Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project

SOUTH32
Illawarra Metallurgical Coal

PROJECT UPDATE THREE **MAY 2021**

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal operates in the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions of NSW, producing metallurgical coal for steelmaking.

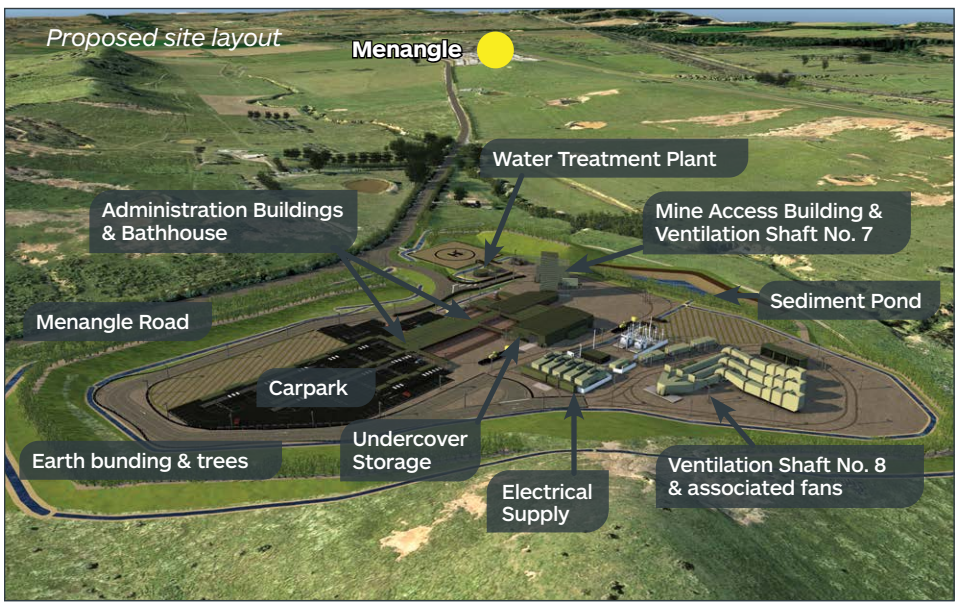
In the Wollondilly region we operate the Appin Mine, which is currently in the Douglas Park and Menangle area. We are a proud local company, directly employing more than 1,800 people and have been operating in the region for more than 85 years.

Our metallurgical coal is used by the Port Kembla steelworks right here in NSW and is part of countless products – from seat belt buckles that provide safer car journeys, to the Colourbond® roofs that keep us warm and dry.

ABOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

An integral requirement of underground mining is adequate ventilation and mine access, to ensure a safe and efficient working environment for our people. We are proposing to construct mine ventilation and access facilities at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle.

The proposed ventilation shafts are known as Ventilation Shaft No. 7 (a downcast shaft that draws air into the mine) and Ventilation Shaft No. 8 (an upcast shaft that draws air out of the mine). The proposed mine access infrastructure will support access to the mine for some of our workforce and supplies. This would include a winder and headframe in Ventilation Shaft No. 7, and facilities such as bathhouses and offices. No coal handling infrastructure is proposed for the site.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

If you would like to find out more about the proposed Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project, come and see us at dedicated information sessions in June 2021.

The information sessions will be held at Menangle Rural Volunteer Fire Brigade Station (90 Menangle Rd, Menangle).

- Thursday, 24 June 2021, 2.00pm – 5.30pm
- Saturday, 26 June 2021, 10.00am – 4.00pm
- Wednesday, 30 June 2021, 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Pre-registration of attendance is required to ensure correct health controls are in place.

To register your attendance email illawarracommunity@south32.net, or call 1800 102 210.

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss the proposed Project with us outside these times, we are happy to meet with you by appointment. Please contact us on the above details to make an appointment.

PROJECT WEBSITE

More information about the proposed Project is available at

https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/appin-mine-ventilation-and-access-project

SINKING THE VENTILATION SHAFTS



Example of a temporary headframe used in the Conventional Shaft Sinking method.

If the Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project is approved, we propose to use the Conventional Shaft Sinking method, sinking the ventilation shafts from the top down using controlled blasting.

This method involves loosening the rock with small, controlled blasts and removing the rock through the top of the shaft using a pulley system.

The construction of a temporary headframe to support the pulley system is required.

The removed rock will be used to create earthen bunds around the site. Following the rock removal, the ventilation shaft walls will be lined with concrete for support.

Illawarra Metallurgical Coal has selected Conventional Shaft Sinking as it:

- is effective in constructing shafts with an internal diameter of 5.5-7.5 metres
- reduces impacts on the community (short blasts as opposed to constant drilling)
- is less likely to result in delays to construction (blasting can occur in hard and soft rock and allows greater control over varied geotechnical conditions).

