

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 11th July 2018**

PRESENT:

Cnr Kiwa Fisher	KF	CCC Chair and Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Mathew Pringle	MP	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Alisa Evans	AE	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Jennifer Lecky	JL	Local Community Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Local Community Representative
Annette Rahn	AR	Local Community Representative
Andrew Roach	AR2	Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) Representative
James Bailey	JB	AQC Environmental Consultant
Dorian Walsh	DW	AQC Acting Dartbrook Environmental Officer
APOLOGY:		
Cnr Martin Rush	MR	Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Local Community Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Local Community Representative
VISITORS:		
Nil		

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened by KF (Chair) at 10:00am.
- 1.2 Apologies as per above list.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- 2.1 Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Nil

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes dated 18 April 2018 as true and correct.

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 11th July 2018**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 JB and DW described the additional surface water monitoring locations and program proposed and sought endorsement over the program from CCC representatives. There was general agreement to proceed and TL and JL endorsed the program. Monitoring at these locations had commenced. AQC will continue to consult with DoI-Water to gain their formal written approval over the program.

6. COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

- 6.1 DW confirmed no complaints had been received and no environmental incidents had occurred since the previous meeting in April 2018.

7. BUSINESS ARISING

- 7.1 JB described the scope of changes proposed for the Underground Modification (MOD7) application, including the five year extension of mine life to December 2027. It was noted that the EA document for MOD7 is currently on public exhibition until 25 July 2018. The following issues were discussed in relation to MOD7:
- Road truck operations were proposed 11 hours per day in daylight hours, weekdays only. Up to four trucks would operate in a cycle between the Kayuga Entry and the new shaft proposed to be developed.
 - TL asked whether the unsealed section of road would be tarred. AR2 confirmed that AQC had considered the option of sealing the haulage route but had decided to proceed with water treatment to minimise dust impacts from haulage.
 - JB noted that consultation over MOD7 Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) was underway with MSC and that there had not been a meeting to date with UHSC. KF and MP stated that UHSC were seeking a meeting. It was agreed that JB should contact UHSC to arrange a suitable meeting to discuss MOD7 issues.
 - JL requested that AQC see if MSC would allow greater community input to VPA consultation in terms of suitable local projects. JB will raise the matter in consultation with MSC, however it was noted that Council have policies in place on development contributions.
 - JB confirmed that newsletter 7 had been distributed to local landholders and the Aberdeen community. KF suggested that a public meeting may be required in Aberdeen. JB noted that the preference for any consultation with stakeholders in Aberdeen would be one on one or via an open forum, rather than a one-off public meeting where there is always the potential for an outspoken individual(s) to hijack the meeting.
 - TL confirmed with AR that the monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions from site would continue.
 - TL also confirmed that there would not be any land acquisitions for MOD7 on Blairmore Lane. DW to send map of predicted noise impacts from EA to TL.
 - AR sought clarification on the extent of mining proposed for MOD7. JB confirmed this from a plan of the proposed elements of MOD7 attached to the CCC presentation.
 - AR also asked about traffic impacts from MOD7, particularly for Dartbrook Road. JB confirmed that the anticipated construction workforce was 25, with an operational

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 11th July 2018**

workforce of approximately 99 persons. The plan for MOD7 would be for the workforce to continue accessing both the East and West Sites via the New England Highway, unless individuals were living locally in Dartbrook. AR2 also noted that AQC will maintain public access to the Dartbrook site access road and that a review of intersections and signage would be completed before any truck haulage of coal takes place for MOD7.

- KF referred to the MOD7 air quality assessment and noted that it considered Mount Pleasant Mine contributions to cumulative impacts and questioned why West Muswellbrook had not been included. JB noted that West Muswellbrook had a Gateway Certificate but the proposal remained as a concept only. Under current precedent, a development would usually consider air quality impacts from existing developments and proposals at foot where detailed mine plans were available only. That is, any future assessment for West Muswellbrook would need to consider both Dartbrook and Mount Pleasant operations.
 - MP asked whether there would be any issues around road trucks leaving an approved mining area. JB confirmed that the NSW resources regulator [NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Resources and Geoscience] had been consulted over the modification application and that they were comfortable that the proposed haulage would not be an issue under the *Mining Act 1992*.
 - MP also sought clarification on the noise impacts predicted in the MOD7 EA. After a review of the relevant section of the EA, JB confirmed that five receivers in Aberdeen were predicted to receive minor noise impacts less than 1dB above the relevant criteria under the worst-case operating and meteorological conditions modelled. These impacts are considered minor under the VLAMP.
- 7.2 AR2 provided an update on the open cut proposal, confirming:
- The assessments undertaken to date;
 - That longer lead-time items were ongoing; and
 - That lodgement of the open cut Gateway Certificate has been pushed back by several months to allow AQC to focus on MOD7 and recommissioning underground operations on site. A further update on the open cut project would likely be available at the next CCC meeting in October 2018 with no material progress along the approvals path proposed before this time.
- 7.3 DW updated the CCC on the borehole drilling and rehabilitation program and progress since commencement in late May 2018.
- 7.4 DW provided a general update on environmental monitoring results (for meteorology, air quality and surface water) and land management undertaken since the CCC meeting held in April 2018. The only elevated monitoring result during the period was from depositional dust gauge 897, recorded in June. This result was investigated and confirmed to be not a result of care and maintenance activities on site.
- 7.5 AR noted that the site was transitioning from UGM to Terrequip as mine operators. Terrequip had provided a competitive cost and scope of services for care and maintenance, and were implementing a number of positive changes since starting on site.
- 7.6 Next meeting scheduled for 24 October 2018.



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MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 11th July 2018

8. MEETING CLOSED

- 8.1 The meeting closed at 11:00 am.
- 8.2 DW to send out copy of the meeting presentation slides to all CCC representatives.