APPIN MINE VENTILATION AND ACCESS PROJECT
MENANGLE ADVISORY PANEL (MAP) MEETING #20 MINUTES

LOCATION:	**Menangle Rural Fire Station, Menangle NSW**
DATE:	Thursday 5 June 2025 @ 6pm
ATTENDEES:	**Chairperson** Kate Kernaghan (KK) (Factotum Communications) **Community Representatives**: Martin Scott (MS), Michele Arentz (MA), Jim Arentz (JA), John Potter (JP), Michael Reardon-Small (MRS), Michael McGrath (MM). **GM³ Representatives**: Quinton Wilkinson (QW), (Project Director) Antony Leone (AL), (Manager, Corporate Affairs)
APOLOGIES:	Andrew Cameron and Christine Halfpenny

	Purpose
	The Menangle Advisory Panel (MAP) provides a forum to enable regular two-way communication between representatives of Menangle and Douglas Park residents and GM3 about the Company's ventilation and mine access project at 345 Menangle Road. The MAP provides a practical and helpful connection to residents for GM3 through the members who have self-nominated to be on the Panel and voluntarily give their time.
	Agenda
	1. Welcome / Declaration of interests 2. Acceptance of previous minutes 3. Questions on notice/actions 4. Business Update 5. Update on approved change to blasting regime 6. Project update - Construction - Environment - Complaints 7. Community 8. General business 9. Next meeting

1	**Welcome / Declarations of interests**
	KK opened the meeting at 6 pm Traditional Owners acknowledged and respects paid to Elders past, present and emerging. No declarations of interest offered. Note: Independent Chair KK is remunerated by GM^3.
2	**Acceptance of previous minutes**
	MAP #19 meeting minutes accepted without change
3	**Questions on notice/actions**
	Action Closed – Project team to provide MA & JA with printed maps. These were dropped to MA & JA in March.
4	**Business Update**
	GM^3 have completed the 'Transitional Services Agreement' period with South32 (1 April 2025) – all systems, processes and technology are solely with GM3. **GM^3 changes:** Former GM^3 CEO Jason Economidis has resigned from his position as of 16 May. Jason will remain with GM^3 in an advisory capacity through until the end of June. Peter Baker has been appointed to the position of CEO, GM^3 effective immediately. Melynda Kensey has left the business. Antony Leone will continue to lead the team as Manager, Corporate Affairs and will be the GM^3 contact for MAP moving forward.
5	**Update on approved change to blasting regime**
	Approval received for 24/7 Blasting granted 5 February 2025. Letters outlining this were sent to neighbours and stakeholders at the time. VS7 and VS8 now undergoing 'Main Sink' construction (first 50m was "pre-sink"). Sound-dampening temporary headframes and shaft blast doors are now fully installed at both shafts to reduce blast noise, which is typically inaudible at receivers. Monitoring continuing (GM^3 property and private landholders). **MS** – confirms current blasting is not being sensed. **AL** – a recent earthquake in the area caused a flurry of interest from community mistaking sensed vibrations as relating to project blasting. The project team were able to confirm their site activities were not the source of the felt vibrations. The earthquake was at a depth of 1.5km underground. The GM^3 mining activities occur at a depth of around 500m underground.

6	**Project update**
	CONSTRUCTION Sitework: - Visual bund construction from shaft spoil ongoing. - Final testing and preparations to turn power on to the new switchyard (to run power underground) - Civil works for the fan switch rooms, transformer skids, and fan ducting foundations began in February 2025 and are ongoing. VS7: Main sinking operations commenced in April and are continuing at ~60 m depth. Blasting will continue throughout the project until a depth of 590m is achieved. VS8: Main sinking operations commenced in April and are continuing at ~130 m depth. Blasting will continue throughout the project until a depth of 560m is achieved. Some delays experienced due to a roof collapse within Appin Mine. Longwall production has resumed, though some sections of underground development are still offline while the investigation continues with the Regulator. **ENVIRONMENT** No exceedances for environment monitoring data. Tree plantings continue to be monitored with some plants identified in need of extra care to thrive. Further planting will occur on top of the visual bund as part of the project. **COMMUNITY** 1x complaint – A community member emailed the Community mailbox regarding blast notifications being sent out after hours or just prior to a blast occurring. The complainant has requested reasonable notification to allow adequate time to manage their animals and mitigate perceived potential impacts. Actions / Follow Up: Feedback was provided to the Principal Contractor responsible for blast notifications. While notifications will be sent as early as possible, operational constraints may sometimes lead to shorter notice periods. The investigation also identified inconsistencies in the notification process, prompting the development of a blast notification procedure to ensure more consistent and timely distribution from the Principal Contractor. The complainant was informed of outcome and was satisfied. Some enquiries received relating to the earthquake, confusing the vibrations felt with project blasting.

7	**Community update**
	Community update issued in May 2025. This and other updates are published on the project webpage if anyone needs to refer back. **Action:** AL to drop hard copies in to the retirement village. MA – community update not received at their address. **Action:** AL to notify the distribution company. A digital copy of the Newsletter is located on the Project website: LINK HERE. Community Partnership Program: - CPP has endorsed the Menangle Hall application for a total of $27,836 to support the fit out of the Menangle School of Arts Hall. This project will ensure the hall is fit for use by community groups. - The CPP did endorse The Salvation Army application for $999 to assist in purchasing a generator for the food van used at Community events. GM^3 - GM^3 are continuing the partnership (3rd year) with The Illawarra Women Trauma Recovery Centre for 2025. The project helps fund a survivor advocacy program – An Australian First initiative. Applications are open for the Community Partnership Program: LINK HERE.
8	**General business**
	GM^3 have decided to rent out the property at 30 Finns Road as it's no longer required for project use. General agreement meeting format will move to 3 – 4 meetings per year alternating between online virtual meetings and in person meetings. Whether virtual or in person, the meeting format (as opposed to emailed updates) is preferred to continue allowing for the discussions between MAP members and the project team. The next meeting (MAP#21) scheduled for October 2025 will be hosted online. KK to provide support for any MAP members who would like a practice run joining virtually. Assuming MAP members will see each other at the end of year function, the meeting for the start of 2026 (MAP#22) will also be online and the subsequent mid-year meeting in 2026 (MAP#23) will likely be in person again. This meeting structure can be reviewed if its isn't working, or additional meetings can be called on a needs basis if urgent matters arise. **Action -** KK: to circulate an online meeting invite for MAP#21 and cancel the booking at the RFS venue. **JP –** requests a printed colour printed map of longwall mining activities to refer to.

	AL – to get a printed MAP to JP and also highlights that the centre spread of the Appin Mine community updates features a map. There is also an online map that can be accessed to view the current location of the longwall: LINK HERE. **Action -** AL: To provide a current colour printed map of longwall mining activities.
9	**Next meeting**
	MEETING CLOSE - 6:55pm NEXT MEETING – **4pm Thursday 9 October 2025. Online – Via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.**