

MINUTES OF 47th MEETING OF THE DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON SITE AND VIA TELE-CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2023,
COMMENCING AT 1.10 PM.

PRESENT: B Weir PSM (Chair), B Waterhouse, M/s B Royds, Dr. K Waddell (V), S Needham (V), P Cormick (V), P Owen, Cr J Preston (V), M/s A Jagelman (V), A Wyllie and M/s A Saunders.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Thompson (Aurelia Environment Manager), M/s T Fish (Aurelia DGM Environmental Technician) and J Wolford.

1/ WELCOME: The Chairman extended a welcome to all Members and those in attendance.

In welcoming M/s Jagelman to the Committee, as the new Delegate representing Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Chair expressed his appreciation for the contribution Mr Robertson had made to the Committee as the representative of Eurobodalla Shire Council.

He also welcomed Mr Thompson and M/s Fish representing Aurelia and Mr Jeff Wolford, a resident of Major's Creek, who were in attendance.

He acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land on which the Meeting was being held and paid his respects to Elders Past, Present and Emerging

2/ APOLOGIES: The Chairman stated that he had received an apology from Mr Darwon.

He stated that Mr Darwon had contacted him and reminded him that the Meetings were supposed to rotate between Monday and Wednesday and that he could not participate on Wednesdays due to work commitments. The Chairman added that the June Meeting would have to be scheduled for a Monday.

3/ PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations other than the usual declarations with respect to the Chairperson receiving a small meeting fee and the Mine representatives being employees of Aurelia.

4/ MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Matters Arising:

Nil

5/ CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Nil

6/ PROPONENT'S REPORT AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:

Progress of Project-

Mr Wyllie outlined the present mining strategy and plan since the mine decline development is now complete at 540m. This, at present, revolves around further underground mining of previously unmined areas plus the adjacent Ruby Lode, 150 metres off the main lode to the north, the bulk of the remaining stopes are below 415m level. The remnant mining around the historic workings is

currently at level 52 and then will progress to level 65 and level 90. It is working on the same ore body and will close out stopes at those levels.

There was general discussion on the present scope of the mining operation, life of mine timing and rehabilitation requirements.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance-

M/s Saunders spoke to this report.

She advised that the Flora and Fauna Report was almost completed. So too was the Aquatic Ecology report. It was expected that these reports would be received from the respective consultants in 2-3 weeks.

Mr Needham stated that he had looked at the monitoring data in the last week and he was happy with it. Mr Cormick stated that he, too, was satisfied with this dashboard performance at this time.

The Chairman stated that the monitoring of the environmental data reporting on the dashboard was a key item from the last meeting.

Community Complaints-

M/s Saunders spoke to the complaints received and stated that further investigation was being carried out regarding the crushing noise complaints.

Public Participation:

The Chairman invited Mr Wolford, a resident of Majors Creek, to address the meeting as Mr Wolford had informed him prior to the meeting that he had received permission from mine management to attend.

Mr Woolford tabled a letter (see attachment) and read it to the meeting.

“To Dargues Gold Mine Community Consultative Committee

The proponent Big Island Mining Pty limited has approval to mine at this site Dargues Gold mine Majors Creek from the NSW Government through the Department of Planning and Environment the closest NSW Government Department 85 kilometres at Queanbeyan.

Myself and others have lived here for more than 30 years and we have been very good neighbours to the mine. We have communicated since the beginning 2004.

I ask as I stated in my last submission 2022 modification 5 that the mine be a good neighbour and go beyond Government policy and mitigate the intrusive noise at night which penetrates through the night air and wakes residents at all hours of the night.

Good governance and due diligence in night time operation could overcome any further impacts from intrusive noise to servants causing sleep disturbance and health impacts to the resident so affected.

Thank you to the Manager of Dargues Mine Angus and his staff for the mitigation already attended to.

Jeffrey Wolford

Resident

Majors Creek

8/3/2023”

The Chairperson invited the mine representatives to reply to Mr Wolford’s comments.

M/s Saunders responded by reaffirming the mine's commitment to attempting to reduce noise complaints.

Mr Wyllie stated that the TSF pumps were personally inspected this week by himself and M/s Saunders, and maintenance was carried out on one pump. He added that it may be possible to have the pumps moved further down the TSF ramp. This would be further investigated.

Mr Woolford advised the meeting that he had made some 200 reports to Government Departments during his time as a resident with respect to the mine operations and he thanked Mr Wyllie for his ongoing assistance.

