

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT DARTBROOK – 13th February 2019**

PRESENT:

Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Sharon Pope	SP	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Annette Rahn	AR	Local Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Local Community Representative
Jennifer Lecky	JL	Local Community Representative
Noel Downs	ND	Local Community Representative
Andrew Roach	AR2	Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) Representative
Gavin Foster	GF	Stella Natural Resources (SNR) Representative
James Bailey	JB	AQC Environmental Consultant
Dorian Walsh	DW	AQC Acting Dartbrook Environmental Officer

APOLOGY:

Cnr Kiwa Fisher	KF	CCC Chair and Upper Hunter Shire Council Representative
Cnr Martin Rush	MR	Muswellbrook Shire Council Representative
Hamish McTaggart	HM	Muswellbrook Shire Council

VISITORS:

Nil		
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1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:

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

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- 2.1 SP noted that HM has declared an indirect pecuniary interest in relation to Dartbrook. SP will therefore replace HM as Muswellbrook Shire Council representative on the CCC.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Nil

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 Confirmation of previous minutes from November 2018 meeting as true and correct.

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5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 JB confirmed that the additional surface water monitoring locations and program discussed at the previous CCC meeting had been formally endorsed by DoI-Water in November 2018. AQC have been progressing with the monitoring program while waiting on formal sign off from DoI-Water and will provide updates to the CCC at future meetings.

6. COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

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

7. BUSINESS ARISING

- 7.1 AR2 provided an update of the strategic partnership proposed between AQC and SNR. It was noted that the anticipated date to formalise the transaction was March 2019. Future development plans would be publicised following disclosures in accordance with ASX reporting requirements. GF from SNR was also introduced at the meeting and provided an overview of his experience in the mining industry to the CCC.
- 7.2 AR2 then described the status of the current Underground Modification (MOD7) proposal. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) have completed their assessment of MOD7 (in January 2019) and referred it to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination. AR2 confirmed:
- The general scope and layout of MOD7, including the proposed bord and pillar mining method and the extension of mine life; and
 - That the DPE Assessment Report found that the MOD7 proposal was approvable, subject to updated conditions of consent being put in place; and
 - That the IPC has nominated three of its members to form a panel to assess the proposal. The ICP panel will decide the additional independent assessment process to be followed for MOD7. AR2 directed the CCC to the IPC website for updates on the status of the MOD7 assessment.
- 7.3 the general scope of MOD7 (bord and pillar mining and that the DPE assessment report found that the proposal was approvable, subject to updated conditions of consent being put in place. The IPC has nominated three of its members to form a panel to assess the proposal, who will determine the additional independent assessment process to be followed for MOD7. AR2 directed the CCC to the IPC website for updates on the status of the MOD7 assessment.
- 7.4 DW provided a general update on environmental monitoring results (for meteorology, air quality and surface water) and land management undertaken since the last CCC meeting held in November 2018. The only elevated monitoring result during the period was from depositional dust gauge 897, continuing a trend of higher results during 2018. DW confirmed that these results were not a result of care and maintenance activities on site.
- 7.5 AR2 confirmed that the next Dartbrook newsletter would be prepared and distributed to the local community in March 2019.
- 7.6 Next meeting scheduled for 15 May 2019.



Australian Pacific Coal

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8. MEETING CLOSED

- 8.1 The meeting closed at 10:30 am.
- 8.2 DW to send out copy of the meeting presentation slides to all CCC representatives.