



Dargues Reef

Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of Thirty-Nine Meeting

The DRCCC held its 39th meeting on 15 March 2021 at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club.

Meeting – commencing at 1:40pm

Attendance:

- Members – Brian Weir PSM (Chairperson), Belinda Royds, David Lever, Matt Darwon, Kathleen Waddell, Phillip Owen, Peter Cormick, Cr Pete Harrison (QPRC), Jamie Frankcombe (DGM), Chase Dingle (DGM) and Samantha Lloyd (DGM).
- Observers – Jeff Wolford and Trent Arkylesmith

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome: The Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the Members and observers and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, the Walbanga Yuin people and paid his respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Apologies: Stewart Needham and Alister Robertson (ESC).

2. Declaration of pecuniary or conflicts of interest

The Chairperson stated that he received a meeting fee and related expenses and obviously the three representatives of DGM each had a pecuniary interest.

No other attendees declared an interest.

3. Business arising from previous minutes

The Chairperson stated that Mr Needham had contacted him to request that he (Chairperson) seek information regarding the progress of the water data being updated on to the Aurelia website.

M/s Lloyd replied that this would be dealt with later in the Company Presentation.

The Chairperson then referred to Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Agenda and suggested the meeting hear the Company Presentation- Items 6 & 8 - immediately, and, if they still had questions, then the opportunity would be given later to ask questions and discuss these items, the attendees agreed.

The Chairperson also requested that if a Member had a particular statement they wanted specifically minuted then they should request that, otherwise he would summarise the meeting's proceedings as the CCC Guidelines specified.

4. Proponent's Report and overview of activities

Progress of the Project:

Mr Frankcombe stated that Aurelia had taken ownership on Dec. 18 and so had only operated the mine for 3 months and the mine performance had been quite good in that time. Mining and processing have been continuing as expected. The use of hydraulic fill underground is being undertaken; the rest of the tailings is sent to the Tailings Dam. This process was going well. Earthworks for the stage 2 lift of the tailings dam are now 100% completed.

Mr Frankcombe stated, in response to Mr. Cormick's question, that 120 employees were currently employed on site.

Biodiversity sites:

Mr Dingle said two sites had been identified that suited the criteria of the offsite biodiversity offset requirements. The selected site is required to be located within 100km of the mine site. Consultation was ongoing with the regulator regarding vegetation classification to ensure the final site would satisfy all obligations. Mr Dingle advised the group that the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment had granted an 18-month extension to the period to satisfy the obligation to secure an offsite offset area, in accordance with the statement of commitments, based on the work done by the Company to date.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance:

Mr Dingle explained the readings re Surface Water and Ground Water. He advised Mr. Cormick that this monitoring includes both Spring Creek and Major's Creek. The data is not yet on the website and the monitoring locations haven't changed over the years.

M/s Lloyd stated that it was scheduled to go on to the website in 2 weeks. She explained the benefits of transferring the data to the new software (ESdat) which is currently being used by Aurelia.

In reply to a question from Mr. Lever, M/s Lloyd said that the Canberra based consultants will transfer the past data to the new software.

Complaints: Mr Dingle said the complaints levels were consistent with previous reporting periods and all related to noise.

5. Matters which DGM wish to raise with the community representatives

Aurelia Metals Website Update:

M/s Lloyd outlined the progress in uploading DGM data to the Aurelia system especially with respect to community complaints and environmental data, and said it is still a work in progress.

DPIE Water Trucking Investigation Findings:

Mr Dingle referred to the two investigations undertaken by the DPIE - one of which resulted in a \$15,000 fine for Big Island Mining (sourcing of a secondary water source not consistent with Consent) and the other was a finding in favour of the Company (the number of heavy vehicle movements in accordance with the Consent).

Considerable discussion took place.

A key point made several community Members was related to that the community felt like they first identified the issue, not the Company, and they claimed that there had been “push-back” from the Company when the questions were first raised, further that the Company knew for 18 months that there was a water shortfall. There was criticism of the Company for not being proactive in engaging with the community. Mr. Darwon stated “we felt we were kept in the dark, started noticing water trucks and started asking questions. The walls went up. Don’t want this to happen again”.

