingly, the merged committee became the Maxwell CCC and had its inaugural meeting on 21 September 2021. The CCC operates in accordance with the Department of Planning's revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development. The committee membership consists of:

- Four local community representatives
- Two Muswellbrook Shire Council delegates
- Two Stakeholder Group representative (Muswellbrook Business Chamber & Wonnaruah Aboriginal Land Council)
- One Coolmore/Godolphin representative (in accordance with the specific condition of approval)
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The Maxwell CCC meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August & November with attendees receiving a comprehensive presentation from the proponent.

There have been three modifications to the approved underground mine:

- Maxwell Underground Mine Modification 1, SSD-9526-MOD 1 – Surface Facilities, approved 19/11/21; and
- Maxwell Underground Mine Modification 2, SSD- 9526-MOD 2 – Mining Optimisation Modification, approved 20/10/22.
- Modification 3 - Joint Tailings and Reject Management – approved September 2025.

These amendments included:

- re-orientation of the longwall panels in the Woodlands Hill, Arrowfield and Bowfield Seams, resulting in a minor increase in the approved underground mining area extent;
- reduction in the width of some of the initial longwall panels in the Woodlands Hill Seam.
- repositioning of the upcast ventilation shaft site and associated infrastructure; and
- transfer and storage of tailings generated at the Mt Arthur Mine in existing voids at the Maxwell Mine, construction of pipeline infrastructure and changes to operational tailings and reject management practices.

On 19/08/2020 - SSD-9820 application was approved for a solar farm generating capacity of approximately 25 megawatts AC to supply electricity to Maxwell Infrastructure and/or the proposed Maxwell Underground Mine and/or the National Energy Market.

Updates on this project is also provided to CCC members at the quarterly meetings.

Usual topics of discussion during the normal reporting period for the Maxwell Mine site included:

- Exploration Licence Updates for Spur Hill & Maxwell (EL 7429, EL 9497 & EL 9498.
- Maxwell North Project
- Maxwell Underground Mine (Longwall Operations, Longwall Equipment, Bord & Pillar Operations, Surface Infrastructure,
- Management Plans and Environmental Performance
- Workforce Statistics
- Maxwell Solar Farm (Development Consent SSD 9820) Ongoing updates on proposed construction timeline and associated regulatory requirements (Management Plans, etc.)
- Modification 3 – Joint Tailings and Reject Management Project
- Rehabilitation Update (Weed Control, Pest Control, Grazing, Revegetation, Rehabilitation works, etc)
- Monthly rainfall totals
- Air and noise monitoring
- Complaints (nil received)

- Community Update (support and sponsorship programs)
- Annual Review briefing
- Independent Environmental Audit briefing

The CCC is a successful forum of communication between the community, stakeholder groups, the Council and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines and the committee's Terms of Reference.

2. CCC activities over last 18 months

- The committee met quarterly.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to competing commitments of volunteers.
- Members receive an extensive presentation from the proponent regarding its environment monitoring results and construction of the Maxwell Underground Mine.
- Members received a briefing on an agreement between Malabar Resources and Akaysa on its proposed Battery Energy Storage System Project.

3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Environmental Monitoring	The proponent provides detailed information of its environmental monitoring on site and its commitment to meeting legislative and regulatory compliance.	Ongoing presentations to CCC.
Management Plans	All management plans continue to be reviewed/updated in accordance with regulatory requirements and new approvals.	CCC kept informed of approval of Management Plans by DPIE.
Maxwell Solar Farm	Development Consent SSD 9820 approved 19/8/20	Stage 1 commenced 4/8/25. Ongoing updates to be provided to CCC.
Exploration Activities	The proponent provides updates on his exploration activities at both Spur Hill and Maxell site	Ongoing
Longwall Operations	Coal production set to commence in 2026	Ongoing.
Site Inspection	Usually held Q4 of each calendar year.	Inspection of underground entry, infrastructure, equipment, etc.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2026 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Continued updates on the Maxwell Underground.
- Continued updates on exploration activities
- Continued updates provided on monitoring and environmental performance.
- Continued updates on the rehabilitation of the site (including the old Drayton South Open Cut requirements).
- Continued updates on the proponents community sponsorship and support program.

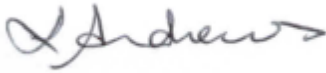
This is an exemplary CCC. The company are dedicated to presenting thorough information to members who are appreciative of this commitment. The feedback from CCC members is very positive.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

Review of Effectiveness of the CCC

In accordance with the revised CCC guidelines, it is deemed that the CCC operates effectively. The proponent provides comprehensive presentations, ongoing notifications, timely responses to requests and completion of action items. There have been no concerns raised by CCC members.

CCC minutes are available on the project website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	31 December 2025