

MINUTES OF DARGUES GOLD MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

56th MEETING AND INSPECTION

HELD AT THE MINE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025,

WITH THE INSPECTION COMMENCING AT 1pm AND THE MEETING AT 1.50pm.

INSPECTION:

Present: B Weir (Independent Chairperson), B Royds (BR), Dr. K Waddell (KW), J Aschmann (JA), S Watson (SW) J Johnston (JJ) and Stewart Corey (SC).

The mine's safety and induction protocols were observed by all attendees.

The **Inspection** commenced with an inspection of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).

It was observed that due to heavy rain events in past months, the dam was still at high capacity, and this was of concern.

SW pointed out the installation of surveyed markers, including the environmental free board and spillway overflow "red line" marker, to enable closer monitoring of the TSF water level and reporting.

Water spraying for evaporation and for dust suppression was observed.

The Aurelia representatives gave a brief description of the plan to rehabilitate the TSF and the urgent need for the relevant approvals to be obtained.

A bigger tailings beach area was observed, in the opinion of the Members, compared to the previous inspection.

The inspection party inspected the perimeter of the TSF and then proceeded past the mine to inspect the tree planting and revegetation at Spring Creek, as well as the site of the weed control measures which have been undertaken.

The Inspection party were satisfied with the inspection and the explanations given by Aurelia management.

Inspection concluded at 1.45pm.

MEETING COMMENCED 1.50pm.

Present: BW (Chair), BR, KW, BR, JA, SW.

M Darwon (MD) joined the meeting via video link.

Cr Bill Waterhouse (B W) joined via telephone link.

In attendance: J. Thompson and S Corey

Apologies:

M Frankcombe

Item 1: Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome.

The Chairperson extended a welcome to all attendees. He thanked them for their co-operation in rescheduling the meeting to ensure maximum participation by Members.

He Acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land on which the meeting was being held and paid his respect to Elders Past Present and Emerging.

Item 2: Declaration of Interest.

The usual Declarations were made - being that the Proponent's representatives are paid employees of the Proponent, and that the Chairperson receives a small meeting fee.

Item 3:

a. Business arising from previous Minutes.

Nothing raised.

b. Summary of matters observed or arising from Inspection.

The Chairperson asked SW to explain to BW and MD the areas covered by the Inspection.

BR stated that she had taken some photos of the TSF, and SW offered no objection to her sending these to BW and MD for their information.

SW then advised BW and MD of the main areas of interest covered in the inspection especially the TSF including markers, and the rehabilitation area near the creek with tree planting and weed control sites inspected from a viewing point.

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Item 4: Proponent's reports and overview of activities.

SW's report was then considered.

Re TSF, in reply to a question from BR regarding the anticipated time frame with respect to the TSF water transfer, JT stated that there is a need to vary the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) to permit the transfer of TSF water to the mine workings underground.

The EPA response to the Proponent's letter of advice had been to outline a list of requirements which had been complex and difficult to respond to in a quick time frame. Further consultation was being undertaken with the EPA due to the urgent need to gain this approval, and the need to get them better acquainted with details of the application and to fully discuss the suggested requirements.

Re Mod 6, a letter had been sent advising of the proposal and it was intended to submit a formal variation request later this week. EPA Head Office would set the requirements.

JT added that it was intended to remove 1ML from the TSF each day. The back up option was to use the water for irrigation purposes.

A MoD would be required in the event of needing to pump to the creek.

Re Enforceable Undertaking, JJT advised that another report was due mid-2026. More time was needed to assess the success of the work. Two industry presentations had been arranged to show industry representatives what had happened, what rectification method had been employed, its success or otherwise, and the lessons learned.

Re landform, in reply to a question from MD regarding the landform planning, JT stated that Mr Frankcombe was working with consultants Landloch to create a "shovel ready" design.

In reply to a question from BR regarding changes to the landform model, JT stated that there is evolution modelling of the landform, and this is undertaken by computer based and visual inspection - which is changing the model. He added that "we are not changing

anything out there'. He further added that all heavy equipment used in the work will be laser guided. He concluded by stating that the required erosion standard was 10,000 years.

Item 5: Other agenda items:

- a. **Amended TOR for consideration by CCC.** The IC stated that a new TOR would have to be created to record the new representation from the Proponent.

SW advised that there would be advertising for an Environmental Officer and an appointment would be made in due course to replace M/s Saunders on the CCC.

b. **Community Member vacancy.**

There was a brief discussion regarding the future membership of the CCC.

Members stated that they had not received any expressions of interest despite the vacancies being publicised locally in social media (BR), and at Progress Association meetings (MD).

It was **agreed** that the meeting record the need for the current Community Members vacancies on the CCC to be filled.

It was **further agreed** that any interested community members be encouraged to contact either the Independent Chairperson by email (infobwc15@gmail.com) or a locally based Community Member, so that their interest and suitability could be further explored.

c. **Annual Report/ Review of CCC Effectiveness.**

The IC stated that he would now prepare the Annual Report for 24/25.

He added that he believed that the mine was now at the following stages regarding the mine rehabilitation process, and would be reflected in the 25/26 Annual Report: -

- a. **Rehabilitation Planning**, which is currently underway, and which would be progressively presented to the relevant regulatory authorities for approval, then,
- b. **Approvals**, with conditions, being issued from the relevant regulatory authorities, then,
- c. **Execution** of the approved Rehabilitation Plan subject to the Approval conditions, then,
- d. **Compliance** certification being progressively received from the regulatory authorities, then,
- e. **Rehabilitation** completion declaration from the Proponent.

Item 6: Any other business:

Resignation of M/s Saunders and Mr Sabu Chitteth:

The IC commented on the service, assistance and support M/s Saunders had given to the CCC and its individual Members.

It was **unanimously agreed** that the CCC place on record its appreciation of M/s Saunders' excellent performance in her role as a CCC Member representing the Proponent. Further, the CCC favourably noted the assistance the CCC received from Mr Sabu Chitteth, as required, from time to time.

Proposed Majors Creek Mine Museum:

MD adv that he had held positive talks on several occasions with previous Mine Manager (Angus Wyllie) and M/s Saunders regarding the Proponent's interest in supporting the establishment of a mine museum and amenities block which was proposed to be established in Majors Creek to showcase the area's long mining history.

SW and JT stated that they were not aware of this proposal but were prepared to hold further talks with MD with respect to the mining museum component of the museum - as had been the position taken by Mr Wyllie - and not the Amenities Block component.

MD stated that he would arrange a meeting as soon as possible in an endeavour to progress the proposal.

Item 7: Next meeting and close:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday July 6th 2026, commencing with an inspection at 1pm and the meeting commencing at 2.15pm.

Meeting closed. 2.34pm.

Action Items:

IC and CCC Members to liaise and arrange for local advertising and approaching suitable local residents for possible appointment to the CCC.

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