

MINUTES OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE DARGUES REEF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON SITE AND VIA VIDEO LINK ON MONDAY JUNE 5, 2023, COMMENCING AT 1PM.

PRESENT: B Weir PSM (Chairperson) (v), Mr B Waterhouse (v), M/s B Royds, Dr K Waddell (v), Mr S Needham, Mr P Cormick (v), M/s A Jagelman (v), Mr P Owen, Mr M Darwon (v), M/s C Johnston and M/s A Saunders.

WELCOME:

The Chairman extended a welcome to all Members.

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.

APOLOGIES:

An apology was extended on behalf of the General Manager Mr Wyllie.

PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

There were no declarations of pecuniary or conflicts of interest other than the usual declarations with respect to the Chairperson receiving a small meeting fee and the Mine representatives being employees of Aurelia – the mine owner.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – MATTERS ARISING:

Nil

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Nil

PROPONENT'S REPORT AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES:

Progress of Project.

Mr Cormick spoke with respect to the "local employment opportunities" section, and asked what vacancies there are, and commented that there is no reference in the advertisement to the "life of the mine".

M/s Johnston replied that there are five positions currently advertised locally via the Braidwood Bugle. The shortlisted applicants are notified of Dargues' Life-of-Mine during the screening process. The life of the mine has not been publicly announced.

Mr Cormick then referred to last item in this section of the report - "life of mine planning".

He said that he and Mr Darwon had investigated this matter and found that, following approval of MOD 5, condition 53 of the Rehabilitation Management Plan had been deleted. In lieu of condition 53 there is a note referring to the Mining Act of 1912. However, the relevant section under that Division of the Act have been removed. He asked to be informed as to "what is going on?"

M/s Johnston replied that there is a draft Rehabilitation Plan being developed and that she would further investigate and report back to the Members with respect to condition 53.

Mr Needham raised the issue of rehabilitation and referred to the DGM Forward Programme April 2022 to April 2025 and to the list of requirements of the NSW Resources Regulator. He stated that this too is blank. "How does this relate to DGM?", he asked.

M/s Johnston replied that the Rehabilitation Plan and the rehabilitation "on the ground" are "moving parts". "We have a lot of duties", she said. "We are trying to strategize our obligations for rehabilitation along with our biodiversity obligations and combine them into one overall plan and forward strategy. This work is going on".

In reply to a question from Mr Needham regarding the life of mine, M/s Johnston stated that a major strategy meeting would be held in the next 10 days to progress these deliberations.

She then outlined the aspects and options which need to be considered before a final decision is made as to the future of the mine site and its infrastructure.

She stated that historical documentation provided from previous owners has also been considered. She advised that the Dargues' mine closure commitments and community consultation requirements had already been agreed and approved under the initial Environmental Assessment and as reflected under the Project Approval. These criteria must also be costed, funded, planned and achieved by the respective due dates depending on the commitments. There are also new legislative requirements which must be met, she added.

Mr Needham requested, and he was supported by Mr Darwon and Mr Cormick, that "rehabilitation planning" be included in future meetings' agenda as a standard item.

Mr Darwon stated that site rehabilitation was of extreme importance to the people of Majors Creek.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the rehabilitation and future use of the total mine site.

M/s Johnston stated that future options would have to be discussed and negotiated with State and local government as well as the local community, and possibly the Federal Government.

In reply to a question from Mr Darwon, she stated that the potential impact of the rehabilitation process on the local community would be a consideration including, for example, the necessity for Sunday work. Another factor to be discussed would be retained infrastructure, if any.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance.

Dr. Waddell advised that the link quoted in the report was not working.

M/s Saunders then spoke to the graphs shown in the proponent's report, and in particular, about the surface water exceedances with respect to SW 3, SW 2 and SW-11 - which are all located along Spring Creek.

She stated that there are no exceedances of pH or Electrical conductivity surface water trigger values when the water leaves the mine site.

She outlined the readings with respect to sodium, chloride, calcium and potassium.

She stated that the water level at SW3 has dropped significantly since January, and this may have caused an increase in salts in the shallow pools at this monitoring location. She added that the water flow is eroding the dispersive soils in the creek bank at the new concrete weir at SW11.

At SW 2, since January, water levels have decreased in this upper section.

