

**METROPOLITAN COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2026
Time: Commenced 3:05 pm
Location: Metropolitan Coal Mine Meeting Room, Upper Administration, Helensburgh

Attendees:

- Michael Ulph (MU) - Independent Chairperson
- Stephen Love (SL) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Kane Organ (KO) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Nicolas Tucker (NT) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- James Hannigan (JH) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal
- Allan House (AH) - CCC Member
- Kerrie Belter (KB) - CCC Member
- Keith Hawkins (KH) - CCC Member
- Vicki Christie (VC) - CCC Member
- Patricia Gauci (PG) - CCC Member
- Daniel Holm - Square Peg Social Performance (DH)

Apologies:

- Ron Zwicker (RZ) - Wollongong City Council (WCC)
- Peter Turner (PT) - CCC Member

Welcome and introductions:

- MU acknowledged Traditional Owners and welcomed all members to the meeting including DH from Square Peg Social Performance who has been engaged by Metropolitan Coal to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) required as part of the Metropolitan Continuation Project (detailed below).

Jon Degotardi (JD) - Peabody Metropolitan Coal also attended today in case of any specific questions regarding the Longwalls 317-318 Project Modification and Metropolitan Continuation Project.

Declarations of interest

- MU declared his position as Independent Chair for the CCC approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and engaged by Peabody.
- MU reinforced the need for CCC members to disclose conflicts of interest such as owning shares in Peabody or family members employed by Peabody. Conflict of interest disclosure forms will be updated yearly as part of the CCC Terms of Reference.

Action items from previous meeting

- MU declared CCC meeting minutes for 31 March 2026 were finalised and sent to members.

Correspondence

- MU informed CCC members of administration updates such as meeting invitations.
- MU introduced an AI notetaker to trial transcribing the CCC meeting. KO additionally records meeting for notetaking purposes.
- MU declared that he now works as a sole trader in his own business.

Metropolitan Coal operations update – Stephen Love, Environment & Community Superintendent**Mining Update and Site Activities**

- Longwall 313 commenced March 2026, completion expected September after recently passing under the downstream end of Swamp 77 for the second time. Upland Swamp subsidence TARPs (trigger action response plans) remain at Level 1.
- An emergency incident response exercise involving various emergency services onsite will occur 29 July 2026.
- A Mines Rescue Competition will take place onsite 7 August 2026. Metropolitan Coal will host the 100-year celebration of the competition involving mine rescue teams from across the state. Teams are judged across various mine rescue scenarios set up onsite and underground to test mines rescue readiness.

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- MU asked what type of numbers will attend Mines Resue competition. SL outlined that approximately 100 personnel will attend. Measures are being taken to minimise impacts on community such as staggering of teams to site to minimise noise, and utilising Rex Jackson Oval for parking.

2025 Annual Review

- 2025 Annual Review has been approved by DPHI and a link has been provided to CCC members including appendices. No new non-compliances were identified in 2025.
- Section 15 discusses outstanding commitment to Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Mining (IEAPM) and Metropolitan Coal closing out the commitments which were part of LW311-316 Extraction Plan.

Longwalls 317-318 Project Modification and Metropolitan Continuation Project

- In August 2026 Metropolitan Coal will commence process to convert the proposed Project Modification area (LW317-318) into a mining lease concurrent with the modification process.
- The IEAPM have recently visited site with a focus on upland swamps and waterways that have previously been undermined, as well as areas of future mining associated with the Project Modification.
- Metropolitan will shortly submit a Scoping Report to commence the State Significant Development (SSD) process for a new mining domain to the west of the current mining area. Metropolitan will continue to utilise a conservative mining geometry (narrow longwall panels, wide coal pillars) to minimise impacts on the Woronora Special Area.
- Metropolitan is also proposing to install a Ventilation Air Methane (VAM) abatement plant as part of the SSD as this is expected to be mandated by NSW EPA in the coming years. This breaks the methane down through combustion into carbon dioxide which has considerably less carbon potential.
- The SSD is intended to extend mine life out to 2044 with an additional 31 MT of Run of Mine (ROM) coal at currently approved mining rates (averaging 2.7 MT per annum), continuing current workforce and operations intensity for an additional 12 years.
- SSD application including an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is planned for late 2027. SEARs are being requested soon.
- VC asked for clarification of location of mining activities. SL explained that Metropolitan has not mined under or near Helensburgh township for several decades.

