



Dargues Reef

Community Consultative Committee

MINUTES OF 44th MEETING OF DARGUES GOLD REEF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD ON SITE AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

ON WEDNESDY 8th JUNE 2022 at 1pm.

PRESENT:

- B Weir (v) Chair
- B Waterhouse (v), B Royds (v), Dr K Waddell (v), P Cormick (v), S Needham (v), P Owen, C Dingle (DGM) and E Guarino (DGM)

IN ATTENDANCE:

- M/s Lucy Ball (DGM Mine Manager) and M/s Annabelle Jeffery (DGM)

Also in Attendance were Mr. M Rizzuto and Mr. A Stricker representing the NSW EPA.

Item 1.

WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed all attendees especially the EPA representatives and M/s Lucy Ball, the newly appointed DGM Mine Manager.

The Chairman acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land and paid his respects to Elders Past, Present and Emerging.

Item 2.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were acknowledged from M Darwon and A Wyllie (DGM).

Item 3.

PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no declarations other than with respect to the DGM employees and the Chairman's Meeting Fee.

Item 4.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – MATTERS ARISING:

Mr. Cormick referred to P4 of the Minutes and asked when he would receive a reply to his submission to the Aurelia Sustainability and Risk Committee. Mr. Dingle replied that he was working on it and it would be sent shortly, not only to Mr. Cormick but to all Members.

In reply to a question from Mr. Needham regarding the “Correspondence In” report and the Annual Report, the Chairman stated that these were governance matters. He had completed the Reports some time ago and liaised with the DoP. He had been awaiting a response from the DoP prior to this meeting. A reply had not been received so the reports would be sent out shortly.

Item 8 (part).

WATER ISSUES - TSF OPERATIONS:

Attendance by EPA Representatives.

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Rizzuto and Stricker to the Meeting.

Mr. Guarino stated that he had invited the EPA representatives to the meeting to answer questions following his distribution of EPA water testing results to the Members recently.

Mr. Cormick said that he was “very grateful” for the invitation being issued.

Mr. Rizzuto then addressed the meeting. He and Mr. Stricker answered numerous questions from the Members.

Mr. Rizzuto stated that following analysis of water samples collected by both Aurelia and themselves, with respect to toxicity, the overall result “largely meets all triggers”.

He advised that the trigger levels are set nationally, and the triggers were applied for drinking, irrigation, ecosystem protection and agriculture use.

The irrigation triggers are based on short term - 20 years, and long term – 100 years. The samples met all short-term trigger levels.

Regarding drinking water, the levels were “pretty close to the guidelines”.

Regarding species protection in waterways, the readings for aluminum, zinc and ammonia were not excessively high and already exist in the creek, but the values did exceed ecosystem protection guidelines, with the readings in the creek “worse than in the TSF”.

Regarding livestock drinking water, there was an exceedance in iron trigger value but no other exceedance.

Mr. Rizzuto said an important component in the testing was eco toxicity testing and all testing “has come back as non-toxic”. He added that if an overflow happened, it would be due to heavy rainfall and extreme flooding flows. He was aware that the mine has been investigating an irrigation option.

Regarding eco-toxicity of invertebrates in the soil, he stated that EPA has not assessed that but the triggers values for irrigation water quality were met and these values provide protection for soil invertebrates. Mr. Rizzuto said that he would seek expert advice from EPA scientists regarding this query.

In reply to a question from Mr. Robertson, Mr. Rizzuto stated that the EPA will undertake more sampling and will monitor DGM's sample readings as well as doing their own. He also advised Mr. Robertson that the Dept. of Planning was responsible for compliance with Conditions of Consent, whereas the EPA has responsibility for matters covered by the environment protection license.

Regarding soil sampling, Mr. Dingle advised that it was part of the agreed actions with EPA, and he was currently awaiting the results. Mr. Guarino said that ninety samples had been taken at 1m. increments across the TSF.

Mr. Needham supported Mr. Robertson's comments re the need for periodic testing by EPA. He added that repeated monitoring was justified as the TSF evolves- liquids may stratify and compounds may evolve. He stated that water quality and bio toxicity testing may not cover all toxic types. He asked what happens regarding xanthates?

Mr. Rizzuto replied, "we did a massive list of organic compounds including xanthates". There was no requirement for EPA to monitor the TSF annually – it is up to the mine – "but it is a good idea".

