

Dartbrook Newsletter



Mine Operations Plan (MOP)

Australian Pacific Coal is continuing preparation of an updated MOP for Dartbrook, a requirement of the Mining Lease and Development Consent conditions. The objective of this updated MOP is to document the long-term care and maintenance, environmental compliance and mine closure principles and outcomes whilst outlining proposed rehabilitation activities during the three-year MOP period. As Dartbrook is currently in a care and maintenance phase, the scheduled rehabilitation activities are mainly limited to inspections and maintenance.

Australian Pacific Coal is consulting with the Department of Resources and Geoscience (DRG) and the Dartbrook Community Consultative Committee in relation to the MOP including discussion on post mining land use, rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.

The MOP is due for submission in late 2017. Once approved by the DRG, the MOP will be made available on the company website.

In parallel to the update of the MOP, Australian Pacific Coal will continue with plans for future mining at Dartbrook Mine.

DAIRY UPGRADE

Muswellbrook Shire Council grants DA for expansion

Australian Pacific Coal is committed to co-existence with other local industries.

With this commitment in mind, the Dartbrook Mine has partnered with Garoka Dairy to upgrade the existing dairy at Dartbrook.

Muswellbrook Shire Council has recently granted Development Approval for this expansion.

Dartbrook Mine and Garoka Diary will modify the existing dairy which currently caters for a 15 cow a-side herringbone design to a 50 cow rotary platform that will allow a greater efficiency in milking, improved wellbeing of cows and better OH&S standards for operators. The upgrade to the Dairy will improve the longer-term sustainability of the Farm.



Dairy farmer, Mr 'Butch' Smith said "this upgrade has been a long time coming and working with Australian Pacific Coal has secured the future viability of our farm". Mr Butch Smith and CEO of Australian Pacific Coal, Mr John Robinson are pictured at the proposed Dairy Expansion Project site.

GRAZING TRIAL

Previous owners of the Dartbrook Mine commenced a grazing trial in 2015 to demonstrate that rehabilitated land, can sustain grazing by livestock and be productive and blend with the adjacent lands.

Twenty-seven Angus and Angus/Hereford Cross steers were introduced in April 2015 and all steers remained healthy with rapid weight gain.

Farming publications indicate that with gains of 0.5kg /day for grass feed cattle to 2.5kg/day for feedlot cattle can be expected and the Dartbrook Steers on rehabilitated land have gained an average weight of 0.8kg/day over an approximate 18 month period with the highest weight gain of 2.1kg/day by late spring. Performance of these cattle is therefore comparable to good on-farm levels of production.



Subsequently 50 cows with calves were satisfactorily maintained on the rehabilitated pasture in winter-spring of 2016. There will be continued observation of grazing performance of the rehabilitated land.

Sponsorships and Donations

Australian Pacific Coal's Sponsorship and Donations Policy and Application Form are now available on the Company website for community groups in the local area to access.

Australian Pacific Coal is committed to the local community and is keen to hear from any local community groups who would like to partner with the Dartbrook Mine to support their organisation for upcoming events or fund-raising activities.

For further information, contact the community information line on 1300 131 058 or visit www.aqcltd.com

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting with one of our Project Team, please contact us at either our corporate office in Brisbane or at our Mine Site Office at Dartbrook as follows:

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¹ Australian Pacific Coal

² The Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves

³ Mining Operations Plan

⁴ Environmental Impact Statement

Note - The scheduled dates are for planning purposes and as such can be subject to change