

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING – 23 JUNE 2021**

ATTENDEES:		
Lisa Andrews	LA	Independent Chairperson
Paul Smith	PS	UHSC Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Community Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Community Representative
David Conry	DC	AQC Representative
James Bailey	JB	James Bailey & Associates (JBA)
Dorian Walsh	DW	JBA
APOLOGY:		
Cr Kiwa Fisher	KF	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) Representative
Sharon Pope	SP	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Representative
Jennifer Lecky	JL	Community Representative
Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council (WLALC)		WLALC to appoint a replacement delegate to the CCC

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened by LA at 10:03am. LA confirmed that minutes from the meeting would be drafted by DW and sent to the CCC members.
- 1.2 LA noted that the (WLALC) had not yet appointed a new delegate to the CCC to replace Noel Downs.

2. DECLARATIONS

- 2.1 LA confirmed that she is an approved Independent Chair with DPIE, appointed by the Secretary and engaged by AQC to chair the CCC.
- 2.2 No changes to members' previous declarations.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Correspondence since the previous meeting:
 - o 23/12/20 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
 - o 11/1/21 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
 - o 20/1/21 – Email to Wanaruah Aboriginal Land Council asking for a new delegate to be appointed to the CCC following the resignation of Noel Downs.
 - o 24/2/21 – Email to members cancelling Q1 CCC.
 - o 22/4/21 – Email to DPIE with chair's annual report on the operations of the CCC from 2020-2021.
 - o 10/6/21 – Email to members with the meeting notice and agenda for this meeting.

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- 10/6/21 – Email from KF with an apology for this meeting and advising that questions will be submitted.
- 22/6/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 There were no comments or changes on the minutes from the meeting of 16 December 2020.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 There were no actions from the previous minutes.
- 5.2 There was no other business arising raised by members from the previous meeting.

6. PROJECT UPDATE – MODIFICATION 7

- 6.1 DW updated the CCC on the status of the DA 231-07-2000 Modification 7 application. This included a summary of the process to date and key steps in the NSW Land and Environmental Court (LAEC) process since the previous CCC meeting. DW noted that the AQC challenge of Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association's joinder to the LAEC process had been upheld by the NSW Court of Appeal on 03/06/21.
- 6.2 AQC are now awaiting the LAEC Commissioner's determination of the original appeal against the Independent Planning Commission refusal of the time extension component of DA 231-07-2000 Modification 7. JB noted that the timing of the LAEC Commissioner's decision was uncertain, as there were potentially avenues available for further third-party appeals.
- 6.3 DC confirmed that AQC would provide an update to LA once any decision was confirmed by the LAEC Commissioner.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 7.1 DW provided a summary of environmental monitoring results (for meteorology, air quality and surface water) and land management undertaken since the last CCC meeting.
- 7.2 In relation to the expressions of interest sought by AQC in September 2020 over the potential sale of eight mine-owned properties:
- DW confirmed that three AQC properties had been sold since the previous meeting. DW will provide a map to CCC representatives showing the location of these blocks.
 - AM questioned whether there were any water entitlements attached to the blocks that had been sold. DC confirmed this was not the case.
 - AR questioned whether the remaining blocks were on sale. DC confirmed that expressions of interest on these blocks had been received and AQC were assessing these applications.
- 7.3 DW stated that no environmental incidents had occurred or that no community complaints had been received since the previous CCC meeting.
- 7.4 TL raised an issue in relation to the management of Blue Heliotrope on AQC land towards the upper reaches of Sandy Creek and the Dart Brook. It was noted be an invasive species encroaching on AQC owned land. It was in an area that had been treated for weeds before.

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- DW will schedule Terrequip to target these areas in the spring weed program once the species is more active again.
- 7.5 TL asked whether the Wynn Seam goaf water levels were full. JB confirmed that the levels were not full yet and that AQC were still actively dewatering the underground workings to the Evaporation Ponds.
- 7.6 DW noted that an updated Care and Maintenance Mining Operations Plan (lodged 30/11/20) and Mine Closure Plan (lodged 04/12/20) had been submitted to the DPIE Resources Regulator. AQC are awaiting review comments on both documents from the regulator. TL raised a concern that the Stage Discharge Dam (SDD) would be approved to be retained post-closure, and that it would have no practical use with no mining on site. JB confirmed that the SDD was shown as being retained in the draft Mine Closure Plan, however it would need to have an explicit purpose to be kept in place long-term after any closure of the site.
- 7.7 JB raised an administrative point, noting that Hansen Bailey had been restructured since the previous CCC meeting and was now operating as JBA.
- 7.8 LA enquired as to whether there was any further general business. No further business was raised by the attendees.

8. MEETING CLOSED

- 8.1 LA scheduled the next CCC meeting for Wednesday 22 September 2021, noting that CCC's for care and maintenance sites generally meet on a bi-annual basis. LA noted that if a decision on the Modification 7 application had not been made by the date of the next meeting, then she would be proposing that meetings be moved to an annual basis (pending any need for extraordinary meetings). No objections raised.
- 8.2 The meeting was closed by LA at 10:35 am.