



DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 50th Meeting

MINUTES OF 50TH MEETING OF DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE MINE OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023, AT 2.10PM.

CHAired BY: Brian Weir PSM.

ATTENDED: B Royds, S Needham, P Owen, A Wyllie, A Saunders, Dr K Waddell (v), W Waterhouse (part)(v), W Inglis.

A Jagelman (observer).

APOLOGIES:

P Cormick, M Darwon, Cr J Preston.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

A Wyllie & A Saunders are employees of the Proponent (Aurelia), the Independent Chairperson (B Weir) receives a meeting fee.

AGENDA ITEMS: - DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

Item 4a: Proponent's Reports and Overview of Activities.

Mr Wyllie and M/s Saunders spoke to the Report which had been previously circulated to the Committee.

Items discussed included: -

Progress of Project - the firing of historical mine work locations, recent power outages, the impacts of recent heavy rain (and thus improved water security).

Monitoring and Environmental Performance – consultant has been appointed to investigate exceedances and the oxidation causing nickel and arsenic being detected in the groundwater flowing from the historic mine areas. EPA issued a Clean Up Notice which required the investigation to continue. PH is in 7.5 to 8.5 range. The location is next to the creek at the toe of the TSF. All these bores are within historical workings area. There is a private bore which can be used as a reference bore using a 6-month base line. The investigation is ongoing with results being analysed by Dargues and the Groundwater consultant.

ACTION: Groundwater Investigation to be circulated to the CCC Members following receipt and analysis by Proponent. RESPONSIBLE: M/s Saunders.

Community Complaints – M/s Saunders has liaised with complainant re blasting and adjusted blasting timing – complainant seemed satisfied.

Item 4b: Matters DARGUES wishes to raise with Community Representatives.

As per the distributed report.

Mine Rehabilitation - Mr Wyllie spoke to the Mine Rehabilitation section of the report.

He stated that he will show the information to the CCC when a reply is received from the consultant.

ACTION: Distribution of the consultant's report to the Committee – RESPONSIBLE: M/s Saunders.

In reply to a question from Mr Needham, Mr Wyllie said that with respect to the EPA investigation following the water escaping from the large water tank, the EPA had not yet carried out the interviews.

Mine Rehabilitation:

Mr Wyllie advised the CCC of the work being carried out by consultants regarding the filling and sloping at the TSF area. He stated that there is a 12 months' time estimate to carry out this rehabilitation work once commenced.

He is also awaiting a report from consultants regarding the dismantling of the plant. It is expected the dismantling work will take six months.

Mulloon Institute Consulting has been engaged to carry out the investigation for the grassland and landscape restoration.

In reply to a question from Mr Needham, Mr Wyllie said the standard applied would be based on the Consent conditions.

Mr Needham stated that he is concerned regarding the final depth and shape of the tailings dam and its relationship with Spring Creek.

Mr Wyllie said that he expected the Mulloon Consulting report to be received early next year.

ACTION: Miss Saunders stated that she needed to check and get back to the Members regarding the categories and usage of the future rehabilitated landform. RESPONSIBLE: M/s Saunders.

ACTION: The Mulloon Institute Consulting report to be presented to the March 2024 CCC meeting. RESPONSIBLE: M/s Saunders.

T S F: M/s Saunders stated that the work is being completed in the clean water diversion, further that no water has been used for irrigation and the irrigation approval has expired. A new approval is to be sought and this will require new studies to be undertaken.

Noise Mitigation – M/s Saunders stated that there had been no exceedances since last meeting, and Mr Wyllie advised that the new booster pump was fitted with noise suppression.

DGM SITE INITIATIVES:

Visual Amenity -nothing further to report, no applications received from the residents of Major's Creek for whom it was intended.

Biodiversity Offset. Nothing further.

Community Grants: Nothing further.

Other Sponsorship: As printed. Success of quilt show discussed.

Item 5: INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Terms of Reference (ToR):

The Independent Chairperson (IC) stated that Mr Cormick, Dr Waddell and Mr Waterhouse had all contacted him to advise that they supported the draft ToR document circulated to them from the I C.

AGREED: The Committee, after briefly discussing the draft, unanimously agreed to accept and endorse the document subject to some spelling and formatting changes – see attached.

ACTION: Independent Chairperson to implement finalisation of the ToR Document. RESPONSIBLE: Independent Chairperson.

AGREED: that the Interest and the Code of Conduct Declarations would be signed off by each Member following the closure of this meeting. RESPONSIBLE: Independent Chairperson.

ANNUAL REPORT:

The Independent Chairperson stated that he had completed a draft report for 2022.

AGREED that the annual report would cover the 2022/23 financial year reporting period. RESPONSIBLE: Independent Chairperson.

Item 6: Any other business.

Inspection held prior to meeting.

Mr Needham asked for a summary of the Inspection.