In reply to comments regarding the lack of information to the community with respect to the progress of the investigations, the Chairperson reaffirmed the CCC’s role and function, and stated that it was normal procedure for an investigation to take place without and information being released to the public regarding the progress of the investigations. He added that the CCC does not have a regulatory role.

The Chairperson then asked Mr. Dingle three questions a resident had sent to him to raise at the meeting.

Mr. Dingle replied to these questions as follows:-

- a) the public announcement by the Company, of the finding and the fine, was made immediately after the penalty notice review period had finished.
- b) the penalty has been paid.
- c) extensive public consultation will be held and public exhibition undertaken, when a Modification is sought regarding any of these potential activities.

In reply to comments from M/s Royds, Mr Frankcombe reaffirmed that there would be a full public consultation process. M/s Waddell requested that modelling also be undertaken to reflect the current situation.

Proposed Modification for Turkey’s Nest Dam and Water Trucking:

Mr Dingle said he expected to be coming forward with a preferred option in the coming months.

M/s Royd expressed concern at the wording on the Presentation slide which she regarded as misleading and asked that it required more description to give people outside of the meeting more context to ensure everyone understands that no decision has yet been made regarding any of these water security projects.

Groundwater Modelling Assessment Update:

In reply to a question from Mr. Lever, Mr. Dingle stated that following a discussion today with the consultants he expected to have the report for the next CCC meeting.

Noise Mitigation Project:

Mr Dingle stated that both monitors were in play at present.

In reply to a question from Mr Darwon, M/s Lloyd stated that the data had started to come in, but it was too early to assess it and hopefully the initial data would be able sent by the consultant on Friday.

Mr Darwon thanked Mr Dingle and M/s Lloyd for their level of engagement with himself and Mr. Wolford on this problem and stated that it had been exceptional.

Mr Frankcombe stated that the attenuation framing was going in today, but there has been some significant delays in sourcing the noise attenuation cladding. Mr Dingle stated that they were working closely with EPA & DPIE regarding noise attenuation works to ensure they were all informed of any progress.

Mr Dingle added that a body of work was in place to attenuate the muffler in the processing plant. The new muffler would take 6 weeks to arrive and then has to be installed.

Community Survey:

Mr Dingle advised as to the progress with the preparations for the survey and advised that the survey will include the Araluen community.

6. General Business

In reply to a question from Mr Lever regarding the crusher plant 24-hour operations, Mr Dingle stated that this had been the subject of an Inspection prior to the last CCC Meeting.

In reply to a question from Mr Lever regarding when the Water Management Plan and Mine Operation Plan would be reviewed, Mr Dingle advised as follows: -

A review of the Water Management Plan is currently underway.

With regard to the Mine Operation Plan, it was due to expire on March 31 and an 18-month extension of time had been granted by DPIE.

Mr Dingle agreed with Mr Lever that the Water Management Plan needed a major update. He added that he intended to meet with Mr Lever regarding this matter in due course.

Mr Dingle agreed with M/s Royd that the interpretation of water truck movements needs tidying up as part of the Modification, should the activity be proposed.

In reply to a question from Mr Cormick, Mr Dingle stated that he hoped to have a preferred location and a conceptual design for the proposed Turkeys Nest dam in the next month.

In reply to a question from Mr Cormick regarding exploration, Mr Frankcombe stated that underground exploration is occurring from where the previous study finished and to a depth consistent with the current operation. He added that surface exploration is occurring to look for a horizontal extension whereas the underground exploration is looking at a vertical line.

Mr Darwon questioned the present attitude regarding night time trucking. Mr Dingle replied “we haven’t thought about that in ages”.

Mr Darwon then commented on the visual impact of the TSF.

Mr Frankcombe stated that ultimately it will increase in height by another 5m, post Stage 2.

Mr Dingle stated that it is intended to grass it over or line the face with rock when the mine is finished and tree planting is not recommended due to instability and degradation issues. He added that more consideration has to be given to the closure objectives of the Tailings Dam.

