



Dargues Reef

Community Consultative Committee

MINUTES OF THE 49TH MEETING OF THE DARGUES REEF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE MINE AND VIA VIDEO ON MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 1PM.

PRESENT:

B Weir (Chair), P Owen, Dr. K Waddell (v), S Needham (v), P Cormick (v), B Royds (v), M Darwon (v), A Jagelman (v), A Wyllie and A Saunders.

IN ATTENDANCE:

M Frankcombe, J Thompson and M/s T Fish (Aurelia staff).

1. WELCOME:

The Chair extended a warm welcome to the Members and Mine staff 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: Nil.

3. PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

The usual pecuniary interests were declared being that the Mine staff were employees of the Mine Owner and that the Chair receives a small meeting fee.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – MATTERS ARISING:

The Chair commented that following on from the last meeting, correspondence had been sent to the Members from the Mine (M/s Johnston) on June 16th, advising in regard to the Rehabilitation requirements and planning (Condition 53 Sch 4.) and other matters arising from the last meeting. In addition, a video conference presentation had been held on July 10 between some Members and the Mine Management to further discuss the proposed rehabilitation plan and process.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chair referred to the correspondence he had sent to the Consultant who was undertaking the Environmental Audit following consultation with the Members and he thanked them for their input.

The Chair also advised the Members regarding correspondence he had received from the Dept. of Planning advising of the release of new CCC Guidelines by the Dept. See Item 9 later.

6. PROPONENTS REPORT:

M/s Royds commented that the Proponent's reports for this meeting had not been distributed.

The Chair apologised to the Members for this oversight and M/s Saunders immediately distributed the respective reports.

The Chair delayed the meeting until the Members had quickly read the reports.

Progress of the Project: Mr Wyllie summarised the location of present production. He then advised the meeting that quotations were being sought for project de-commissioning.

In reply to a question from Mr Cormick, he stated that it was still planned for this to commence in Aug. – Sept. 2024.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, Mr Frankcombe (Senior Rehabilitation Specialist) advised that a Closure Plan was being developed.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance: M/s Saunders stated that this information was on the portal. She added that the water levels are low in Spring Creek due to the reduced rainfall. Water levels in the creek are not included in the site water balance as this is not considered to be a water shortage.

Complaints: M/s Saunders stated that the complaints were about light and noise, and there had been a complaint lodged this morning regarding waste management - as plastic bags had been blown from the site - and she was investigating this.

In reply to a question from Mr Cormick, Mr Darwon stated that the noise level "was not too bad".

M/s Saunders added that it was now quieter due to the noise protectors having been placed around the TSF pumps.

7. MATTERS WHICH THE COMMUNITY AND/OR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO RAISE WITH THE DGM REPRESENTATIVES OTHER THAN MATTERS NOTED ON THE AGENDA AND FALLING WITHIN THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE – AS PER THE CCC GUIDELINES:

In reply to a question from Mr Darwon, Mr Wyllie explained that M/s Johnston had chosen to leave the company, M/s Saunders would be moving into the Superintendent's role and the Company was now looking to employ a graduate adviser.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, Mr Wyllie stated that there was no recent advice from the transport company regarding the truck accident, and the initial investigation had found that the driver had had a micro sleep.

8. MATTERS WHICH THE DARGUES REEF GOLD MINE REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO RAISE WITH THE COMMUNITY/COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND FALLING WITHIN THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE – AS PER THE CCC GUIDELINES.

Environmental incident: The Independent Chairperson stated that this incident had previously been reported to the Members and was under investigation. (An externally reportable incident occurred on July 18 when a mine water tank overflowed. The tank holds TSF water used for dust suppression, and some discharge entered Spring Creek. Steps have been taken on site to prevent reoccurrence including the construction of an earth and rock bund and redesign of the tank valve system. This matter is under investigation by the EPA and Aurelia will update the CCC accordingly).

Mine Rehabilitation: in reply to a question from M/s Jagelman, Messrs Frankcombe and Wyllie both replied and outlined the process. They stated that following the mine closure, it was proposed, at this stage, to proceed to decommissioning of the mine and full rehabilitation of the mine site.

Tailings Storage Facility: Mr Wyllie informed Mr Cormick that the water level drop had been from 109 ML to 80ML.

He further advised that the water hadn't been used for irrigation purposes since January and the mine was looking to extend the ability to irrigate as part of the closure process.

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, Mr Wyllie said that there is concern regarding a lack of water in the future. He stated the water was being used sparingly and they were minimising water cart use.

Water Management Plan Review: Mr Wyllie stated that the water balance review indicated that the mine won't run out of water, but it will have to be managed.

Noise mitigation projects: this matter was dealt with earlier.

DGM Site Initiatives: Nothing further.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – AS PER THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE:

Management of Weeds and Feral Animals:

M/s Royds asked what is happening regarding Broome weed management and feral animal management?

M/s Saunders replied that weed management is at the fore at present and work has started on the Weed Management Plan, and this will be a high priority in the next quarter. She added that Broome and Blackberry will be the key weed species targeted in the upcoming months as part of the weed management plan.

Mr Wyllie stated that two spray rigs will be on site to carry out this work.

Mr Frankcombe added that they were doing walks in the biodiversity area and there's not much evidence of feral animals. He added that traps would be placed where there is evidence.

CCC Guidelines Review:

The Independent Chairperson informed the meeting of the release of the new set of CCC guidelines following their review undertaken by the Department of Planning. He outlined the main features. He informed the meeting that the committee was required to adopt a new Terms of Reference Statement and each Member was required to execute a new Code of Conduct declaration within six months of the release of the new guidelines in mid-June.