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- VC further asked where the mine was with reference to the Woronora Dam. JD answered that the dam wall is 5-6 km north of the active mine area.
- Metropolitan's mining operations do not connect to the Appin mining domain which is operated by GM3.
- MU asked for clarification on mine ventilation. JD and JH explained that the purpose of mine ventilation is to provide a fresh air supply for the underground workforce, and to manage mine gasses and dust as a circuit within the mine. Air intake occurs at Metropolitan's surface facilities area, circuits through the mine workings and finally exhausts at the No.3 Vent Shaft in the Woronora Special Area.
- KB asked if additional ventilation will be required as part of the SSD. SL confirmed that the No.3 Vent Shaft fans are currently being upgraded for additional capacity and JD explained that the proposed No.4 Vent Shaft as part of the Project Modification will provide additional ventilation to the western mine workings.
- MU asked for clarification of how Extraction Plans interact with Project Modifications and State Significant Developments. JD explained that once a modification or SSD is approved, an Extraction Plan is then developed to deal specifically with a block of longwalls.
- MU queried Peabody's confidence that coal will be required for the life of the SSD. JH confirmed that it is forecast there will be a long-term demand for metallurgical coal with green steel being in relative infancy. JD highlighted that Bluescope is currently relining its No.6 Blast Furnace which it expects will operate using coking coal until 2050.
- SL displayed a new website which has been developed to explain the modification and SSD to the general public, which will be published once the SSD process has commenced.
- AH asked when the IEAPM would provide advice on the Modification. SL explained no timeframe has been given on the IEAPM report however Metropolitan Coal expects the Modification process to be finalised in 2026.
- MU asked for details of the IEAPM. SL outlined the Panel provide advice to DPHI on all mining projects in NSW. It is composed of technical experts from fields including hydrogeology, ecology, mine engineering and an upland swamp specialist. IEAPM members are required to be independent of a project in order to provide advice to DPHI.

Social Impact Assessment Process presentation – Daniel Holm, Square Peg Social Performance

A presentation was provided to the CCC regarding the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process.

- DH explained that the SIA looks at the changes that the community experiences due to a project, using process guidelines published by DPHI.
- The SIA attempts to answer three questions:
 - What are the social impacts of a new project?
 - Who might experience those impacts?
 - What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts or enhance positive impact of a new project? To answer these questions DH will collect and analyse data from the community.
- DH highlighted that it can be harder to identify community changes where the SSD is a continuation of an existing project rather than a new one.
- KB queried where most of Metropolitan Coal's employees reside, suggesting that most live in Helensburgh and the Wollongong LGA and not the Sutherland Shire. SL confirmed that only 4% live in the Sutherland Shire.
- SL asked DH how the SIA assesses an SSD for a new project vs continuation of an existing one. DH explained that there can be impacts which need to be considered, both of a project being approved or not being approved, and that the impacts would vary within various parts of the community.
- AH asked if the SIA hindsight's past impacts and improvements made to the existing mining project such as traffic, noise and dust. DH confirmed that this can be a consideration of the SIA but is not the main focus.
- AH highlighted claims of impacts to Woronora reservoir as an ongoing issue in the community that has been used to criticise Metropolitan, though some claims are not supported by evidence.
- MU suggested that DH may need to delineate current and historically based community concerns and what data can be gathered.
- AH stated that Helensburgh has ~6,500 people, most of whom would not be aware of any impact Metropolitan has on the community. KH added that some community members remember the history of the mine, and others new to the area will not even know there is a mine in Helensburgh.

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- KH flagged that Metropolitan should consider having a presence at the Helensburgh Country Fair. SL confirmed that Metropolitan had just recently provided its application to the Lions Club to have a stand at the Fair.
- DH stated that the preliminary consultation with the CCC will be incorporated into the Scoping Report submitted to DPHI and reiterated that the SIA consultation process is confidential and any comments will be anonymised.
- VC asked what changes will look like as part of the Continuation Project. SL explained that Metropolitan Coal expects minimal changes to existing operations and therefore impacts to the community. The construction of the proposed a VAM plant will potentially be the biggest change notable to the community.
- MU directed the CCC towards the question of who should be consulted in the SIA. CCC members suggested that many stakeholders need to be consulted and none should be excluded in the process.
- VC suggested that local journalists may be a good resource for information regarding the community's views of the SSD.
- MU asked if any additional emergency services would be required as part of the Continuation Project. JH highlighted that Metropolitan has previously provided funding for the Ambulance Service in Helensburgh but this is no longer the case. MU further asked about the town's growth and social impacts. CCC members suggested that the population has grown but the town is constrained by planning rules and surrounding National Parks. JH linked the success of the mine to the diversity of the Helensburgh town's economy.
- MU will provide a conduit for questions regarding the SIA to and from the CCC.
- AH highlighted the community contributions that the mine has made in the form of sponsorships and assistance to community projects dating back to the 1880's when the mine doctor provided healthcare to the surrounding community.
- MU proposed that if required Metropolitan Coal can engage additional experts to provide further detail to the CCC during the SSD process. SL confirmed that this is possible where needed.

General business

- VC asked for a comparison of coal between Metropolitan and other local mines. JH explained that there are various grades of coal quality relating to properties required for thermal or steel making purposes. Illawarra seam coals are similar but vary in some key aspects which mean

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blending of coals from Metropolitan and GM3 are often required to match Port Kembla Steelworks requirements.

- AH asks for assistance managing Arum Lily at the Helensburgh rail tunnel managed by Landcare.

Action: SL offered to meet and assess options for weed management.

- MU asked for an update on the Platypus and Stuttering Frog reintroduction programs. SL confirmed the platypus population is now thought to exceed 20 individuals. An update on the Stuttering Frog Program will be sought for the next CCC meeting.

Meeting closed: 4:25 pm

Proposed next meetings: 17 November 2026.