

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 24th October 2018**

PRESENT:

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| Cnr Kiwa Fisher | KF | CCC Chair and Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative |
| Paul Smith | PS | Upper Hunter Shire Council |
| Sharon Pope | SP | Muswellbrook Shire Council |
| Jennifer Lecky | JL | Local Community Representative |
| Annette Rahn | AR | Local Community Representative |
| Arthur Mitchell | AM | 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 |
| Tony Lonergan | TL | 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 11 July 2018 as true and correct.

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5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 DW reviewed the actions from the previous CCC meeting in July 2018 and confirmed that:
- AQC had met with UHSC following the previous CCC meeting to consult with them regarding MOD7 issues;
 - The status of the open cut project would be discussed as part of the general business of the current meeting (see **Section 7**); and
 - Hansen Bailey were still seeking formal written approval from Department of Industry - Water (DoI-Water) for the additional surface water quality monitoring program (focussing on riparian and stream health). JB noted that DoI-Water had provided in-principle support for the program and that the first round of monitoring had been completed.

6. COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

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

7. BUSINESS ARISING

- 7.1 AR2 updated the CCC on the strategic partnership announced between AQC and Stella Natural Resources (SNR) announced to the ASX in August 2018, including:
- A background summary on SNR as a business;
 - SNR experience in underground mining operations;
 - The status of the transaction process between the AQC and SNR;
 - The intent to recommence underground mining operations at Dartbrook in 2019; and
 - That SNR will provide the management team and all operational personnel for mining recommencement (pending completion the agreement with AQC being formalised).
- 7.2 JB and AR2 summarised the key steps in the assessment process for MOD7 since the previous CCC meeting. It was also noted that the entire section of the surface truck haulage route proposed for MOD7 would now be sealed, in response to stakeholder responses made during public exhibition of the MOD7 Environmental Assessment. This would include the section of the haul road between the Kayuga Boxcut and the existing Western Access Road.
- 7.3 KF expressed a community question raised with him that there would be impacts from MOD7 due to haul trucks crossing public roads. AR2 confirmed that there will be no impact as no trucks will cross public roads, including Blairemore Lane whereby the haul road underpasses via an existing cutting.
- 7.4 AR raised concerns regarding increased traffic impacts on Kayuga Road from Dartbrook employees if mining recommenced. JB and AR2 referred to previous arrangements put in place to restrict access to the site for mine employees and noted that the workforce would be required to access the site from the east via the New England Highway and the site access road, unless they lived locally in Kayuga or Dartbrook.
- 7.5 AR2 noted that there had been no additional work completed on the open cut studies since the last CCC meeting, with the focus on the process required to recommence underground



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operations on site. JB noted that any future open cut proposal would need to go through a new application and assessment process.

- 7.6 AR asked what the future plans were for the underground mining resource. AR2 confirmed that there were long term resources available for underground operations within the Dartbrook leases and reiterated that AQC's focus was on planned recommencement of the underground in 2019 with its experienced underground mining partner SNR.
- 7.7 AM and AR also sought clarification on the bord and pillar mining method and the difference to longwall mining operations. JB and AR2 described each method, subsidence impacts and the key technical issues associated with each.
- 7.8 DW went through a summary of environmental monitoring results and land management activities undertaken since the previous meeting. This included:
- Rainfall records;
 - Air quality monitoring (High Volume Air Samplers and Depositional Dust);
 - Surface water quality in the Hunter River and Dart Brook;
 - Aquatic Ecology. DW stated that the results from the first round of riparian and aquatic ecology monitoring would be available at the next CCC meeting; and
 - Greenhouse gas emissions from the site for the 2017 / 2018 financial year.
- 7.9 KF thanked AQC for their support to the Young Endeavour Scheme.

8. MEETING CLOSED

- 8.1 The meeting closed at 10:45am.
- 8.2 The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 13 February 2019, starting at 10am. DW will send out meeting planner for the scheduled date to CCC representatives.
- 8.3 DW to also send out the following to all CCC representatives:
- Copy of the agreed minutes from the July 2018 CCC meeting; and
 - Copy of the October meeting presentation slides.