Mr. Needham stated that it is an extra layer of certainty and a comfort for the organisations the Community Consultative Committee Members represent.

In reply to a question from Mr. Cormick, Mr. Rizzuto stated that if there was an overflow, based on the tests, it is likely that there would be no toxic outcomes, as the overflow would also be heavily diluted. He added that, regarding drinking water for people and cattle, it was important to look at all of the downstream uses in considering the potential impact of an overflow.

Mr. Dingle advised Mr. Cormick that the mine monitored xanthates regularly and the results sent to the lab. He added that GHD were preparing a Report.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, Mr. Rizzuto stated that EPA does not have a view regarding the "hierarchy" with regard to road, dust suppression or irrigation.

M/s Royds asked with respect to the Water Plan, is the water going directly from the TSF?

Mr. Guarino replied "yes, there are two options".

Mr. Rizzuto stated that there had been no input from EPA regarding this.

Mr. Rizzuto stated that a dilution assessment had been carried out looking at water toxicity etc. and looking at different situations.

Mr. Dingle stated that dust suppression is only carried out on the operational area so that the water is contained.

Mr. Williamson raised the ongoing issue of complaints from the village regarding low level industrial noise and some residents had complained about a “light show and flashing lights” after dark. He asked if it was possible to suppress the noise “from say 3pm until dinnertime”?

Mr. Rizzuto stated that the regulation of light was a matter for the DoP, however the EPA was responsible for investigating noise complaints from the public.

Mr. Dingle replied that the activity on the ridge was the fast tracking of the dam lift and that it has been underway for 6 weeks. He said that the noise matter would be dealt with later in the meeting. Mr. Guarino stated that the noise complaints are investigated and sometimes it is found that the noise is emanating from the edge of town. Mr. Dingle added that his team is highly responsive to noise matters and that the mine takes its own readings.

The Chairperson thanked the EPA representatives for their attendance, and they left the meeting at 1.50pm.

Item 5.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman stated that there was no correspondence in.

Item 6.

PROPONENT’S REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

In reply to a question from Mr. Needham regarding the GHD report, Mr. Guarino stated that the reports are in draft form, and had been sent to ALS. Mr. Dingle added that these reports are required for the Water Management Plan and other consents. He further stated that nothing of concern has been discovered yet and there was no evidence of toxicity.

In reply to a comment from Mr. Needham that these reports be publicly released as they would be of “keen interest” to downstream users, Mr. Dingle stated that he would take that request back to the Company.

Re MOD 5, Mr. Dingle stated that the application will be finalised about the time of the Community Meeting and that all the assessments had been completed. He advised that a summary would be compiled for the meeting. When finalised, the Application will initially, be sent to the DoP for a consistency review, and then placed on public exhibition.

In reply to a question from Mr. Cormick, Mr. Dingle stated that the Briefing paper issued in November 2021 was the latest publicly available information regarding MOD 5.

Mr. Needham praised the monitoring data now available on the website but asked the following questions:

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Why was there a spike in SW5 in March? He said that it would be good to have an explanatory notation for such spikes or variations.

Mr. Guarino replied that he would consider this request.

Re: surface water- point 7, there was no recent data. Why? He added that “it would be great if we could get data on tailings”.

Overall, he said, the reporting was “a great improvement”.

Mr. Dingle complimented Mr. Guarino on this work.

Item 7.

MATTERS WHICH THE COMMUNITY/COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO RAISE WITH THE DGM REPRESENTATIVES; other than matters listed on the agenda:

Truck Parking: -

Mr. Waterhouse commented that the two semi-trailers were parking in town near the children’s playground from 7.30am until 9am and again from 2.30pm until 4pm. He stated that this was causing inconvenience to parents, and he suggested that the drivers be asked to drive through Braidwood and park near Braidwood Rural.

Water Management Plan: -

Mr. Cormick referred to the email from Mr. Guarino regarding the review of the Water Management Plan and asked that the terminology be better explained. He requested a cross section of the free boards. Mr. Guarino apologised for the technical language. He said that it means a reduced level and the desire to reduce the environment freeboard.

Regarding the Water Management Plan, Mr. Cormick asked, with respect to the technical guidelines, if diagrams could be used to show what is being proposed.

Mr. Cormick sought an explanation with respect to Clause 5.3.9, of the Water Management Plan, the item on embankment construction. He stated that it talks about “lifting” - is it downstream or modified center line, as Mr. Wylie, at the last meeting, said it would be downstream?

