

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
AT DARTBROOK – 7th December 2016 .**

PRESENT:

Jennifer Lecky	JL	DCCC Independent Chairperson
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Doug Stewart	DS	Anglo American Dartbrook Mine – Safety, Health, Environment (SHE) Coordinator
Rick Fairhurst	RF	Anglo American Dartbrook Mine – Project Manager
APOLOGY:		
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Upper Hunter Community Representative
Vacancy		Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
Councillor Kiwa Fisher	KF	Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Councillor Lorna Driscoll	LD	Upper Hunter Shire Council as Alternate Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Scott Brooks		Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
VISITORS:		Nil

1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10.15 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – beware of snakes around the office.
- 1.3 Apologies as per the list above.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Apologies for the meeting.
- 3.2 Email advice from Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) that a decision has not been reached on the Chairperson for Dartbrook CCC..

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes. – Minutes accepted. Moved JL. Seconded AR. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

- 5.1 Nil.

6. COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

- 6.1 There have not been any environmental incidents or complaints, which required reporting, since the last meeting.

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7. PRESENTATION

A presentation was provided on the Environment for the period August to December 2016. Any monitoring outcomes were due to the existing natural environment because 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 again below the NEPC guideline limit of 50ug/m³.
- Depositional Dust Monitoring Results: Graphs and isopleths for year ending in October 2016 were shown with all well below the EPA limit.
- Long term water salinity trends:
 - The Dart Brook upper and lower salinity readings were generally lower due to the wetter conditions.
 - The Hunter River upper and lower salinity readings were slightly increasing and becoming closer due to the decreasing salinity in the Dart Brook.
- Rainfall -. The YTD November 2016 cumulative rainfall is above average (609mm compared to yearly average of 586mm).

7.2 Dartbrook Activities

Dartbrook **Project Exploration** activities have generally been discontinued due to the imminent sale of Dartbrook. RF advised that the sale is progressing. JL was advised that APC will take up the existing rehabilitation bond.

7.3 Project Prefeasibility studies have ceased due to the sale of Dartbrook.

7.4 Rural Lands activities:

- The roo and pig control continued with 91 Roos killed so far in 2016
- Dog baiting continues at Kayuga.
- Bushfire Management Plan – installing fire brakes.
- Cattle were removed from crash grazing of REA rehabilitation area to reduce Rhodes grass component.
- Weed management control spraying mainly African Box thorn, African olives and St Johns Wort.
- Ongoing general maintenance continued around the cemetery and Riverview homestead.
- Slash / mow topsoil stockpiles as per recommendation from DRE.
- Rubbish pick up required beside Dartbrook and Blairemore roadside.

7.5 Regulatory activities were:

- SCS inspected the Hunter River log structures.
- EPA visited for a site inspection. Dartbrook requires a new premises Plan – underway.
- DPI – Water offsite meeting with new inspector. Discuss site familiarisation, the Independent Compliance Audit's requirement for consultation and ground water management. The status of the increasing groundwater level in the Wynn seam and the evaporation system were also discussed.
- Dartbrook undertook the EPA's mandatory Emergency Exercise as a desk top review. (Pipe leak into the Dart Brook.)
- Various APC visits were facilitated.
- Dartbrook discharged 7.134047ML in to the Hunter River using the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme during September.

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- Environmental Management Plans are being updated. The Flora and Fauna Management Plans are with the DPE and The Environmental Management Strategy, Spontaneous Management Plan, Land management Plan and the Soil Stripping Management Plan are being reviewed internally prior to submission to the DPE.
- The Independent Compliance Audit (ICA) (using SLR Consultants) report has been forwarded to the DPE prior to being circulated. Discussion focussed on the 6 low level non compliances. The main issues were:
 - Management Plans to be placed on Dartbrook's website.
 - Better consultation with the relevant government agencies when reviewing the management plans.
 - Timely submission of the IAC.
 - Resolution of the minor error in the EPA's Annual return.
 - Update the Flora and Fauna Management Plan to include the monitoring frequency.

7.6 Community activity was:

- The Scar Tree relocation project was finally completed yesterday with an official hand over of the Scar Tree and Shelter to the Muswellbrook Shire Council. *TL offered his congratulations.*

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 A representative from DRE was unavailable to attend this meeting.
- 8.2 Regarding the request for an explanation of Dartbrook's existing infrastructure, equipment and serviceability. A representative from Australian Pacific Coal was not available. *FR was able to advise:*
- *That UGM has maintained the site in a safe and operable condition with the 6 weekly operation of key equipment.*
 - *Third party annual structural audits by Bureau Veritas identify any necessary repairs which were undertaken.*
- 8.3 In response to a question from TL about the rehabilitation trial of the evaporation ponds *DS explained which included scalping the saline base of the ponds to various depths and the placement of topsoil to various depths before revegetation to determine which method was the most efficient and effective. This trial was conducted before it was realised that the ponds would be required to manage the Wynn seam groundwater accumulation.*
- 8.4 RF explained that the rehabilitation of 26 exploration boreholes is currently being organised.
- 8.5 RF gave an Anglo American update. *As part of a debt reduction project Anglo has been divesting its worldwide coal and iron ore assets. Anglo has now decided to retain Moranbah and Grosvenor mines. Both Capcoal and Dawson mines are in the process of being sold.*
- 8.6 JL advised that there is a 3 day mine rehabilitation conference at Newcastle University on 29-30 March 2017.
- 8.7 Dartbrook Community Consultative Committee membership –
It was resolved that JL stay on as Chairperson until the MSC responds regarding the need to have a MSC endorsed Chairperson.
- 8.8 Actions – Nil

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9. MEETING CLOSED

9.1 The formal meeting closed at 11:25am.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting is planned for approx. 4 April 2016. This date is subject to when Dartbrook Mine comes under Australian Pacific Coal ownership.