Discussion took place on this matter.

Mr Dingle stated that further studies will need to be undertaken in the next couple of years.

Mr Darwon suggested that a question on this matter could be included in the community survey.

Mr. Dingle stated that recently he had decided to increase community consultation by naming the CCC Members’ on the company Website and Facebook, however the Chairperson had suggested that this not take place until those Members had given permission for their specific details to be made public.

Mr Darwon questioned whether the vacant positions on the CCC were going to be filled?

M/s Royds stated that she believed that all Members were well known in the local community and had been appointed as community representatives, further she believed that there were no Members appointed solely due to them being adjacent landowners. Discussion then took place regarding the selection and appointment of a new Community Member to replace M/s Bigg and the status of the alternate delegates. The Chairperson undertook to contact Mr Waterhouse regarding his availability and to hold discussions with the DPIE regarding the constitution of the CCC and the possible appointment of a Member from Major’s Creek.

The Chairperson stated that he would report back in due course.

Cr. Harrison and Mr Dingle confirmed that the Voluntary planning Agreement with Queanbeyan Palarang Regional Council had been approved by Council and that arrangements were being made for it to be executed.

7. Next CCC Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Major’s Creek Meeting Hall on Monday June 21 at 1.30pm.

It was further agreed that an Inspection would be held either prior to the meeting on June 21 or a week earlier on June 14.

The Chairperson thanked all Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.38pm.

These minutes are endorsed by

Brian Weir

Independent Chairperson

Dargues Reef Community Consultative Committee

Dargues Gold Mine
DCCC No. 39
15 March 2021
1:30pm



Agenda

Item 6

- Progress of the Project
- Monitoring & Environmental Performance
- Community complaints & response to these complaints
- Information provided to the Community and any Feedback



Progress of the Project

- Mine – development @ 315 Level
- Mill – BAU; production in accordance with annual throughputs YTD
- TSF Stage 2 construction in the final stages of completion -
 - Earthworks - 95%
 - Poly lining works – 60% complete (targeting EoM for completion)
- Latest round of Community Grants program finalised - BYPAA and Braidwood Tennis Club received \$3000 each.
- Offsite Biodiversity Offset area – three options prioritized and assessed by suitably qualified expert. 18-month extension granted to secure the offset.
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Further local employment opportunities coming! for more information about employment opportunities, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.aureliametals.com/careers>



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

Blast Monitoring Results

All vibration emissions generated by DGM comply with relevant limits at all assessed receivers.

Location	Time of Blasting	Airblast overpressure (db (Lin Peak))	Ground vibrations (mm/s)	Allowable exceedance
Residence on privately owned land	Any time	120	10	0%
	Day	115	5	5% of the total number of blasts over a period of 12 months
	Evening	-	2	
	Night and all day on Sundays and public holidays	-	1	0%



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

Noise Monitoring Results

- Attended noise monitoring was completed between the 15th-16th December 2020.
- All noise emissions generated by DGM comply with relevant limits at all assessed receivers.
- FY21 Q3 monitoring was completed in early March, awaiting results.