Mr. Dingle replied that whilst both are currently proposed, he believes that it will be downstream. He added, that, currently, the testing is going really well.

M/s Royds asked, regarding irrigation in the Water Management Plan, if approval is being sought for the current irrigation areas.

Mr. Dingle replied that he wants to “buy time”, get the TSF approved and switch the water across. He wants to conserve water from the TSF not waste it. He advised that the Turkey’s Nest Dam is to be located to the north and would hold 180-200 mega liters, which will be nearly all the water from the TSF.

Container Size Change: -

Mr. Dingle advised that the size of the containers holding the concentrate had changed to full size shipping containers. He stated that this was a commercial decision requested by the clients as they do not want bulk haulage. He stated that the volume in each container was unchanged.

Item 8.

MATTERS WHICH THE DGM REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO RAISE WITH THE COMMUNITY/COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: -

Community Grants: -

Mr. Dingle advised that the Community Grants scheme had closed, and that M/s Ball would be coordinating the project.

Noise Abatement: -

Re Noise Abatement, Mr. Guarino stated that, whilst a contract had not yet been let, negotiations were well advanced with a preferred contractor. He advised that, based on theoretical studies, low frequency noise levels should be reduced. He further advised that there was a four-month lead time.

Item 9.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CCC Members' Details on Mine Website: -

Mr. Waterhouse stated that having unsuccessfully searched the web site for the information, he asked that the names and contact information regarding the composition of the CCC be listed on the web site near where the minutes are located, for the information of the community. Messrs Dingle and Guarino agreed. It was decided that Mr. Guarino would contact each Member to ascertain the relevant contact details.

Composition of the Committee: -

M/s Royds asked the Chairperson about the prescribed number of Community Representatives on the Committee.

The Chairperson replied that the vacancy to replace Mr. Lever had been advertised twice and no applications had been received within the advertised period. In any case, he added, there are currently seven Community Members which is the maximum recommended under the CCC Guidelines. When he was first appointed, he had sought this information from the DoP, and the Department had sent him the current membership details and did not have any other information about any prescribed Member representation. Prior to his appointment, a member had been appointed without a vacancy occurring, and without advertising. In his opinion, since the Committee had the maximum number recommended by the Guidelines, he believed the current numbers were sufficient.

Annual Inspection: -

Mr. Robertson suggested that an Annual Inspection of the Mine be held once "daylight saving comes into operation".

Future CCC Meetings 2022: -

Mr. Waterhouse stated that, with respect to the September and December Meetings, if those were scheduled for the school holidays i.e. 26/9-2/10 and in late December (say Dec. 20), it would be easier for him to attend.

The Chairperson stated that he would liaise with the Members, especially Messrs Waterhouse and Darwon, regarding the scheduling of the September and December meetings and he would be suggesting at the September meeting, that the December meeting also include an inspection on the same day.

Mine Works Near Mine Boundary: -

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, Mr. Dingle stated that the works being undertaken near the eastern project boundary was soil testing.

Resignation of Sustainability Manager – Mr. C Dingle: -

Mr. Dingle advised the meeting that regrettably, for family reasons, he had submitted his resignation effective in July. He stated that he was extremely happy with the site progress, and he thanked the Members for their assistance and support during his time at the mine.

The Chairman and various Members expressed their appreciation for his work and assistance, including his work in the local community, and wished him well.

It was AGREED that the Committee formally place on record its appreciation for Mr. Dingle's work not only at the Mine but also his assistance to the Committee and its Members and extend best wishes to him and his family for the future.

The Chairman then declared the Meeting Closed.

Meeting Closed 2.48pm.

Dargues Gold Mine – Proponents Report

Item 6.

Progress of the Project

- General Manager – Angus Wyllie
- Mine development at 480m
- Processing rate in accordance with annual throughputs Year to Date (YTD)
- Further local employment opportunities coming! For more information about employment opportunities, please refer to the following link: <https://www.aureliametals.com/careers>
- Safety performance; 2 x recordable injury for the quarter; Mill over 2 years recordable injury free

Monitoring and Environmental Performance

We have suffered data losses at our dust deposition gauges and at the flow monitoring stations. All other Environmental monitoring was completed in accordance with Dargues Gold Mine’s (DGM) Environmental Protection License and Development Consent requirements. For access to DGM’s monitoring data, please refer to the following link [Dargues | Monitoring - Aurelia Metals](#).

