

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
AT DARTBROOK – 12<sup>th</sup> November 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
Annette Rahn	AR	Upper Hunter 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
<b>APOLOGY:</b>		
Vacancy		Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative
<b>VISITORS:</b>		
		Nil

**1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:**

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – beware of spiders and snakes.
- 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 See attached letters from DS to MSC and response from MSC re vacancy caused by the absence of Craig Fleming.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**5. BUSINESS ARISING**

- 5.1 Progress of Dartbrook's sale process. There has been some interested parties.

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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**

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

The main issues presented are summarised below:

- Hi-Volume Dust Monitoring: was below the NEPC guideline limit of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Depositional Dust Monitoring Results: Graphs and isopleths for year ending in October 2015 were shown with Macairstrip site slightly elevated because of natural contamination.
  - Long term water salinity trends:
    - Dart Brook upper and lower monitoring points were similar and higher than the previous readings.
    - Hunter River upper and lower monitoring points were similar and lower when compared with the previous readings.
  - Rainfall -. The YTD October 2015 rainfall is above average (482.2mm compared to 439mm) 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. The Environmental Management Report for Authorisation 256 was lodged in September.
- 7.3 Dartbrook **Project Prefeasibility studies** remain suspended indefinitely as Dartbrook is currently for sale. There has been some interest.
- 7.4 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - Recent **Rural Lands** activities:
- Ongoing Highway tree maintenance and fence repairs.
  - Weed management was discussed with a slide showing the areas treated. The main weeds were Box thorn, Green Cestrum, St Johns Wort Prickly, Acacia, Patterson's Curse, African Olives and Galenia.
  - The Roo and pig control continued with 92 Roos and 29 pigs killed in 2015.
  - General maintenance around the cemetery and Riverview homestead was ongoing.
- 7.5 Dartbrook Care and Maintenance - recent **Regulatory** activities are:
- Ongoing sustainable grazing on the rehabilitated Rejects Emplacement Area (REA) with a graph showing the average weight gained.
  - Local Land Services (LLS) visit re river stabilisation and willow control.
  - DRE annual inspection on 10 September – no issues.
  - DRE letter advising that the Water Management Plan is satisfactory.
  - Ongoing use of the Evaporation ponds to manage groundwater. A new Evaporation system is proposed to be located near the Staged Discharge Dam.
  - Desktop Emergency Exercise re a pollution event was conducted, as required by the POEO Act.
  - Annual Rejects Emplacement Area geotechnical survey in November.
  - Bi annual River Red Gums and Forestry surveys undertaken in November.
  - The Scar Tree relocation project continues. The 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 this location.
  - Ongoing monitoring continues to show there is no subsurface heating of the REA.

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7.5.1 Discussion

- Greenhouse gas emissions remain relatively the same as previous years
- The new evaporation system is based on the evaporation of the mine water through a spray head. This is for a trial period which will include monitoring for any adverse effects from salt particle drift.

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

**8. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS**

No General Business

**9. MEETING CLOSED**

9.1 The formal meeting closed at 11:00am.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting is planned for 20 April 2016, to confirm the remainder of the year at the April meeting.

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