



## Australian Pacific Coal

### MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

#### PRESENT:

James Bailey	JB	Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) Dartbrook Mine – Environmental Consultant
Scott Brooks	SB	Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Doug Stewart	DS	AQC Dartbrook Mine – Safety, Health, Environment and Community (SHEC) Coordinator
<b>APOLOGY:</b>		
Cnr Lorna Driscoll	LD	Upper Hunter Shire Council as Alternate Representative
Cnr Kiwa Fisher	KF	Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Jennifer Lecky	JL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Cnr Martin Rush	MR	Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative and Chairperson
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative
<b>VISITORS:</b>		
Nil		

#### 1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was delayed and officially opened at 10.15 am. Scott Brooks to act as Chairperson as nominated by MR.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – N/A
- 1.3 Apologies as per above list.

#### 2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Incoming - Email acceptances from AR and ND.
  - Email from MR, of the MSC, advising of MR's resignation as Chairperson and the appointment of Kiwa Fisher as interim Chairperson. The situation to be resolved in December by MSC.

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- Email from ND of the WLALC offering to bring Luke Wightley to discuss the growing of Industrial (grain) hemp on Dartbrook as an Aboriginal community project.  
Discussion points – 2 types of Hemp ie grain and for seed. Grain is the target species for a processing plant planned for Belford.

#### **4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes dated 8 August as true and correct subject to the clarification made in section 5.6. – confirmed.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING**

- 5.1 MOP – was lodged with the DRG on 20<sup>th</sup> October as proposed and is being reviewed by the DRG for approval prior to 31 December 2017. SB had concerns with the submission process:
- A draft MOP is now not available to review.
  - DRG do not have provision for consultation within their approval process.
  - GHG emissions may not be appropriately dealt with in the MOP
- DS advised that a presentation will be included in the next meeting re GHG emissions at Dartbrook.
- 5.2 Dartbrook’s NGER Report lodged on 30 October, in time.
- 5.3 The previous motion “That the CCC engage an appropriately qualified expert to conduct an ecological assessment of the Hunter River.....”  
JB advised that Hansen Baily has been commissioned to scope the work as identified in the preliminary PFS regarding further ecological and water quality studies required in Hunter River and beyond. It is proposed that the scope of these studies be presented to the next CCC meeting.
- 5.4 It was noted that pre- feasibility studies were ongoing and that as per the latest information on the AQC website... “*The company anticipates the study will be completed in the March 2018 quarter.*”
- 5.5 AR continued to be concerned about the health condition of the livestock grazing the paddocks beside Dartbrook Road and south of the joining of Nandowra and Dartbrook roads. DS advised that this issue would be followed up with the LLS (as independent experts) and the Lessee with a report to be made to the next CCC meeting.

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- 5.6 ND clarified the motion that he seconded at the last meeting. As moved by MR it was agreed that, where possible, detail in relation to matters to be discussed will be circulated to the members with the agenda prior to each meeting. Moved MR, seconded ND.

## **6. 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 surrounding environmental factors as Dartbrook is on care and maintenance and is not mining or washing coal.

### **6.1 Monitoring**

The main issues presented are summarised below:

- Rainfall - The YTD October 2017 cumulative rainfall is now 90.5mm below the YTD average.
- Hi-Volume Dust Monitoring was below the NEPC guideline limit of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
- Depositional Dust Monitoring Results: Graphs and isopleths for year ending in September 2017 were shown with all well below the EPA limit.
- Long term water salinity trends:
  - The Dart Brook upper and lower salinity readings continued to fall with similar readings due to a decreased influence from the Hunter River under lower flows.
  - The Hunter River upper and lower salinity readings are similar and have risen due to the drier weather and lower flows.

### **6.2 Dartbrook Activities**

Dartbrook Project Exploration activities are likely to recommence in the new year and will be subject to the outcome of the ongoing Pre-Feasibility studies.

### **6.3 Project Prefeasibility studies** are 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 also underway to explore how part of the coal resource could potentially be mined by modern, low impact open cut mining technologies.
- The revised timeline is shown in the attached presentation and will be reflected in Dartbrook's next Newsletter. See section 5.24
- JB outlined the scope for the water assessment of the site. HB are commissioning an expert water consultant, WRM, to undertake the scoping and assessment of the surface and groundwater with Cumberland Ecology to undertake the biological assessment. The Dept of Primary industries – Water and the Office of Environment and Heritage to



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consulted over the scope and the findings of the assessments. See also Section 5.3. JB undertook to report the findings back to this Committee.

- Further ecological studies and noise assessment will commence soon.

#### 6.4 Rural Lands activities:

- The roo and pig control continued with 91 Roos killed so far in 2017.
- Dog baiting continued in October at Kayuga.
- Access tracks have been slashed.
- Continued limited weed management and control undertaken due to the cold / dry conditions.
- The construction of the new dairy bails at Garoka have commenced.
- Kayuga Homestead is being upgraded for site accommodation.

#### 6.5 Regulatory activities were:

- Dartbrook's 2016-17 National Greenhouse Energy Report was lodged on time.
- Ongoing groundwater management using the evaporation ponds. The Wynn seam water level generally remains static.
- The '*sustainable grazing demonstration trial*' has recommenced on the rehabilitated REA.
- Dartbrook's Mining Operations Plan was lodged on 20<sup>th</sup> October as requested by the DRG.
- Housekeeping projects continued with:
  - The Administration car park lines repainted, and
  - The removal of the scrap steel (old roof supports) commenced.
- With the removal of scrap steel ND suggested that a roof support may make a suitable mining monument in Muswellbrook and that SB makes approaches to the MSC to see if this opportunity is supported.

#### 6.6 Community activities were:

- It was noted that Newsletter No 3 will be out before Christmas.
- Dartbrook Sponsorship & Donations Initiative continues to call for Applications. <http://www.aqcltd.com/irm/content/sponsorships.aspx?RID=463>
  - ND indicated the WLALC may be interested in applying for support for their Hemp growing project.
- Environmental Contact Line continues to operate on 1300 131 058.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 SB asked if Mt Pleasant had approached AQC re the management of Kayuga Cemetery. DS advised that they had and that AQC had agreed to continue to maintain the cemetery.

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7.2 Actions

<b>Action Item No</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>1</b>	To report re Dartbrook's independent Chairperson.	SB to present
<b>2</b>	That relevant information continues to go to the CCC members prior to the CCC meeting.	DS to action.
<b>3</b>	To report on the proposed additional background environmental water monitoring program to be put in place to support proposed future mining studies.	JB to report
<b>4</b>	To report back on property management at Nandowra and Dartbrook roads	DS to action.
<b>5</b>	To advise if the MSC would like a roof support as a monument.	SB to advise
<b>6</b>	To issue a calendar planner invitation to the CCC.	DS to action

**8. MEETING CLOSED**

8.1 The meeting closed at 12: 20pm.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 It was agreed that the next CCC meeting be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. At 10am.  
ND requested an electronic calendar planner invitation be issued.