

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
AT DARTBROOK – 11 August 2015.**

PRESENT:

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

1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – nb the usual exits.
- 1.3 Apologies as per the list above. Advised that Craig Fleming has left the MSC.
- 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.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes. – Minutes accepted.

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. GENERAL BUSINESS

A presentation was provided on the Environment for the first seven months of 2015.

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 July 2015 were shown with Macairstrip site slightly elevated because of natural contamination. The elevated readings were generally contaminated with insects and bird droppings.
 - Long term water salinity trends:
 - Dart Brook upper and lower monitoring points were similar and lower than the previous readings.
 - Hunter River upper and lower monitoring points were similar and elevated when compared with the previous readings.
 - Rainfall -. The YTD July 2015 rainfall is above average (385mm compared to 324mm) due to the rainfall events in January and April.
- 7.2 Dartbrook **Project Exploration** activities continue to be on hold due to the coal industry downturn. Environmental Management Reports for Exploration License 4574 was lodged in July and for Authorisation 256 is in preparation.
- 7.3 Dartbrook **Project Prefeasibility studies** remain suspended indefinitely as Dartbrook is currently for sale.
- 7.4 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - Recent **Rural Lands** activities:
- Noxious Plants and Animals:
 - The Roo and pig control continued with 51 Roos and 29 pigs killed in 2015.
 - Box thorn, Green Cestrum, Tiger pear, St Johns Wort Prickly, Acacia and Galenia control was carried out during the period.
 - Twenty 1080 baits were laid in a combined landholder programme.
 - The upper Dorset Road house was demolished.
 - The tree screen drip irrigation system continued to water beside the highway during the dry periods.
 - Boundary fencing with the Aberdeen common.
- 7.5 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - recent **Regulatory** activities are:
- Ongoing sustainable grazing on the rehabilitated Rejects Emplacement Area (REA).
 - Lodged the Hunter River Salinity Discharge Scheme Annual Return for 6.84135 Megaliters.
 - Dartbrook is still waiting for an approval from Australian Rail and Track Corporation (landowner) to construct the extension to the existing shelter at Simpson Park
 - Two internal compliance audits found compliance with Anglo American safety and environmental standards.
 - Visits were made by EPA (License discussions) and the Local Land Service personnel (river bank stability and flood mitigation).
 - The Dept Environment and Planning found the 2014 Annual Report satisfactory.
 - Monitoring continues to show there is no subsurface heating of the REA.
- 7.6 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - recent **Community** activities are:
- Anglo's sponsorship of the Aberdeen Highland games was undertaken again this year.
 - Heritage Week was celebrated with an open day at Riverview Homestead and a book launching of Robert Tickle's book "Kayuga Cemetery".

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8. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Wendy Wales raised the issue of Galenia spreading and progressing up Dorset Road.

<i>Action Item No</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
1	To write to MSC seeking clarification re filling the MSC Staff Representative position.	DS to write letter.
2	DS to respond regarding Galenia control at Dartbrook.	DS to present at the next meeting.

9. MEETING CLOSED

9.1 The formal meeting closed at 11:00am.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting is planned for 12 November 2015, to confirm closer to the date.
