

Dartbrook Newsletter

Dartbrook Mine Modification 7 Update

Modification 7 Determination

On 9 August 2019, the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) released a Statement of Reasons and Determination over the proposed modification to Dartbrook Mine (Dartbrook) Development Consent DA 231-07-2000 (MOD7). In determining the MOD7 Application, the IPC stated that:

"...the Commission has determined to approve part of the Application to permit mining operations at the Project Site under existing DA 231-07-2000 up until 5 December 2022 subject to conditions of consent, namely to commence underground coal mining on the site using bord and pillar methods; and use a varied coal clearance system, including transport of coal by trucks using a private haul road to a new coal delivery shaft connecting to an existing underground conveyor to the existing coal handling and preparation plant..."

However, the IPC rejected the part of the MOD7 Application which proposed a five-year extension to the life of the Dartbrook Development Consent.

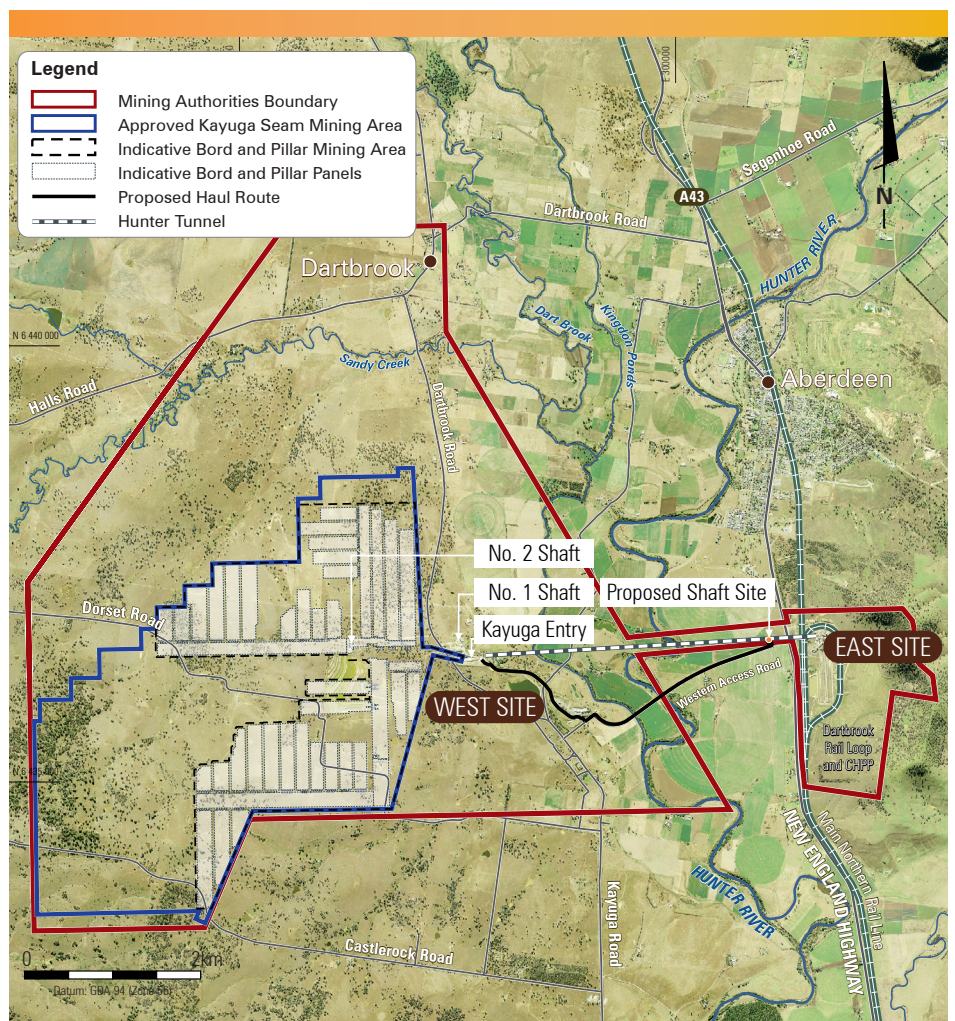


Figure 1 Conceptual Modification Layout

This element of MOD7 was also refused despite advice from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in January 2019 that all aspects of MOD7 were approvable with appropriate conditions of development consent. The extension to the life of the Development Consent is fundamental to the recommencement of mining operations and is required to justify the capital investment needed to reinvigorate the mine.

Under the NSW *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, an appeal against the determination of the IPC is available to Australian Pacific Coal in the Land and Environment Court for a period of three months from the date of determination of MOD7. The period for lodgement of any appeal regarding the IPC determination of MOD7 would therefore expire on 8 November 2019.

AQC are currently reviewing the IPC determination for MOD7 and are assessing all avenues to progress the recommencement of underground mining at the site. Dartbrook will remain in Care and Maintenance status during this time and the required site compliance, performance monitoring and management activities will continue to be undertaken.

It is hoped that a way forward can be found such that the very material social and economic benefits of the recommencement of limited underground mining at Dartbrook can be realised by the local community and the state of NSW.



Dartbrook East Site Infrastructure, currently in Care and Maintenance.



Dartbrook Evaporation Ponds.

Community Engagement

AQC welcomes the opportunity to continue engagement with interested members of the local community in relation to Dartbrook activities. Anybody who wishes to discuss the current or proposed activities at Dartbrook or raise any matters of concern is invited to arrange an appointment by contacting the Dartbrook Mine office.

FURTHER INFORMATION

**Dartbrook Mine
Site Office**

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