CONVENTIONAL SHAFT SINKING AND SAFETY

The shaft sinking program will be strictly regulated under the Project Approval to ensure the activity is conducted safely and with minimal impact. With the right controls and processes in place, controlled blasting is safe.

The controlled blasts will be designed to operate well below levels known to cause damage to structures in accordance with Australian Standards.

As part of the program, we propose to develop a monitoring program and offer property condition surveys to the nearest residences for peace of mind.

Strict controls and safety processes for each controlled blast include the safe transportation and storage of materials, and controlled blast management specialists overseeing the process.

A trial controlled blast is proposed to occur in the coming months after relevant approvals are gained.

Controlled blasting is a tried and tested method. It is used in underground road construction and to excavate ventilation shafts. Examples where controlled blasting has been used include:

- Sydney Metro City and Southwest, NSW
- NorthConnex, NSW
- Clem 7 tunnel, QLD
- Airport Link Brisbane, QLD

Controlled blasting is a common method used to break rock in construction. Typical steps of controlled blasting are:

1. Pre-drilling the rock with a series of holes
2. Loading the holes with small charges and other materials
3. Placing blast mats and other protections over the shaft top
4. Electronically detonating the charges in a timed sequence
5. Removing the broken-up pieces of rock and supporting the shalf walls

VENTILATION SHAFT DESIGN

Ventilation Shaft No. 7 is proposed to be approximately 591 metres deep and 7.5 metres wide.
This shaft will draw air into the mine and will double as mine access for personnel and materials.

Ventilation Shaft No. 8 is proposed to be approximately 560 metres deep and 5.5 metres wide.
This is the shaft that will draw air out the mine.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MENANGLE ADVISORY PANEL

We have established the Menangle Advisory Panel (MAP) to enable two-way communication between the community and Illawarra Metallurgical Coal.

This Panel comprises eight community members, Illawarra Metallurgical Coal representatives and an Independent Chairperson. Subject matter experts relating to the Project are invited to attend where necessary.

Since March 2021, the MAP has discussed a range of topics related to the proposed Project. These topics include air ventilation, air quality, shaft sinking method, visual amenity and proposed Menangle Road upgrades. Shortly the MAP will be presented a summary of the environmental and engineering assessments.

The meeting minutes and associated materials are published on the Project website.

We are always happy to receive feedback from the community directly, but if you feel more comfortable speaking with a community member, the MAP members can assist. Member details are included on the Project website.

The MAP would like to extend a thanks to the Menangle Rural Volunteer Fire Brigade for enabling the Panel to use its facilities for meetings.

ASSESSMENT PROGRESS

Engineering and environmental assessments commenced in late 2020 to inform the construction and operation of the proposed facilities. These are undertaken by technical experts and include:

- Geotechnical drilling and test pits
- Biodiversity surveys
- Air quality studies
- Traffic studies
- Noise studies
- Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and European heritage studies

These assessments will form part of our Modification Application to be lodged with the NSW Government mid-2021.



TREE SCREENING

Preparation for tree screening along the property boundary to Menangle Road has commenced.

The Australian native trees are being planted to assist in screening the proposed Project from the community and road users. A watering campaign is planned to provide the trees with the best start.

NEXT STEPS

Activity on the property will continue for the second half of the year as we work to clean up the property, establish tree screening along the Menangle Road boundary and complete geotechnical assessments.

We have started preparing the Modification Application to be submitted to the government in mid-2021. During this time we will continue to liaise closely with the Menangle Advisory Panel on proposed Project plans to ensure community feedback is captured in the design where practical.

CONTACT US

Information about the proposed Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project is available at:

https://www.south32.net/our-business/australia/illawarra-metallurgical-coal/appin-mine-ventilation-and-access-project.

If you would like to speak with us about our activities, call our free Community Call Line 1800 102 210 or email illawarracommunity@south32.net.

NSW GOVERNMENT MODIFICATION PROCESS

The proposed Appin Mine Ventilation and Access Project is following a comprehensive approvals process through the NSW State Government.

We will be seeking a modification to our existing Bulli Seam Operations Project Approval (08-0150) as part of the process. Typical steps in the modification process are outlined below.

Following submission of the Modification Application the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will publish the Report on the NSW Government Major Projects website for Public Exhibition. We will keep you informed as to when this occurs via a project update and on the project website.

1. Illawarra Metallurgical Coal consults with the Department on proposed modification
2. The Department issues assessment requirements
3. **Illawarra Metallurgical Coal prepares and submits Modification Report to the Department**
4. The Department places the Modification Report on exhibition and seeks submissions
5. Illawarra Metallurgical Coal responds to submissions
6. The Department completes its assessment

