

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
AT DARTBROOK – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 .**

**PRESENT:**

|                    |    |                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cnr Martin Rush    | MR | Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative and Chairperson                                  |
| Jennifer Lecky     | JL | Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative                                                |
| Tony Lonergan      | TL | Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative                                                |
| Annette Rahn       | AR | Upper Hunter Community Representative                                                      |
| Doug Stewart       | DS | Anglo American Dartbrook Mine – Safety, Health, Environment (SHE) Coordinator              |
| Arthur Mitchell    | AM | Upper Hunter Community Representative                                                      |
| Scott Brooks       | SB | Muswellbrook Shire Council Staff Representative                                            |
| Cnr Kiwa Fisher    | KF | Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative                                                  |
| <b>APOLOGY:</b>    |    |                                                                                            |
| Paul Smith         | PS | Upper Hunter Shire Council Staff Representative                                            |
| Cnr Lorna Driscoll | LD | Upper Hunter Shire Council as Alternate Representative                                     |
| Noel Downs         | ND | Muswellbrook Shire Community Representative                                                |
| Rick Fairhurst     | RF | Anglo American Dartbrook Mine – Project Manager. Now no longer employed by Anglo American. |
| <b>VISITORS:</b>   |    |                                                                                            |
|                    |    | Nil                                                                                        |

**1. SAFETY MOMENT & APOLOGIES:**

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 10.05 am.
- 1.2 Safety Moment –
- 1.3 Apologies as per the list above.

**2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

- 2.1 There were no pecuniary interests declared by any member present.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 3.1 Apologies from Paul Smith for the meeting.

**4. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes. – Minutes accepted. Moved JL. Seconded TL. 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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A presentation was provided on Dartbrook mines environmental monitoring for the period December 2016 to April 2017. Any monitoring outcomes were due to the existing natural environment because Dartbrook is on care and maintenance and is not mining or washing coal. There were no mining activities within the reporting period that could have influenced any of the monitoring results.

**7.1 Monitoring**

The main issues presented are summarised below:

- Hi-Volume Dust Monitoring: was again below the NEPC guideline limit of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup> except for one instance from the Hulbert monitor in February. This may have been due to slashing near the monitor.
- Depositional Dust Monitoring Results: Graphs and isopleths for year ending in April 2017 were shown with all well below the EPA limit.
- Long term water salinity trends:
  - The Dart Brook upper and lower salinity readings were rising due to the effects of the Dart Brook.
  - The Hunter River upper and lower salinity readings were decreasing and becoming closer due to the decreasing salinity effects from the Dart Brook.
- Rainfall -. The YTD April 2017 cumulative rainfall is on average mainly due to the large rainfall received in March.
- *MR raised concerns that the up-stream monitoring device was not, in fact, upstream of the development – and, more particularly, the Hunter tunnel DS explained the DPI – Water would require that any relevant feasibility / assessments in the future would cover this issue.*
- *KF complimented Dartbrook's web site and sought assurances that the quality of the web site would be maintained now and post Anglo American ownership and, more particularly, that it would contain the same material.*
- *TL raised concerns about the continuous GHG emissions especially under the new ownership.*

**7.2 Dartbrook Activities**

Dartbrook **Project Exploration** activities have generally been discontinued due to the imminent sale of Dartbrook.

**7.3 Project Prefeasibility studies** are subject to the sale of Dartbrook.

**7.4 Rural Lands activities:**

- The roo control continued with 34 Roos killed so far in 2017 and nil pigs
- Dog baiting recommenced at Kayuga in conjunction with neighbouring landholders. DS advised that there had been a 100% take of the dog baits.
- Weed management control spraying mainly African Box thorn, Bathurst Burr and St Johns Wort.
- Ongoing general maintenance continued around the cemetery and Riverview homestead.
- Slash / mow topsoil stockpiles as per recommendation from DRE.
- Rubbish beside Dartbrook and Blairemore roadside now signposted and being monitored.

**7.5 Regulatory activities were:**

- New EPL premises plan accepted by the EPA.
- HRSTS communications with State Water upgraded using digital technology.

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- All personnel undertook first aid training.
- Ground water management – generally on going C&M including the use of evaporation ponds which has kept the Wynn water level generally static.
- Review Land Management Plan
  
- Environmental Management Plans have been updated. The Land Management and Soil Stripping Management Plans have been forwarded to the DPE. The review changes in the Plans were minor. The offer was made to forward these Plans to the CCC members if required.
- The Annual Review was compiled and submitted in January and February. All CCC members have received a copy. No concerns were raised at the meeting.
- Dam Safety Committee – Dam Safety Emergency Plan 5 yearly review was completed showing – the potential for Dam failure, the notification flowchart including MSC, UHSC and neighbours and Dartbrook’s Emergency response plan. *DS advised that the main issue in the event of a dam failure was the short term flooding of Stair St.*
- The effect of fires in January and February were discussed. DS advised that the grass cover in the burnt areas had responded well, but there had been some tree deaths in the woodland area west of the NEH that may need infill planting.

**7.6 Community activity was:**

- The completion of the relocated Scar Tree shed with the construction of the mesh “wave” in the roof of the shed.
- Consultation with Dartbrook’s neighbour MACH Energy is ongoing over issues such as a noise and dust Protocol, borehole rehabilitation, monitoring access.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 8.1 CCC Independent Chairperson – Cnr Martin Rush has taken on the role of Chairperson for the foreseeable future.
- 8.2 Mining Operations Plan - MR and KF expressed concern that there was limited time to have a new Mining Operations Plan approved before the renewal date – 31 December 2017. They felt that steps to review the plan needed to start ASAP because new Mining Operations Plans were taking up to 18 months to approve. MR also noted that DPI had indicated to Council that it was unlikely a new Mining Operations Plan for care and maintenance would be supported. For those reasons, MR expressed his view that it was critical to commence community consultation on a decommissioning, final rehabilitation and relinquishment Mining Operations Plan.
- 8.3 Dartbrook Web site - KF asked that a letter be written to the new mine owners requesting that steps be taken to maintain the existing corporate knowledge held on the site and the website maintained and included the current historical information found on the Anglo American managed site. The CCC supported this suggestion with MR with DS to send a letter.
- 8.4 Next Meeting - MR undertook to write to Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) inviting them to the next CCC meeting (extra-ordinary) proposed for the 13 June. The purpose of this was so AQC could present their future mining plans for the site, meet the CCC and discuss any concerns they may have.
- 8.5 Hunter River water quality - There were discussions about the possible effect of the tunnel on the overlying Hunter River (or visa versa). It was recommended that the CCC consider this issue at its next meeting with a view to engaging a suitably qualified expert undertake an appropriate study. DS recommended that a NSW Office of Water representative be invited to a future CCC meeting to provide opinion of any possible hydrological linkage between the tunnel and the river.

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- 8.6 Dartbrook CCC Trust fund - MR enquired into the existence of the trust fund as required by Condition 10.1 (iii) of the Dartbrook consent. MR advised that he understood these funds can be made available for studies requested by the CCC and are to be managed by the Chairperson. *DS advised he was not aware if the fund was currently active.* JL indicated she could not remember whether or not the fund had every been established and if it had any actual funds.

**9. MEETING CLOSED**

- 9.1 The formal meeting closed at 10:55am.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting is planned for 13 June 2017 at 10am.