

Ardmore Park Community Consultative Committee
Chairman's Report January 2020 to December 2020

For the whole of the year, the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) comprised Phillip Broadhead, Joanne Macey, Damian Cole, Mick Heppleston, Michael Ireland, Bill Dobbie and Robert James as Community members, three Company members, Scott Martin as representative of Goulburn Mulwaree Council, and Don Elder as independent Chairman.

The CCC met on three occasions during the year. All meetings were held at the Bungonia Community Hall and members of the public were invited to, and did attend, each meeting. I permitted them to ask questions and make comments.

In previous reports, I have drawn attention to many discussions within the CCC about noise, truck movements and water usage. These issues have continued, with particular emphasis on water usage by the Company. In last year's report I recommended that the Department arrange a truly independent test by an appropriately qualified company to determine whether the operations of the Company were reducing the availability of water to nearby properties. There was no response from the Department to this and the problem has continued to grow and to occupy a great deal of time at CCC meetings. It has also lead to much heated discussion. Does the Department intend to do anything, or simply allow the perceived problem to fester? I repeat my offer to assist the Department in its enquiries wherever I can.

A further problem arose when the Company threatened not to attend meetings of the CCC. This threat was withdrawn and I express my thanks to Ben Harrison of the Department for his advice.

The matters in the two paragraphs above reflect the tension within the CCC and I believe this arises directly from alleged water usage problems. It is imperative that these problems be resolved as quickly as possible and I await advice as to the action the Department proposes to take.

The CCC is fulfilling its obligations and community members are bringing to meetings the concerns of the community and relaying answers to those concerns.

Apart from when the Company threatened not to attend meetings of the CCC, its attitude to the CCC seems to be improving and I hope this will continue and also that community members will appreciate some of the difficulties the Company is facing.

The position of Chairman of this CCC is a difficult one and assistance in controlling meetings and tempers is required from all attendees at all meetings. I trust this will be forthcoming.

In last year's report I raised three matters regarding the operations of the Department. There has been no response to any of these. This raises the question as to whether this report is actually read by someone in the Department, or whether it is simply filed.

D J Elder, Chairman