He stated that following his return from leave at the end of October, he would prepare draft terms of reference documentation, as well as providing details of the current terms of reference for comparison purposes. He would then circulate this document to Members for comment – thus enabling it to be formally approved at the December CCC meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday December 13, 2023, commencing at 2:00 PM and that it be preceded by an on-site inspection commencing at 1:00 PM.

The Independent Chairperson stated that he would contact Mr Waterhouse and advise him of this date and time.

Meeting closed 1:46 PM.



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Dargues Gold Mine – Proponents Report

Progress of the Project

- General Manager – Angus Wyllie.
- Completed development on the 540 level. Currently, production is coming out of the 440 and 515, 465. Historic mining area – production drilling in 52 Level. Development in progress on 65 Z 24.
- Safety performance: Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate is 3.28. Processing department over 3 years recordable injury free.
- Life of mine planning for care and maintenance/ rehabilitation underway. Proposed retained infrastructure includes Carport; Core sheds x 2 (one in the office area and the other east of the box cut); Store shed; Heavy vehicle workshop; and Crusher shed.

Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Environmental monitoring was completed in accordance with Dargues Gold Mine's (DGM) Environmental Protection Licence and Development Consent requirements. DGM's monitoring data can be found via following link [Dargues | Monitoring - Aurelia Metals](#). Our externally facing dashboard continues to publish monitoring data via our website.

Aquatic Ecology Monitoring program 6 monthly round was completed 13 & 14 September. The completed report will be released to the website. The researchers from University of Canberra who complete the monitoring observed that the water level in Spring Creek & Majors creek was much lower than the previous 2 monitoring rounds. This can be attributed to less rainfall. Hydrographic data for Spring Creek and Majors creek and also meteorological can be found [ALS Global : Real-Time Data Portal](#)

Username: Unity

Password: goldmin3

Community Complaints

During the last quarter, the Company received 3 complaints. The complaints were in relation to noise and light pollution concerns. The Company continues to work on noise investigations and mitigation. Recently, this included the introduction of noise partitions around the TSF pump.

Month	Number of Complaints
July	1
August	1
September	1

Date	Complaint	Cause Identified
6/7/2023 0.9 Degrees Celsius; North North West	Pump noise. Light pollution in the night sky and sun reflection from the TSF lining.	Noise partitions around the TSF pump had not been installed at this point. Pump has been changed. Light pollution was found to be due to foggy nights reflecting lighting into the sky.
22/08/2023 6.5 Degrees Celsius; West North West Wind	Noise from mine. Light pollution.	To-date, nothing has been found to have contributed or created mine noise during the early hours of the 22 August 2023.
12/09/2023 12.9 Degrees Celsius: North North West	Noise from the mine causing sleep disturbance and health impacts in the night, happens most nights.	This is currently under investigation

Item 8: Matters Dargues wishes to raise with Community Representatives

Environmental Incident

One externally reportable environmental incident for the quarter – mine water tank overflow spill. Currently under investigation by the EPA.

Mine rehabilitation

Aurelia's rehabilitation specialist is actively progressing rehabilitation commitments at Dargues mine site to ensure a seamless start to the rehabilitation phase at the point of mine closure. Quotes and proposals are being sought for plant decommissioning, capping design, erosion and landform modelling and material characterisation. A native grassland specialist has completed a report with recommendations around grassland biodiversity improvements. Former exploration sites have been mapped, as have heritage mining features. Mapping of top-soil stockpiles and calculations of the soil balance is currently underway.

Tailings Storage Facility Update

TSF water level has dropped to 80ML. TSF water has not been used for irrigation in the last quarter.

Water Management Plan Review

The Company engaged GHD to prepare a review of the water management plan including an update to the site water balance model which is nearly finalised. GHD have also reviewed the ground water trigger values to form the basis of the Groundwater Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP). It is preferred practice to use site specific guidelines values for the TARP and not the regional default guidelines values from ANZECC 2000 water quality guidelines. Once these Requests for information from DPE have been finalised the water management plan will be returned to DPE for final approval.

Noise Mitigation Projects

Muller acoustic consultants continues to be engaged by Dargues to manage site's unattended noise monitoring. Resultant reports are generated on a monthly and quarterly basis which can be accessed on Aurelia's web page.

DGM Site Initiatives

Visual amenity

The Company has received no applications to-date for visual amenity screening. This is in a bid to support members of the community who are experiencing visual amenity impacts.

Biodiversity Offset

An offsite biodiversity offset has been determined. A pre lodgement meeting of the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) has been organised with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

The objective of this BSA is to offset ecological communities Ribbon Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and Peppermint Gum (*Eucalypts radiata*) as stipulated in Dargues' Project Approval, (10_0054).

Community grants

The quarter 4 round of our Community Grants program closed on the 14th of July 2023. We held a morning tea at the Servicemen's club for new and previous winners. Our Senior Communications Advisor, Kate, interviewed.

our new and past winners to discuss how the funding they received from the community grants program impacted them and their ability to purchase much needed equipment.

We were able to support 4 local groups, 1st Braidwood Scout Group, The Braidwood Men's Shed, Braidwood Servicemen's Club and The Krawarree Rural Fire Brigade. We would like to extend congratulations to all the recipients and groups who applied.

Other sponsorship

Dargues continues to assist Braidwood Medical Centre by providing accommodation for nurses and doctors by providing a monthly rental grant. A story and video outlining this grant can be found here: [Improving access to medical services in rural NSW - Aurelia Metals](#).

Actions arising from 48th CCC meeting.

Item	Action	Outcome
Nil		

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