

Duralie Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2024 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Duralie Coal Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2024
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Tom Kirkwood, Environment and Community Superintendent

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee was established in 2003 with the approval of the Duralie Coal Mine Consent. The mine is located on The Bucketts Way between the villages of Wards River and Stroud Road within the MidCoast Local Government Area.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Six local community representatives;
- Two MidCoast staff representatives;
- Two Stratford Coal representatives with attendance from other personnel as required;
- One independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- Mining activities have ceased at Duralie and mine closure planning is underway. Demolition and decommissioning, future land use and opportunities continue as the main focus of the committee. Reflective of this, MidCoast Council has resolved to replace elected councillors on the committee with staff representatives with relevant expertise. There weren't any community complaints throughout the year. It is anticipated the committee will continue to meet biannually and review the schedule from 2026.
- The committee held two meetings for the reporting period, in February and August. At the February meeting guest speakers from MidCoast Council presented on the Council's Koala Project and Beyond the Shed. The Koala Project briefed the committee on koala mapping, conservation of habitat and efforts to improve the safety and health of the koala population and building upon the knowledge to enhance the long term benefits of all wildlife. Beyond the Shed is one of several Council initiatives to encourage local landholders to better manage their properties and the catchment through Landcare programs and funding. One of the programs included a sustainable farming practice with a major demonstration project on improving poultry farming in the Karuah Catchment. Both presentations and Council's goals were highly commended by the committee members.
- Committee members remain focused on potential land use options and opportunities for the area to remain sustainable, retaining population, employment and tourism values. As both the Duralie and Stratford mines move to closure, the members are keen that the company continues to engage with the broader, local community. The appointment of specialised staff has provided more available information with newsletters, community information sessions and updated websites.

- The proposal for the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) is not within the scope of this committee, nevertheless members are extremely interested in the project and what it may offer. This comes into the broader picture of employment opportunities, relocation of workforce, property values, alternate land use options and divestment of mine owned property.
- Committee presentations are amenable to the interests of the committee and include general environmental management and monitoring, operational activities including decommissioning, land management and rehabilitation activities, potential use of voids and final land use options, complaints, company reports and community sponsorship.
- Meetings are held on site with a tour of the rehabilitation areas undertaken prior to the February meeting.
- The meetings remain of interest to members, although it is noted there has been a reduction in attendance numbers during this year. A review of the meeting schedule will be canvassed with all members at the 2025 meetings.
- The currency of the committee's Terms of Reference was confirmed at the August meeting.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Mine Closure Planning	Ongoing consultation with CCC and broader community on mine closure planning via website and newsletters. Appointment of specialist staff to assist with ongoing community liaison. Investigation of future land use and employment opportunities.	Ongoing liaison will support preparation of detailed mine closure planning and guide future consultation with all key stakeholders. Future proposals and information will be discussed with the CCC as it evolves.
MidCoast Council Annual Financial Report on Community Enhancement Funding	Comprehensive Report provided by Council to CCC.	Ongoing annual action.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Engage with Yancoal and the broader community and other specialists as required on post mining planning and options in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Address any emerging issues of the committee.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 17 2025.