

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
AT DARTBROOK – 14th September 2016.**

PRESENT:

Jennifer Lecky	JL	DCCC Independent Chairperson
Doug Stewart	DS	Anglo American Dartbrook Mine – Safety, Health, Environment (SHE) Coordinator
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Upper Hunter Community Representative
APOLOGY:		
Vacancy		Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative
Councillor Kiwa Fisher	KF	Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Councillor Lorna Driscoll	LD	Upper Hunter Shire Council as Alternate Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Upper Hunter Community Representative
VISITORS:		
		Nil

1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10.15 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment – drive carefully in the wet conditions. There have been 3 accidents on the NEH near Dartbrook entry.
- 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. JL advised that she did not stand for the MSC elections.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Nil.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

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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- 6.2 There have been 4 general incidents since the last meeting – two trespass, one pipe leakage and one power outage which caused a grass fire and may have affected the HRSTS communications.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A presentation was provided on the Environment for the period April to August 2016. Any monitoring outcomes were due to the existing natural environment because Dartbrook is on care and maintenance and is not mining or washing coal.

7.1 Monitoring

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 year ending in August 2016 were shown with all well below the EPA limit.
- Long term water salinity trends:
 - Addendum - On investigation the latest recordings of the Dart Brook and Hunter River had been mistakenly reported against the incorrect sampling site. The corrected version has now been included in the presentation which will be sent to all CCC members.
 - The Dart Brook upper and lower salinity readings were generally lower due to the wetter conditions.
 - The Hunter River upper and lower salinity readings were also generally lower due to the wetter conditions with Hunter lower showing the effects of mixing with the more saline Dart Brook.
- Rainfall - The YTD September 2016 cumulative rainfall is above average (378.6mm compared to 323.9mm).

7.2 Dartbrook Activities

Dartbrook **Project Exploration** activities have generally been discontinued due to the imminent sale of Dartbrook, except for the currently being prepared application to the DRE for an extension of Exploration Lease 5525 for the next 3 years. A slide showing the EL and the last 6 boreholes drilled was shown.

7.3 **Project Prefeasibility studies** have ceased due to the sale of Dartbrook.

7.4 Rural Lands activities:

- The Roo and pig control continued with 60 Roos and 0 pigs killed so far in 2016
- Fence repairs on Browns Mountain and south of the evaporation ponds.
- Crash grazing of REA rehabilitation area to reduce Rhodes grass component.
- Weed management control spraying mainly African Box thorn, African olives, Green Cestrum and Tiger pear.
- Vegetation clearing near all monitoring locations and Dartmouth House.
- Ongoing general maintenance continued around the cemetery and Riverview homestead.
- Inspection and maintenance of septic sewerage systems on rural properties.

7.5 Regulatory activities were:

- The DRE's responses to Dartbrook's Annual Review (previously called the Annual Environmental Management Plan and Report (AEMR) were discussed especially the critical wording of the Review to meet the DPE's guidelines. Also discussed was the late inclusion of the data showing Dartbrook's workforce's employment by Local Government Area.

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- Victor Esteves (Water NSW) visited re water meter readings.
- The HRSTS Annual Report was submitted.
- 2 HRSTS credits purchased at the EPA auction.
- Recently undertaken an Independent Compliance Audit (using SLR Consultants). Report pending.
- DRE (Marianne Bonnay) inspected Dartbrook – showed concern about weeds on Kayuga visual bund.
- Reviewed various procedures and Management Plans including- the Complaints Handling Protocol, Sponcom Management Plan, Waste MP, Archaeological MP and Environmental Management System.
- The Dam Safety Committee's required five yearly Surveillance Report is underway.
- Discussions with MACHenergy (Mt Pleasant) re common boundary issues.
- Wynn seam water level rising due to a damp winter and unable to evaporate much water through the use of evaporation ponds & new evaporation system above Staged Discharge Dam. *AM advised that he felt his ground water had improved since Dartbrook had stopped mining.*
- *TL questioned the current amount of rejects in the REA and the future capacity of the REA to hold additional rejects from future mining.*

7.6 Community activity was:

- The Scar Tree relocation project continues the relocation onto MSC owned land at Simpson Park. An Agreement has been signed with MSC and Anglo. The site has been confirmed this week. Hope to complete in Q4.
- Dartbrook is supporting the Paddle n Plant event at the Karoola Wetlands. *TL expressed concern that without follow up watering the trees would die.*

8. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 It was moved at the April meeting to be delayed until the new owners have taken over and can answer the questions:
1. That a representative of the DRE be invited to the next CCC to give a breakdown and allocation to works of the \$9m Security deposit over Dartbrook. *The recently appointed DRE officer was unavailable for this meeting*
 2. That a representative of Dartbrook or an appropriate expert be invited to the next CCC meeting to explain / report on Dartbrook's existing infrastructure, equipment and serviceability. *With the final stages of the sale imminent Australian Pacific Coal is still determining the condition of the infrastructure. Furthermore the relevant UGM staff are not available due to leave and workload commitments.*

It was explained that both items above may be subject to a requirement of "commercial in confidence" information.

- 8.2 Dartbrook Community Consultative Committee membership – JL did not contest the last local elections for MSC and consequently will not be a Councillor in future. It was resolved:
1. That JL remains on the Committee as a Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative.
 2. That JL remains as the Independent Chairperson for the Committee.
 3. That DS writes to MSC requesting the attendance of an appropriate officer at future Meetings.
- Accepted.*

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8.3 Actions

Action Item No	Action	Outcome
1	To advise the CCC of the amount of rejects currently deposited in the REA and the capacity of the REA to hold future rejects under the DA.	See Section 7.5
2	That DS writes to the MSC requesting the attendance of an appropriate officer at future Meetings.	See Section 8.2.3

9. MEETING CLOSED

9.1 The formal meeting closed at 11:15am.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting is planned for approx. 23 November 2016. This date is subject to when Dartbrook Mine comes under Australian Pacific Coal ownership.