



# Dargues Reef

Community Consultative Committee

## **MINUTES OF DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE 51<sup>st</sup> MEETING**

Held on site and via video link on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, commencing at 1pm.

**CHAIRPERSON:** B Weir PSM.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** B Royds (v), P Cormick, (v) Dr K Waddell (v), S Needham, W Waterhouse (v),  
P Owen, W Inglis (v), A Wyllie and A Saunders.

**OBSERVERS:** Andrea, Aasish.

**APOLOGIES:** M Darwon

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

Item 1:

Acknowledgement of Country.

The Chairperson extended a welcome to all.

He then acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was being held and paid his respects to Elders Past Present and Emerging.

Item 2:

Declaration of Interest

The Chairperson placed on record the interests, as previously reported, those being that he received a meeting fee, and that Mr Wyllie and M/s Saunders were employees of the Proponent.

No other interest was declared.

Item 3:

Business arising from previous minutes.

It was agreed that due to Members' time constraints, the meeting would move straight to Item 4, and any business still outstanding could be dealt with in General Business.

Item 4:

Proponent's report and overview of activities:

The Chairperson referred to the questions submitted prior to the meeting by Mr Cormick and directed to Mr Wyllie.

Mr Wyllie stated that he would reply to these questions as part of his verbal report which would elaborate upon the report previously distributed.

He presented a series of diagrams and charts to illustrate the timeline for the completion of extraction, the progressive filling of the stopes, the removal of equipment/machinery, cabling, ladders etc. from underground, and finally the filling and total closure of all underground entry/exit points.

He showed the stopes which had already been filled as well as the program for the filling of the remaining stopes.

He advised that the end of production was scheduled for July 31.

He further advised that the recovery of items from underground was scheduled for August. Also in August, starting at the crusher end, a full clean -up would take place and the plant and equipment would be left for "care and maintenance". The care and maintenance could extend until June 2025.

At the end of August, the mine portal would be sealed.

After August, it depends on whether there is an acceptable EOI for the plant and equipment. It could take 6 months to dismantle the plant.

In reply to a question from Mr Owen, he advised that approximately 120 employees would be on site to July 31, reducing to approx. 60 in August and further reducing to approx. 7 in September. When the plant has to be dismantled by the proponent, an extra 20 employees would be required.

Re TSF water level, Mr Wyllie advised that 100 mega-litres were in the dam at the end of January and had dropped 10 mega litres in the last month. Currently the level was 2-3m below the spillway.

M/s Saunders advised that a new sensor would be installed within a month.

Mr Wyllie advised that a soil and material characterisation report was expected in a month. The annual review of the tailings dam has just been done.

He added that it has been scheduled to commence the dewatering of the TSF dam from mid-August and will take 10 months. Also, M/s Saunders is working with the EPA to obtain a licence to irrigate.

Mr Cormick stated that Mr Darwon had contacted him and submitted his apology for medical reasons. Mr Cormick left the meeting at 1.20pm

Mr Wyllie tabled a slide outlining the program for backfilling the portal and advised that 153k tonnes of fill was required. It was intended for the sheds to be retained infrastructure. The site was zoned RU1 and various potential future uses were being discussed. There was a need to re-route the high voltage cables.

In reply to a question from Mr Needham regarding protecting against future erosion, M/s Saunders stated that there will be measures taken to protect the area long-term.

Mr Wyllie advised that a fencing quote had been sought. It was intended to finish off the TSF site with an overall 1:3 slope and for it to be topsoiled and grassed.

M/s Saunders advised Mr Needham that the Mulloon report is not a full restoration report, but, rather, a preliminary report identifying areas of interest with advice on e.g. weed control and grazing management. She advised that she could email the report to the Members.

There was a brief discussion regarding erosion control measures including the treatment of waterways and creeks and the prevalence of blackberries.

In reply to a question from Mr Needham, Mr Wyllie explained how the safety rating (29.95), specified in the Proponent's report, had been calculated. He further advised that there had been 8 injuries YTD at the site.

Dr Waddell suggested that Mr Wyllie distribute the slides, which he had presented to this meeting, to the Members, and he agreed.

M/s Royds here left the meeting at 1.32.

Re: Water Tank Overflow – Mr Wyllie advised that talks were being held with the EPA and he was recommending that an enforceable undertaking be applied. He was suggesting that a Landcare project extending from Araluen Creek to Major's Creek be undertaken in partnership with the Upper Dua Landcare Group.

There was a brief discussion regarding the future use of the mine buildings on site and the balance of the site. A range of uses were mentioned.

Mr Wyllie stated that the future ownership options had not been finalised. He advised that mine consent ended in June 2025 whereas the mining lease was valid until 2045.

Item 5:

Other agenda items: Nil.

Item 6:

Any other business: Nil.

