

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
AT DARTBROOK – 28th April 2016.**

PRESENT:

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

1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10.15 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – emergency exit location and use.
- 1.3 Apologies as per the list above.
- 1.4 No environmental incidents have occurred since the last meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Nil.

Moved by JL and seconded by AM that a letter be sent to the MSC requesting that make Scott Brooks be made available for DCCC meetings in future.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes. – Minutes accepted. Moved KF. Seconded TL. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

- 5.1 Nil.

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6. COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

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

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 A presentation was provided on the Environment for the first 4 months of 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.

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 March 2016 were shown with Macairstrip site slightly elevated because of natural contamination.
 - Long term water salinity trends:
 - Dart Brook upper salinity readings were considerably higher than the Dart Brook lower monitoring point due to the low flow at the lower monitoring point causing reading to be affected by backflow from the less saline Hunter River.
 - Hunter River upper and lower monitoring points were similar and slightly higher when compared with the previous readings.
 - Rainfall -. The YTD March 2016 cumulative rainfall is on average (172.62mm compared to 173mm) mainly due to the rainfall event in January. KF considered the immediate future forecast is for dry weather while AM considered it would be wet.
- 7.2 Dartbrook **Project Exploration** activities have been discontinued due to the imminent sale of Dartbrook.
- 7.3 Dartbrook **Project Prefeasibility studies** have ceased due to the sale of Dartbrook.
- 7.4 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - Recent **Rural Lands** activities:
- Ongoing Highway tree maintenance and fence repairs.
 - Weed management control spraying mainly Box thorn, Green Cestrum, Tiger pear.
 - The Roo and pig control continued with 60 Roos and 0 pigs killed so far in 2016.
 - Ongoing general maintenance continued around the cemetery and Riverview homestead.
 - Rob Tickle launched the latest edition of the Kayuga – Dartbrook Oral History at the Plashett Open Day on 16 & 17 April.
- 7.5 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - recent **Regulatory** activities are:
- Dartbrook's Annual Review (previously called the Annual Environmental Management Plan and Report) was written and submitted in April. These had been previously posted to all Committee members. It was explained that there was a typographical error on P12. A corrected Page 12 was distributed at the meeting.
- KF requested that the amounts of water pumped from the tunnel for each year, over the period 2011 – 2015, be made available at the next CCC meeting.
- The sustainable grazing demonstration on the rehabilitated Rejects Emplacement Area (REA) was wound up due to the imminent sale of Dartbrook. The demonstration was very successful with good cattle weight increases with little change to the vegetation and ground cover.

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- The EPA Environmental Protection Licence's Annual Return was submitted on time in January.
- On-going use of the Evaporation ponds to manage groundwater. A new Evaporation system is being trialled above the Staged Discharge Dam.
- The Scar Tree relocation project continues. The status of the project has not changed. ARTC is not prepared to have the artefact on their land. A slide showed the alternative location on MSC land. A second consultation with aboriginal representative has been held agreeing to the new proposed location on MSC owned land.

KF advised that the UHSC may be able to appropriately house the Scar Tree if MSC is continuing to have difficulty in finding an acceptable location for the Scar Tree to be housed.

7.5.1 Discussion - Greenhouse gas emissions remained relatively the same as previous years. The latest Annual Review shows that a total of 57,868 t of CO₂-e was emitted in 2015.

7.6 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance – no recent **Community** activities were undertaken.

8. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Dartbrook's MOP. It was explained that:

- The MOP provides a comprehensive closure strategy using domains and tracks the rehabilitation and final land use using tables and plans.
- The MOP is a Trade and Investment Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) required document with a defined table of contents, closure scope of works and designated DRE costing using supplied default values
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- The security deposit at Dartbrook is financed by a Bank guarantee should the Mine's owner go bankrupt.
- It was further explained that through this process Dartbrook's security deposit has been accepted by the DRE. What happens under the proposed new ownership is outside this meeting.

8.2 It was moved:

1. By TL seconded KF that a representative of the DRE be invited to the next CCC to give a breakdown and allocation to works of the \$9m Security deposit over Dartbrook.
Carried
2. By KF seconded TL that a representative of Dartbrook or an appropriate expert be invited to the next CCC meeting to explain / report on Dartbrook's existing infrastructure, equipment and serviceability.

It was explained that both items above may be subject to a requirement of "commercial in confidence" information.

9. MEETING CLOSED

9.1 The formal meeting closed at 11:55am.

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10. NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting is planned for 23 June 2016 when Dartbrook is expected to be under Australian Pacific Coal ownership. The last meeting for the 2016 will be confirmed at the next meeting.
