



Woodsreef Community Advisory Group Charter

Charter administered by NSW Trade &
Investment, Division of Resources & Energy.

Derelict Woodsreef Mine



DERELICT MINES PROGRAM



Foreword

The derelict Woodsreef Mine was a site at which chrysotile ore was mined and processed through a mill on the mine site. Significant areas of exposed chrysotile asbestos bearing rock and tailings remain on site, which can be liberated through weathering into the atmosphere.

There are also areas of processed friable asbestos material stockpiled throughout the site, including within derelict buildings and disused mill equipment. Unauthorised entry to the derelict Woodsreef Mine exposes individuals to higher levels of asbestos fibres.

Asbestos was first mined at Woodsreef from 1919-1923. The Chrysotile Corporation of Australia carried out large scale mining at Woodsreef between 1970 and 1983. Approximately 500 000 tonnes of chrysotile, or white asbestos were produced from 100 million tonnes of mined material.

The former mine extends over an area of 400 hectares. The site comprises a 75 million tonne waste rock dump, a 25 million tonne tailings dump and a number of open pits, some containing considerable quantities of water. There are also a number of derelict buildings within the site, including an eight-storey mill building. The site is substantially un-rehabilitated and uncontained asbestos fibres are found throughout the area.

Introduction

The Woodsreef Taskforce was established by the Premier in 2008 to facilitate the long term management of the derelict Woodsreef Mine. The Taskforce is a multi-agency committee with representatives from key NSW State Government agencies:

- NSW Trade & Investment;
- Ministry of Health;
- Environment Protection Authority;
- WorkCover NSW;
- Hunter New England Health; and
- Department of Primary Industries.

The NSW Government has provided funding of \$6.3 million to address the most significant health, safety and environmental issues at the Woodsreef Mine. The Woodsreef Mine Major Rehabilitation Project (the Project) includes:

- The demolition of the dilapidated eight story mill house, silos and administration building;
- Installation of a comprehensive air quality monitoring program and health risk assessment; and
- Identification and management of stockpiled hazardous asbestos products around the mine.

The Woodsreef Community Advisory Group (Woodsreef CAG) was established by the Woodsreef Taskforce, as a pathway for the regular two way consultation with the community.

The Woodsreef CAG was established to create an effective ongoing communication and consultation process in order to achieve widespread stakeholder engagement and to source active feedback for consideration in the planning and operation of the Project. Other forms of communication and consultation with stakeholders and community are planned in addition to the Woodsreef CAG.

Purpose

The Woodsreef CAG will:

- Allow for the exchange of information and advice between the Woodsreef Taskforce and the community.
- Provide a mechanism for gathering local knowledge and input in the planning and operation of the Project.
- Assist the Woodsreef Taskforce to identify local issues relating to the Project.
- Participate in the development of environmental performance outcomes and measurement criteria for the demolition works.
- Provide a forum for communicating the occupational and public health air monitoring outcomes over the life of the Project.

The proposed closure of Mine Road, Woodsreef will not be included in the Woodsreef CAG Terms of Reference or be included as an agenda item, as the community consultation period for the Department of Primary Industries road closure process has closed. The Woodsreef Taskforce will not influence nor interfere with the Department of Primary Industries, Crown Lands Division road closure process.

Role

The Woodsreef CAG will:

- Be consultative in nature and operate in an advisory capacity rather than a decision making or voting capacity.
- Provide a representative view of local community interests in Woodsreef and the Barraba region.
- Identify and communicate the potential local and regional interests and needs of the community as they relate to the Project.
- Discuss and consider the range of community views, interests and concerns related to the Project.

Key Activities

The Woodsreef CAG will:

- Provide feedback on the Project from the local community perspective.
- Provide advice to the Woodsreef Taskforce in relation to the issues and interests of the local community.
- Provide advice to the Woodsreef Taskforce on how best to communicate and consult with stakeholders and the community.
- Assist in the development, refinement and implementation of the air monitoring processes to ensure the project outcomes are achieved.

Governance

NSW Trade & Investment will appoint the Chair for the Woodsreef CAG. The Chair will facilitate the coordination, planning and reporting of the activities of the Woodsreef CAG.

The Chair may invite advisers to provide expert advice to the Woodsreef CAG as the need arises.

The Woodsreef CAG will seek to reach consensus, but accepts that members may hold a range of perspectives on a particular issue and in such circumstances differing views will be reported in the minutes.

The activities of the Woodsreef CAG will be reported to the Woodsreef Taskforce, specific matters arising from the meetings may be advised to the Woodsreef Taskforce and subsequent decisions by the Woodsreef Taskforce will be reported to the Woodsreef CAG.

The Woodsreef CAG will not have financial or administrative delegation.

Membership

The Woodsreef CAG is a group comprising the following membership:

1. NSW Trade & Investment, (Chair).
2. One representative from NSW Trade & Investment.
3. One representative from Department of Primary Industries.
4. One representative from Tamworth Regional Council.
5. Up to 4 Community Representatives, to ensure a broad cross-section of community interests are represented. Nominations may be from the following type of organisations (but not limited to):
 - a. Business Chamber/Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Community Action Group/Committee
 - c. Local community member
 - d. Affected landowner
 - e. Major land users group or association
 - f. Local business owner

The Community Representative term of membership is for the duration of the Project (2yrs).

NSW Trade & Investment on behalf of the Woodsreef Taskforce will appoint each Community Representative based on the following criteria:

1. Willingness to participate in the community consultation for the duration of the Project (2yrs).
2. Commitment to build and maintain effective relationships with key stakeholders to advise on related matters and provide information about key projects.
3. Have a keen interest in public health and the environment.
4. Be representative of:
 - The local community
 - The affected landholders
 - The local business and industry in the Barraba/Woodsreef region

Meetings

Community representatives must commit to attending and participating in all Woodsreef CAG meetings.

Meetings will be held in Barraba at a time, day and venue to be advised.

The Woodsreef CAG will meet twice yearly or as required.

No proxy stand-ins are able to attend.

Each member will bear the administrative costs associated with attendance at the Woodsreef CAG meetings.

Meeting minutes will be kept of meeting attendees, key issues raised and actions recommended or agreed upon only. Comments from individual members will not generally be attributed and a verbatim record of the meeting will not be prepared.

The previous meeting's minutes will be forwarded with the next meeting's agenda.

Nominations

An Expression of Interest Nomination for local Community Representatives will be sought from the community for appointment to the Woodsreef CAG.

The Woodsreef Taskforce will nominate the Community Representatives Selection Committee. NSW Trade & Investment will chair and coordinate the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will review the nominations for approval by the Woodsreef Taskforce Chairman.

NSW Trade & Investment is to advertise for Community Representatives.

Confidentiality

The Woodsreef CAG members may be given access to confidential material. These materials are provided in good faith and Woodsreef CAG member will ensure that confidentiality is strictly maintained. However contractual matters pertaining to the content of commercial in confidence agreements will not be shared to members employed outside the NSW Government. Documents that are confidential will be marked accordingly.

Resolution

The Woodsreef CAG is a sunset committee. It dissolves at the completion of the Project or at the discretion of the Woodsreef Taskforce.