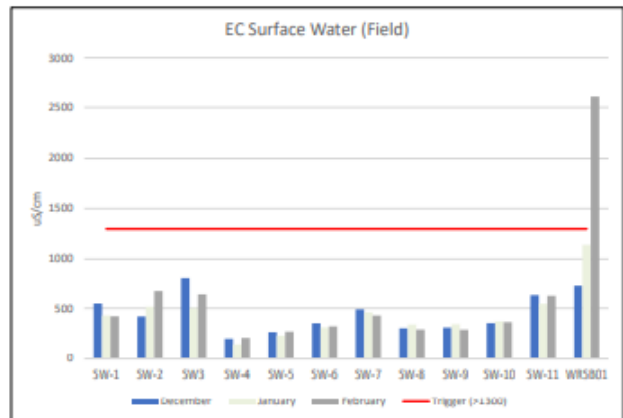
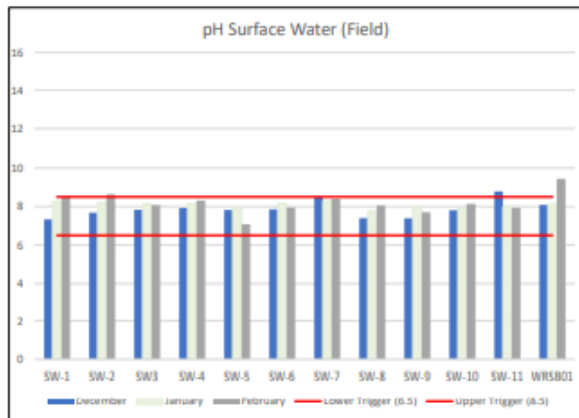
Monitoring Location	Noise Criteria, dBA LAeq(15min)			Noise Criteria, dB LA(1)1min
	Day (7am to 6pm)	Evening (6pm to 10pm)	Night (10pm to 7am)	Night (10pm to 7am)
At any residence	35	35	35	45
Majors Creek State Conservation Area (when in use by any person)	35	35	35	45



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

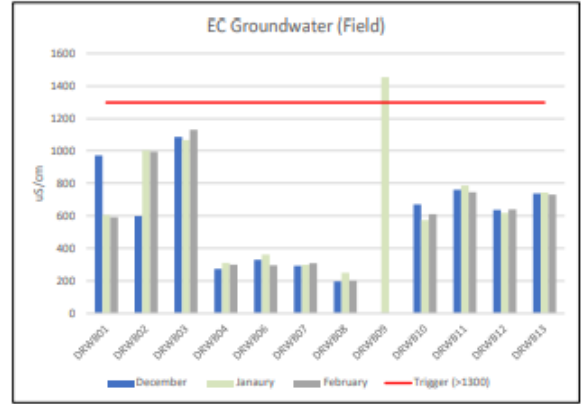
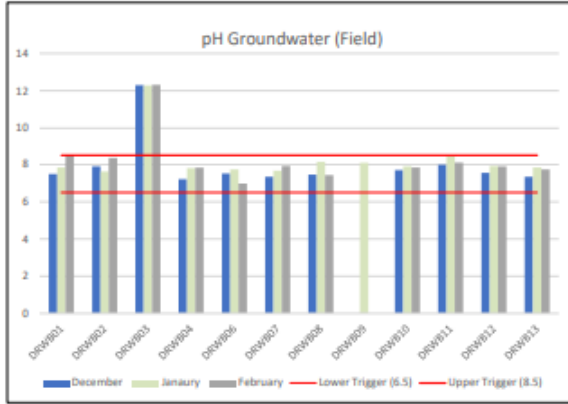
Surface Water Monitoring Results – Field data



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

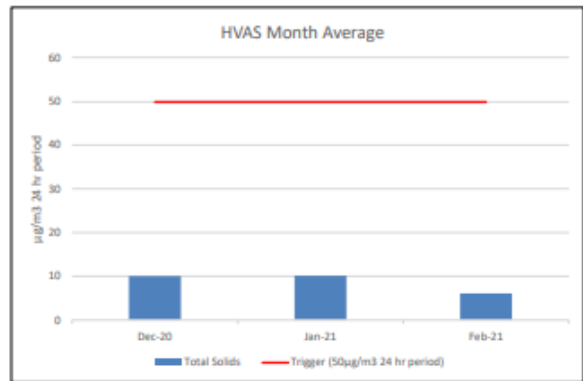
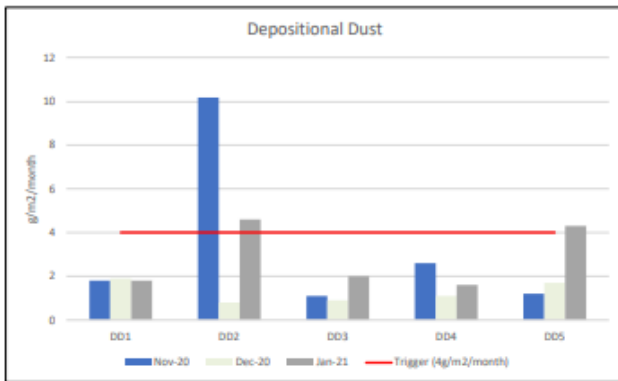
Ground Water Monitoring Results – Field data