Mr Waterhouse said the noise from the mine affects the community differently in different areas.

This concluded Public Participation.

Truck Accident:

Mr Wyllie confirmed that an empty Boral cement truck had had an accident on Araluen Road at 2:00 am recently, after leaving the mine. The owner, Boral, was carrying out an investigation.

M/s Saunders stated that the Community Consultative Committee members will be sent details of the report.

MOD- 5

Mr Wyllie stated that it was estimated that the dams holding had fallen to 125 ML, down from 220 ML in August last year. He added that the level is currently approximately 6 metres below the spillway following the building of stage 3. [Mr Wyllie advised following the meeting that the level is more in the range of 4m – 5m. rather than 6m.]

In reply to a question from Mr Cormick, Mr Wyllie said that it was anticipated that the current mining operations on the approved site would be completed by the consent expiration date.

7/ MATTERS WHICH THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO RAISE:

Truck Accident – Mr Waterhouse stated that Aurelia should have been more proactive in advising CCC Members of the accident as the accident was well known in the community. The CCC members had been receiving phone calls from residents enquiring about the accident and could not respond.

Mr Wyllie acknowledged Mr Waterhouse's comment.

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

Tailings Storage Facility update:

M/s Saunders advised that the water level had dropped 14 centimetres in February and that some TSF water had been approved for use and was now being used for irrigation.

Water Management –

M/s Saunders stated that she was awaiting the review comments and those would then go into the final report.

Exploration Update –

Mr Wyllie stated that there was nothing further to report at this stage. Planned exploration and infill drilling has been completed with the last rig departing at the end of January.

Noise Mitigation Projects –

M/s Saunders stated that this had been discussed previously at the meeting. MAC Acoustics have visited the site last week and they were currently awaiting the report.

DGM Site Initiatives –

Visual Amenity - M/s Saunders stated that applications were open.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, she stated that no applications had yet been received.

Biodiversity Offset – M/s Saunders, in reply to a question from M/s Royds, stated that a shortlist of one property had been drawn up and a lawyer had been engaged. It was hoped to have the matter finalised in June/July. She added that the arrangement has to exist in perpetuity.

Mr Wyllie stated that Aurelia contributes to a Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund and the restriction is attached to the title and cannot be lifted.

Community Grants, Support and Donations – the report was noted, and several members commented favourably regarding the successful applicants.

M/s Saunders added that the presentation would take place on March 17.

Other Sponsorship –no comment

CCC Contacts –

Mr Needham stated that this matter had been discussed previously and still had not been properly resolved. Currently there were only three Member contacts listed despite additional members having submitted their details. He requested that this listing be updated.

M/s Saunders undertook to chase the matter up.

9/ OTHER BUSINESS:

In reply to a question from M/s Jagelman, Mr Wyllie stated that there had been no changes in regard to the use of chemicals or other treatments on site.

She then enquired as to when an Inspection would be held,

The Chairman replied that an Inspection had been held in conjunction with the last meeting and another Inspection would be held later this year, possibly in conjunction with the December meeting.

Mr Wyllie offered to host a visit by M/s Jagelman so that she could familiarise herself with the mine and its operations.

Mr Cormick stated that, with respect to the life of mine issue, if there are any important changes to this matter, could the Members kept informed and advised as soon as possible.

Mr Wyllie agreed.

10/ NEXT MEETING:

The meeting agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 5th June 2023, at 1:00 PM

MEETING CLOSED:

2.06pm.

Letter from Jeff Wolford 08.03.2023

To Dargues Gold Mine Community Consultative Committee

The proponent Big Island Mining Pty Limited has approval to mine at this site Dargues Gold mine Majors Creek from the NSW Government through the Department of Planning and Environment the closest NSW Government Department 85 kilometres at Queanbeyan.

Myself and others have lived here for more than 30 years and we have been very good neighbours to the mine. We have communicated since the beginning 2004.

I ask as I stated in my last submission 2022 modification 5 that the mine be a good neighbour and go beyond Government policy and mitigate the intrusive noise at night which penetrates through the night air and wakes residents at all hours of the night.

Good Governance and due diligence in night time operation could overcome any further impacts from intrusive noise disturbance causing sleep disturbance and health impacts on the resident's so affected.

Thank you to the Manager of Dargues Mine Angus and his staff for the mitigation already attended to.

Jeffrey Wolford
Resident
Majors Creek

8/3/2023