Our externally facing dashboard has been published via our website. Funding for the project was approved following the endorsement at the 42nd CCC meeting in December 2021.

The continual wet weather has had a tremendous impact on our water flow monitoring stations. Three of our four stations have been impacted. Site contractors have been navigating the wet weather and progressively repairing the sites. We have also taken the opportunity to improve the sites to include real time water quality monitoring of Conductivity, pH, Turbidity and Temperature. The sensors have been ordered (6-8 week lead time) and will be progressively installed as the stations become ready.

Community Complaints

During the last quarter, DGM received the following complaints. All complaints were in relation to noise concerns.

Month	Number of Complaints
March	5
April	9
May	10

BIM continues to work on noise mitigation projects, as discussed in Item 8.

MOD-5

We are conducting an additional community information session prior to the public exhibition commencing. The community Information session will be held on the 14th of June 2022 (1830) at the Majors Creek Recreation Reserve Hall. BIM expects public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment to commence in July 2022.

Item 8.

Tailings Storage Facility Update

The processing team have been diligently working to use as much of the TSF water as possible within the processing circuit. Their continued efforts resulted in the TSF water level dropping to below the operational freeboard.

The civil contractor responsible for the stage-3 TSF lift is onsite, they are making good progress and are on track for completion August 2022. This initiative will add an additional 2.5 m of elevation to the existing TSF spillway

We have been continuing with a number of studies on the TSF water:

- Discharge dilution assessment (complete)
- Ecotox assessment (5 sensitive species toxicity test from Nata lab) (continuing)
- Spatial and vertical stratification assessment of water quality in the TSF (continuing)

At the 43rd CCC meeting on 28 March 2022 the Dargues team agreed to provide the CCC with the results of the EPA monitoring of TSF water. The EPA were shared (by email) to the CCC team on 4 May 2022. The Epa conducted an Ecotox analysis (report enclosed in the EPA email) of the TSF water and the results showed that the TSF water was not toxic. Their water quality analysis also showed that metal concentrations were low and the pH was circumneutral to alkaline. Similarly, there was no significant difference between the EPA and BIM water chemistry sampling results. Australian New Zealand Environment Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines for freshwater environments and the Australian Drinking water Standard guidelines were also provided. More information about the guidelines and the framework can be found in the link below. [ANZECC & ARMCANZ \(2000\) guidelines \(waterquality.gov.au\)](https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anzelm/guidelines)

BIM would like to reassure the CCC and community members that no uncontrolled discharges occurred during the recent extreme weather events. We are also pleased to announce that through the commencement of operations, we have reinstated the operational freeboard, for the time being. A real time sensor for monitoring TSF water levels has been replaced, which provides alarm notifications to operators and supervisors.

We are continuing to work with the appropriate regulatory authorities on permitting requirements for additional use for the water in the TSF. We expect to be in a position to discuss these options in the near future.

Exploration Update

Exploration is continuing, with the current schedule of works expected to continue into Q3 2022. BIM is confident that this will be followed by a further surface and ground exploration program.

Noise Mitigation Projects

We have sourced quotes from several highly reputable engineering firms for the design, manufacture, and installation of a ventilation fan silencer. Based on an evaluation by independent consultant the silencer will

be able to achieve barely audible performance. We expect to be issuing a Purchase Order to the preferred supplier early June. All suppliers indicating installation timeframe of approximately 12 -16 weeks.

We have received a community request to support the purchase of plants for screening noise purposes. We are investigating how that standard should be applied.

DGM Site Initiatives

Applications for the Aurelia Community Grants program closed on 25 April 2022. We were inundated with exceptional quality applications. The evaluation of the grants is in progress, and we hope to make a decision soon.

<https://www.aureliametals.com/projects/dargues/community-grants-program?fbclid=IwAROpIDMGHGyuS9BXUhgMyKyUISbNI0wH8NE7nZ2m-y1u4V3MLg3jyGKtOS8>

BIM is also proud to be a Platinum sponsor of the Braidwood Lions Young Writers Festival 2022. The writing competition is for young people living in postcode 2622 or going to school in Braidwood. In 2020, the festival had over 313 entrants and has been supported by St Bedes primary and Braidwood Central School.

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