

**MINUTES OF THE DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING – 20 December 2023**

<b>ATTENDEES:</b>		
Lisa Andrews	LA	Independent Chairperson
Annette Rahn	AR	Community Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Community Representative
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Community Representative
Allison McPhee	AMC	UHSC Councillor
Theresa Folpp	TF	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Representative
Geoff Mackenzie	GM	Dartbrook Operations HSEC Manager
James Bailey	JBA	James Bailey & Associates
Dorian Walsh	DW	James Bailey & Associates ( <i>minute taker</i> )
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		
Jennifer Lecky	JL	MSC Councillor
Paul Smith	PS	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) Representative
Jeff Beatty	JB	Dartbrook Operations Planning and Approvals Manager

### 1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened by LA at 09:09.
- 1.2 LA welcomed all attendees. The above apologies were noted.

### 2. DECLARATIONS

- 2.1 LA made a declaration in relation to her appointed role as Independent Chair to the CCC and confirmed the process for any declarations from CCC members. LA provided hard copies of the new governance forms will also send out via email to all CCC members who have not already provided these.

### 3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 LA confirmed there were no comments on the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 September 2023. Final minutes of the meeting were sent out on 11 October 2023.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 LA confirmed there were two action items noted during the previous meeting. These included:
  - o JB providing an update on any further discussions between Dartbrook and renewables project developers regarding the use of the Dartbrook mine access road for renewables project vehicle movements.

GM provided an update on this action item. Three groups had approached Dartbrook regarding use of the mine access road for Oversize Overmass (OSOM) vehicle movements required for renewables projects. A meeting with these groups had been held in November. GM noted that Dartbrook had a number of concerns regarding the size of the loads, the number of movements proposed (approximately 1,700) and the potential

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impacts to the site access road and bridge infrastructure. Dartbrook had also encouraged the groups at the meeting to develop an overall strategy for the OSOM movements required in consultation with Council, however GM noted nothing further had been discussed or resolved.

AM noted that due to the need to use the Golden Highway rather than the Singleton and Muswellbrook bypasses (as had originally been planned), further assessment of contingencies and impacts was required.

LA thanked GM for the update and confirmed that the action was adequately closed out.

- LA sent out draft Terms of Reference and declaration documents to all CCC members with the previous meeting minutes. LA confirmed that this information had been provided via email on 11 October 2023. No questions on these forms or the associated requirements were raised. Accordingly the Terms of Reference for the Dartbrook CCC was ratified.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 LA confirmed the correspondence since the previous CCC meeting noted in the December meeting agenda and that no additional correspondence had been received.

## **6. PROJECT / COMPANY UPDATE**

- 6.1 GM provided an update on the Dartbrook restart schedule:
- The funding update noted on the ASX release of 30 November, announcing terms for a \$60M USD deal. This funding was expected to arrive by the end of the calendar year and allow the process to prepare for the restart of mining to continue from early 2024. This would include shotcreting of the Hunter Tunnel and replacement / maintenance of conveyor belts and structure, pipelines and safety signage, etc;
  - AR asked when the lease (approval) period would run out. GM confirmed that this would expire in December 2027;
  - TL questioned the point at which an extension would be required for operations to continue beyond 2027. GM responded that if mining operations had restarted and were proven, then an extension could be lodged in late 2024.
  - TL also enquired whether any coal extracted would be washed. GM noted that there was no plan to wash coal in the first six months after the recommencement of operations, with coal to be blended by external parties to meet target specifications. GM also noted one advantage of bord and pillar operations was the greater flexibility to target better coal quality in this initial period.
  - JBA asked GM for an update on the employment situation. GM stated that there are roughly 10 workers per shift underground, plus surface support. The workforce would initially be contracted, however Dartbrook were going through the process to secure an agreement to employ the mining workforce directly.
  - AM asked whether the conveyor would be rebuilt. GM confirmed that was the case, with conveyor structure and belts to be brought up to current specifications in Q1 2024.
  - TL asked for an update on the water situation in the Hunter Tunnel. GM noted the situation had improved with the general maintenance works underway in the tunnel. Seepage of water into the tunnel is very manageable and is being directed into the goaf storages.

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**7. PROJECT UPDATE – ENVIRONMENTAL & LAND MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 DW outlined stakeholder consultation that had occurred since the previous CCC meeting.
- 7.2 GM noted that Dartbrook have given in-principle support as the Mining Leaseholder to the Dorset Road upgrade proposed by MACH Energy, however the land in question was owned by Paspaley / Trepang. TL explained the background behind the proposed road upgrades and the strategy for Castlerock Road closure.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 8.1 TF provided an update the Lostock Dam to Glennies Creek Dam Pipeline Project and MSC involvement. TF has recommended that there is a presence from the mining industry on the Project through the Minerals Council.
- 8.2 TF also noted that Mount Pleasant were seeking to modify their existing DA 92/97 for an extension in time of approved operations until 2032 and an increase in ROM (Run of Mine) coal extraction to 12 Mtpa. MSC expect that this will be lodged in Q1 2024.
- 8.3 LA asked whether the site would shut down over Christmas. GM confirmed that there would be a skeleton crew on site continuing the underground preparation work during this time.

**9. MEETING CLOSE**

- 9.1 LA scheduled the next CCC meeting for Wednesday 20 March 2024, starting at 09:00am. The remaining 2024 meeting dates were tentatively scheduled for:
  - o 19 June 2024;
  - o 18 September 2024; and
  - o 4 December 2024.
- 9.2 LA closed the meeting at 09:41, thanking all members for their attendance and contribution throughout 2023 and wishing all a happy festive season and safe new year.

**Action Items – Nil.**