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

Air Quality Monitoring Results

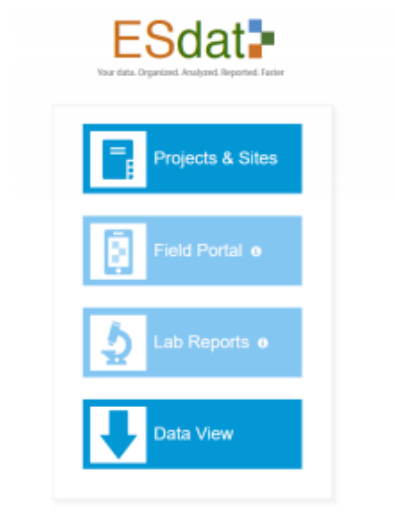


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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

Upgrading to Esdat..

- DGM is upgrading the environmental data management system to the Esdat software.
- *“ESdat is a specialist environmental database system; used to validate and import a broad spectrum of Environmental Data and to help users analyze and report it”.*
- Esdat will be utilised for displaying, graphing and reviewing all of DGM’s monitoring data including groundwater, surface water, HVAS, Depositional Dust etc.



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Monitoring & Environmental Performance

Community Complaints

Month	Complaints Topic	Number complaints
December 2020	Noise	26
January 2021	Noise	34
February 2021	Noise	26

Information Provided to Community and any Feedback

- A key focus for the project has been to increase community consultation and interaction via phone calls, emails, face-to-face meetings & Facebook.
- Overall, positive feedback received from most stakeholders.
- Focus for the next 3 months is to continue to engage with the surrounding communities. This includes utilising social media, as well as increasing DGM’s community involvement.



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Agenda

Item 8

- Aurelia Metals Website Update
- DoPIE Water Trucking Investigation Findings
- Proposed Modification for Turkeys Nest Dam and Water Trucking
- Groundwater Modelling Assessment Update
- Noise Mitigation Project
- Community Survey



Aurelia Metals Website Update

- Since Aurelia’s acquisition of DGM, site personnel have been working to upload relevant documentation to the Aurelia Website.
- In the coming weeks, all information will be readily available for stakeholders.
- Please follow the link below to view the DGM compliance page:

<https://aureliametals.com/projects/dargues/compliance>



DoPIE Water Trucking Investigation Findings

- During June and July 2020, Dargues Gold Mine, owned and operated by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (Big Island Mining) sourced a secondary water supply from treated recycled water from the Bungendore sewage treatment plant.
- The Department has assessed the breach in accordance with its Compliance Policy and has determined it appropriate to issue Big Island Mining with a \$15,000 Penalty Notice in this instance.
- DGM has been transparent with the community regarding the matter. Communication has been provided via Facebook, CCC notification and on the Aurelia Website.

Dargues Gold Mine – DoPIE concludes investigation into water sourcing activities

During June and July 2020, Dargues Gold Mine, owned and operated by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (Big Island Mining) sourced a secondary water supply from treated recycled water from the Bungendore sewage treatment plant to support operations following significant delays to key construction activities.

The Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (the Department) has investigated Big Island Mining sourcing and using a secondary water source and has subsequently found that the activity did not comply with the conditions of consent of NP 33_2014 (as modified) (the Consent). The Department has assessed the breach in accordance with its Compliance Policy and has determined to issue Big Island Mining with a \$15,000 Penalty Notice in this instance.

Dargues Mine's Interim General Manager Jamie Frankscombe said, "the event was regrettable, and the Company apologises for any distress this activity may have caused to members of our valued community. We will learn from this experience and continue to work hard in ensuring we have the highest level of environmental standards and community consultation."