Mr Wyllie spoke of inspecting the new spillway at the dam which is close to the head of Spring Creek. He said dams A D &H have all had spillways constructed.

Mine Closure:

Mr Needham asked how will the community be informed regarding the mine Closure?

He added that he had previously written an article for his organisation (Coast Watchers) and which he believed he had copied to Mr Wyllie. He stated that he had now drafted a further media article. He then

passed it to Mr Wyllie for perusal. He stated that he was aware of the relevant requirements of the Guidelines regarding public statements by Committee Members. He further stated that the new owner of the Moruya Mail newspaper was keen to receive and publish a statement.

It was agreed that Mr Needham would liaise with Mr Wyllie on this matter regarding who would issue the statement and its content. RESPONSIBLE: S Needham.

Terms of Reference.

In reply to a comment from M/s Royds, as a follow on from the previous item regarding confidentiality and who is authorised to make public statements, stated that she had expected confidentiality, and other governance matters, to be included in the ToR. The IC replied that these matters were outlined in the CCC Guidelines document and placed responsibility on the IC to enforce those provisions.

Data:

S Needham spoke of the improvement in the data capture and reporting to the CCC. He asked for improvement in chemistry data and its reporting to the CCC, including providing reasons for the data changing.

It was discussed. It was stated that since the Esdat public portal had been installed by Mr Guarino, that water quality data was provided in this format replacing the former. RESPONSIBLE: M/s Saunders.

Concreting Works:

In reply to a question from M/s Royds, following on from earlier comments made by Mr Wyllie, Mr Wyllie outlined the new concrete type being used and its short-term qualities and long-term benefits.

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 27, 2024, at the Mine Office or via video link, commencing at 1pm.



Dargues Gold Mine – Proponents Report

Item 4a: Proponent’s Reports and Overview of Activities

Progress of the Project

- General Manager – Angus Wyllie.
- All scheduled development at Dargues has now been completed. The last development completed stope 65 Z 24. The first remnant historic mining area stope has been fired - 65 Z 25. Currently, production is coming out of the 265L and then 390L commencing week of 11 Dec 23.
- Safety performance: Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate is 10.62 Processing department over 3 years recordable injury free.
- Planning for mine closure and 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.

Flora and Fauna survey – Ecology monitoring 6 monthly rounds has been completed 8&9 November 23. The completed report will be released to the website when available. 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 blast concerns. The Company continues to work on noise and blast investigations and mitigation. As a result of investigation into the blast complaint the blast times for higher levels will only occur after 7am and before 6pm.

Month	Number of Complaints
Oct	1
Nov	2
Dec	0

Date	Complaint	Cause Identified
20/10/2023 Wind Direction: Northwest	Increase in noise around 8am	To-date, nothing has been found to have contributed to excessive mine noise at this time
14/11/2023 Wind Direction: Northwest	Thundering noise in the morning.	To-date, nothing has been found to have contributed to excessive mine noise at this time
16/11/2023	Resident was woken by blasting vibration at 5:05am	Blast monitoring data has been checked and the vibration did not exceed the legal parameter. However, blasting from these levels will now only occur between 7am and 6pm

Item 4b: Matters Dargues wishes to raise with Community Representatives

Environmental Incident

One externally reportable environmental incident for the quarter – groundwater exceedances in TSF monitoring bores. Currently under investigation by the EPA. Dargues has engaged an independent groundwater expert to assist with our investigation.

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 have now been received for plant decommissioning, capping design, erosion and landform modelling and material characterisation.

Dargues has engaged Mulloon Institute Consulting to assist with landscape restoration planning.

Dargues has also engaged ecologists to complete additional grassland surveys, at the optimum time in January 2024, to gain a better understanding of the biodiversity of the grassland and pastures on site.

Former exploration sites have been mapped, as have heritage mining features. Mapping of top-soil stockpiles and calculations of the soil and waste rock balance are being completed currently.

Tailings Storage Facility Update

A new pump and pipework have been installed and deposition has now commenced in the final section of the TSF.

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. GHD have also completed an update to the ground water trigger values to form the basis of the Groundwater Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) and the draft report has been received and is currently being reviewed by Dargues. Once this has 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

A Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) has been lodged with the Biodiversity Credit Supply Taskforce under DPE. This Biodiversity offset that has been secured will generate biodiversity credits as determined by the taskforce. The Biodiversity Conservation will work with the local landholder to devise and implement a management plan to manage the land in perpetuity for positive biodiversity outcomes. The objective of this BSA is to offset ecological communities Ribbon Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and Peppermint Gum (*Eucalyptus radiata*) as stipulated in Dargues' Project Approval, (10_0054).

Community grants

The next round of the Community Grants program will open this December. Local Not-for-profit organizations are encouraged to apply. The initiative will be advertised in the Bugle and on Dargues social media platforms. The community grants will be awarded by Feb 2024.

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 49th 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