She advised M/s Jagelman that the Mine is responsible for fixing the erosion and she said the erosion at SW 11 is a very small issue and is not causing sediment or turbidity issues where the water leaves the mine site.

M/s Johnston stated that the region had experienced above seasonal wet weather, which has contributed to the undermining of weirs at SW-11.

She added that the creek line had been heavily degraded over the last 100 years due to historic mining activity, which has contributed to the erosion being experienced within the creek.

Regarding TSFMB04B, M/s Saunders said that the current exceedance in electrical conductivity (EC) is not a historical outlier and that the EC had been at this level between June 2020 and July 2021 she then gave a detailed verbal report and explanation of the pH readings. She further stated that consultants would be carrying out groundwater sampling over the next two days.

Community Complaints.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds regarding if the noise complaints are coming from the same people, M/s Johnston confirmed that there are repeat complainants regarding noise, and that mine staff are working closely with them "one on one" in an endeavour to satisfactorily deal with their complaints. She added that they are also training staff to take readings with a handheld reading device, so that a Dargues representative can attend the site of the complaint to take a reading to assist in locating and assessing the alleged noise source.

Mr Waterhouse spoke regarding the status of the truck accident which was not listed within the complaints report.

M/s Johnston replied that the mine was still awaiting the report and the Mine Manager has not yet received it. She apologised that she was unable to report on this and distribute it to the Committee Members. She referred to the entry in item six of the business paper which referred to the truck

curfew breach. She assured Mr Waterhouse that every breach is recorded in the Complaints Register and elsewhere as appropriate.

Mr Darwon asked that there had been a procedure in the past whereby Mr Dingle and Mr Guarino had responded out of hours to noise complaints and he asked whether this procedure could be re-introduced.

M/s Johnston replied that she and M/s Saunders both reside in the Major's Creek area and would endeavour to co-operate within reasonable hours.

Mr Darwon replied that usually the hours are between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM when the crushing plant is in operation.

M/s Johnston said she was happy to work with Mr Darwon on this issue.

Mr Darwon again raised the issue of community comment regarding the proposed mine closure, and he stated that the community needed to know what was happening.

M/s Johnston replied that the General Manager is currently at a meeting in Brisbane and the future of the mine is under discussion. She referred to previous comments earlier in the meeting regarding the options available for the future of the mine.

Mr Darwon replied that the community are asking questions "all the time".

The Chairperson stated that it was the feeling of the meeting that the community representatives are to be informed at the earliest possible opportunity as to the future of the mine.

M/s Johnston replied that she would speak to Mr Wyllie and inform him of the need to inform the community representatives of the future options and strategies regarding the life of the mine as soon as a preferred option and strategy has been decided upon.

MOD 5.

Mr Darwon stated that he was making the same comment as earlier that there was no reference to the deletion of condition 53 and would like an answer as to who instigated this deletion.

M/s Johnston replied that she would investigate this matter and report back to the Members before the next meeting.

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

Nil.

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

Tailings Storage Facility update.

In reply to a question from M/s Jagelman regarding the TSF irrigation validation study in the northern paddock, M/s Saunders stated that the consultants concluded that the study period had been too short, and the EPA has approved an extension of the validation study for the trial, which was to close on the 26th of April, had now been extended to the 30th of August. M/s Johnston added that the mine was still meeting all its criteria and obligations under its corresponding approval with respect to

its irrigation practice from the TSF was in the process of collecting additional samples to fulfil this reporting requirement to the EPA.

Water Management.

In reply to a question from M/s Jagelman, regarding the site water balance model, M/s Saunders stated the Consultants GHD were undertaking a modelling study and also assisting with DPE's request for information, following submission of its water management plan. This RFI is considered to be easily accommodated.

Exploration Update.

Nil

Noise mitigation Projects.

Nil

DGM Site Initiatives.

Nil

Visual Amenity.

Nil

Biodiversity Offset.

Nil

Community Grants, Support and Donations.

Nil

Other Sponsorship.

Nil

CCC Contacts.

M/s Johnston stated that M/s Saunders was addressing this request.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nil

NEXT MEETING:

it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday September 25th, 2023, at 1:00 PM

MEETING CLOSED.

The Chairperson thanked the Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 2:27 PM.