On a positive note, once the matter was identified, I was pleased with the way the team at Dargues Mine responded to the investigation in a prompt and professional manner, working cooperatively with the Department during and after the investigative process, as well as keeping the community, through the Community Consultation Committee, informed on progress of the investigation."

The Department's investigation noted that Big Island Mining fully cooperated with the investigation and that nil or negligible environmental harm has resulted from the breach. The Department further noted that Big Island Mining has committed to a modification to the Consent to capture these activities, should the project need arise.

"Transparency is important to us and we will continue to engage with key stakeholders about the appropriate permitting requirements to support any future operational needs," Mr Frankscombe added.

For further information, please contact the Dargues Mine Community Information Line on 1800 732 082 or via email at dmccommunity@bigislandmetals.com.au



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Proposed Modification for Turkeys Nest Dam and Water Trucking

Prior to DGM proceeding with any Modifications, community consultation will be undertaken with neighbouring communities. It is expected communication will be undertaken via social media, Aurelia website, Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings and Community Information Sessions.

Water Security Options Analysis

Water specialists have been engaged by DGM to investigate potential water sourcing options.

As part of this process, some of the solutions being considered by DGM include:

- Building a ~100ML Turkeys Nest Dam
- Pipeline from Shoalhaven River to DGM
- Pipeline from the Braidwood Water treatment plant to DGM
- Groundwater bore field
- Modification to include emergency trucking of water from either Braidwood or Bungendore WTF



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Groundwater Impact Model Update

The scope is broken down into the following key tasks to systematically update the model:

Task 1 – Model update

- Identify conceptual changes that would lead to an improved match to the observed data.
- Update the model (including the change from MODFLOW SURFACT to MODFLOW-USG).
- Calibrate the model.

Task 2 – Predictions and analysis

- Run forward predictions of current mine plan and extract relevant results to satisfy the requirements of the New South Wales Government Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP).
- Undertake uncertainty analysis.

Task 3 – Reporting

- Compile draft report of work done and updated predictions.



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Noise Mitigation Projects

Relocation of DGM's Unattended Noise Monitor

- Advice sought from Muller Acoustic on the most representative location to situate the Noise Monitor.
- New directional Noise Monitor installed on Wednesday 3rd March.
- Data from the new monitor will be correlated to existing monitor for 1-2 months.



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Noise Mitigation Projects

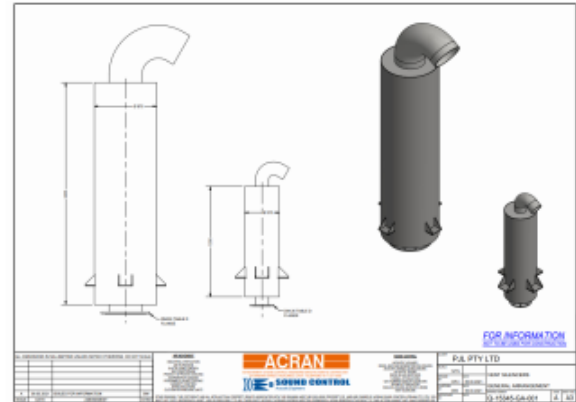
Noise Attenuation of Processing Plant Infrastructure

Enclosing of blower and compressor units in the Processing Plant

- A shed will be established with noise insulation to mitigate noise sources emitted from the units.
- Works are expected to be completed by the end of March.

Muffler works on Processing Plant Exhaust Vents

- The mufflers will reduce the noise from the vents substantially.
- Mufflers expected to arrive onsite in 6 weeks, with installation planned for the following week.



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Community Survey

- With Aurelia's acquisition of DGM, the company currently assessing an option to take a business level approach to gain community feedback
- It is likely in the next quarter a community survey will be delivered to the Majors Creek and Braidwood communities.
- Current plan is to utilise online surveys and undertake letterbox drops.



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Closing

For further information, please visit the following:

- DGM website: <http://aureliametals.com>
- DGM Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DarguesReefGold>
- For more detailed assistance please call the Dargues Gold Mine Information Line on 1800 732 002 or alternatively email DGM.Community@aureliametals.com.au



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