Item 7:

Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday June 24 at 1pm.

Meeting Closed 1.50pm.

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Following the closure of the meeting there was a brief informal discussion of the future of the CCC post mine closure and it was agreed that this be listed for discussion at the next CCC Meeting. It was agreed that there needed to be a regular community information process put in place for the post closure site rehabilitation program period.

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**SUMMARY:**

Key Issues:

Planned completion of production.

Planned removal of mine machinery etc. and filling/sealing of mine.

Planned rehabilitation of TSF and restoration of mine site area and future use(s).

Future of mine buildings – retention or removal.

Future use of buildings site.

**ACTIONS FROM MEETING:**

Mr Wyllie to distribute meeting slides.

M/s Saunders to distribute Mulloon Report.

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B A Weir PSM

Independent Chairperson - Dargues Gold Mine Community Consultative Committee.



# Dargues Reef

Community Consultative Committee

## Proponent's Reports and Overview of Activities

### Progress of the Project

- General Manager – Angus Wyllie.
- All development completed at Dargues. Lowest 2 levels 540L, 515L completed and being decommissioned. 265L and 365L now complete, with 390L expected to be complete by end of March. First historic mining area in 65L fired and now backfilled. Focus on ore extraction from 490L, 465L, 440L and upper 65L and 90L.
- Safety performance: Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate is 29.59. 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 fauna and additional grassland monitoring has been completed January 24. 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 7 complaints. The complaints were in relation to noise and blast concerns. The Company continues to work on noise and blast investigations and mitigation. It was discovered that an underground loader on the waste rock at night was the main cause of noise complaints. This has been communicated to teams to not occur again and alternative plant vehicles will be used on the machine at night. Blasting at near surface levels to occur after 7am – 6pm.

Month	Number of Complaints
Jan	3
Feb	3
March	1

Date	Complaint	Cause Identified
01.01.2024	1am noise reverberating complainants' property	Bogger loading at waste rock dump
01.01.2024	Complainants were woken at 03:00 by noise	Bogger loading at waste rock dump
04.01.2024	Complainants advised the noise from the mine woke them up and went on for 40 minutes.	A noise source could not be identified however an email was sent by processing manager to all night teams to raise awareness of the noise complaints
11.02.2024	Caller woken at 6:05am from possible blasting operation.	Blast at 6:05am at 265L blast monitor data was recorded below the legal criteria
13.02.2024	Loud banging or clanging noise	A noise source could not be identified but issue raised
22.02.2024	Noise at 3:00am	A noise source could not be identified but issue raised
17.03.2024	Machinery noise at 2:30am	Under investigation

## **Information Dargues wishes to raise with Community Representatives**

### **Environmental Incident**

One externally reportable incident for the quarter – Tyredoctor truck entered site during school bus curfew times. DPE have recorded as a breach however no enforcement action has been taken at this stage. Tyredoctor have been resent the drivers code of conduct and all teams at Dargues have been re-educated of heavy vehicle curfew times.

### **Groundwater Investigation Update**

Aurelia engaged Willowstick to undertake extensive electromagnetic and micro seismic resonance surveying of the TSF monitoring bore network area. A draft report has been received and when finalised this will be provided to Knight Piesold – Dargues Engineer of record to prepare a plan for any remediation actions. Aurelia continues to work closely with the EPA with the 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. Landloch consultants collected soil and rock samples for material characterisation and erosion and landform modelling.

Dargues engaged Mulloon Institute Consulting to assist with landscape restoration planning who have provided their preliminary report.

Dargues engaged ecologists to complete additional grassland surveys in January 2024, to gain a better understanding of the biodiversity of the grassland and pastures on site within the onsite area. 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 has been completed.

### **Tailings Storage Facility Update**

Deposition has now commenced in the North section of the TSF. TSF water has not been used for irrigation in the last quarter.

## 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

### *a. 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.

### *b. 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 (*Eucalypts radiata*) as stipulated in Dargues' Project Approval, (10\_0054).

### *c. Community grants*

The next round of the Community Grants program will open in May. 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 the end of June 2024.

### *d. Other sponsorship*

Aurelia continues to sponsor Braidwood district education fund. Aurelia was proud to attend the awards ceremony to present the Dargues scholarship to local Majors Creek student Maxyne Prothero.



## Actions arising from 50 CCC meeting.

Item	Action	Outcome
<b>Groundwater investigation</b>	Circulation of report	Draft report has just been issued to Dargues and this is being reviewed. A final report or summary report will be circulated April
<b>Future Land use of TSF area</b>	Inform CCC of future use category	TSF is mapped as "Agriculture – Grazing" on the final landform mapping.
<b>Mulloon Consulting</b>	Report to be presented at CCC meeting	Report to be presented 27/03/2024

## 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](mailto:DGM.Community@aureliametals.com.au)

