

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 8th August 2017.**

PRESENT:

James Bailey	JB	Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) Dartbrook Mine – Environmental Consultant
Noel Downs	ND	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Greg Kukla	GK	AQC Dartbrook Mine – General Manager – Project Development
Jennifer Lecky	JL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Cnr Martin Rush	MR	Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative and Chairperson
Doug Stewart	DS	AQC Dartbrook Mine – Safety, Health, Environment and Community (SHEC) Coordinator

APOLOGY:

Scott Brooks	SB	Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
Cnr Lorna Driscoll	LD	Upper Hunter Shire Council as Alternate Representative
Cnr Kiwa Fisher	KF	Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative

VISITORS:

Peter Ainsworth	PA	Dept Primary Industry – Div Resources and Geoscience. (DRG)
Kate Walsh	KW	DRG
Mathew Newton	MN	DRG
Melissa Cleary	MC	Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative

1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10.02 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – N/A
- 1.3 Apologies as per above list.

2. INTRODUCTION OF INVITED GUESTS

- 2.1 Paul Ainsworth, Kate Walsh and Mathew Newton Introduced themselves and described the role the DRG has in the Mining Operations Plan process.
- 2.2 Discussion included:
 - GK noted that AQC had met with the DRG two times to scope and organise the delivery timeline of the MOP. Ie on 29th June and 27th July 2017. GK noted that a request for a 3 year MOP for care and maintenance had been agreed by DRG.



Australian Pacific Coal

MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 8th August 2017.

MN noted that a request for 4 years had been made by AQC but that DRG had suggested a 3 year timeframe with a trigger for it to move into a MOP for decommissioning and closure.

- That to meet the 31st December deadline, the MOP lodgement date is 20th October.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- 3.1 There were no pecuniary interests declared by any member present.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 Incoming - Email apologies from those listed apologies above.
- 4.2 Outgoing – email advice to the DRG advising of the CCC’s concern re the delivery of Dartbrook’s MOP.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 Confirmation of previous minutes. – confirmed.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

- 6.1 MOP – in addition to the discussion in Section 2 it was resolved to have two further consultation sessions with the CCC re Dartbrook’s MOP. Meetings are to be organised by AQC on 7th September and 8th November 2017.
- 6.2 Community consultation will be undertaken in accordance with DRG guidelines WSG3 and Dartbrook’s Development Consent.
- 6.3 The engagement of an “appropriate expert” will be further considered after the feasibility water management model / plan has been presented.
- 6.4 Dartbrook’s planning feasibility progress was discussed by GK as was Dartbrook’s new Newsletter. See also Item 7.3.
- 6.5 GK re-introduced AQC to those CCC members whom were not invited/ did not make it to the last CCC meeting.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATION

A presentation was provided on the sites environmental management for the period April to June 2017. Any monitoring outcomes were due to the existing natural environment as Dartbrook is on care and maintenance and is not mining or washing coal.

7.1 Monitoring

The main issues presented are summarised below:

- Hi-Volume Dust Monitoring: was below the NEPC guideline limit of 50ug/m³.
- Depositional Dust Monitoring Results: Graphs and isopleths for year ending in June 2017 were shown with all well below the EPA limit.
- Long term water salinity trends:



Australian Pacific Coal

MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 8th August 2017.

- The Dart Brook upper salinity readings started falling while the lower salinity readings continued to rise due to a decreased influence from the Hunter.
- The Hunter River upper and lower salinity readings have continued to decrease and merge due to the decreasing salinity effects from the Dart Brook.
- Rainfall - The YTD July 2017 cumulative rainfall is now 43.8mm below average following July's 1.8mm rainfall.

7.2 Dartbrook Activities

Dartbrook **Project Exploration** are on hold and will be subject to the outcome of the ongoing Pre-Feasibility studies.

7.3 Project Prefeasibility studies are now ongoing:

- A geological assessment of the entire coal resource has been undertaken.
- A Pre-feasibility Study is exploring the potential for further limited underground mining, and
- A Pre-feasibility Study is underway is also underway to explore how part of the coal resource could potentially be mined by modern, low impact open cut mining technologies.
- The timeline is shown in the attached presentation and Dartbrook's Newsletter.

7.4 Rural Lands activities:

- The roo and pig control continued with 76 Roos killed so far in 2017.
- Dog baiting continues at Kayuga.
- Topsoil stockpiles and bushfire access tracks have been slashed.
- Limited weed management and control undertaken due to the cold / dry conditions.
- Ongoing general maintenance continued around the cemetery, Riverview homestead and Office front gardens.
- APC has supported a DA for the new dairy bails at Garoka.

7.5 Regulatory activities were:

- DRG advised Dartbrook that the 2016 AR was satisfactory.
- Water Licenses are being renewed.
- Ongoing groundwater management using the evaporation ponds. The Wynn seam water level remains reasonably static.
- AQC is planning to recommence the '*sustainable grazing demonstration trial*' on the rehabilitated REA.
- Work has commenced on renewing Dartbrook's Mining Operations Plan due on 31 December 2017. The format and schedule for consultation was also discussed. See Section 1.6.

7.6 Community activities were:

- Internal review of the MSC LEP prior to a meeting on 18th August with the MSC.
- Announcing the AQC Sponsorship and Donations programme. See the AQC website.
- The first issue of AQC's Dartbrook Newsletter was discussed. This newsletter presented:
 - an introduction of AQC and local personnel,
 - AQC's commitment to meet all of the existing obligations and compliance requirements, and
 - the current activities re the geological assessment and Pre-Feasibility studies, with milestones.



Australian Pacific Coal

MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 8th August 2017.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 MR was concerned about the timing of the CCC consultation process given the lodgement date for the MOP and the deadline for acceptance. It was agreed that there will be two opportunities for consultation one meeting before and one after lodgement. An informal consultation meeting is to be held on 7th September and one during the next Dartbrook CCC meeting to be held on 8th of November 2017.
- 8.2 ND was concerned that there wasn't enough detail on the next CCC meeting sent out prior to the actual meeting. It was agreed that, where possible, greater detail will be circulated to the members in the agenda prior to the meeting
- 8.3 ND enquired as to whether the proposed workforce would be fly in/fly out. GK advised that the workforce would be locally sourced in the first instance.
- 8.4 AR was concerned about the condition of some of the paddocks beside Dartbrook Road and south of the joining of Nandowra and Dartbrook roads. Dartbrook agreed to investigate and report back to AR.
- 8.5 MR moved that the next CCC meeting be held on 8th November. Seconded AR. Carried.

8.6 Actions

Action Item No	Action	Outcome
1	To organise a CCC consultation meeting re Dartbrook's MOP on 7 th September, 2017	DS to organise
2	That the amount of relevant information that goes to the CCC members prior to the CCC meeting is increased.	DS to action.
3	Report back on property management at Nandowra and Dartbrook roads	DS to action.

9. MEETING CLOSED

- 9.1 The meeting closed at 11: 15am.

10. NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting is planned for 8 November 2017 at 10am.