

**DARTBROOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – 27 November 2024**

ATTENDEES:		
Lisa Andrews	LA	Independent Chairperson
Annette Rahn	AR	Community Representative
Tony Lonergan	TL	Community Representative
Kemer Edwards	KE	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Theresa Folpp	TF	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Representative
Adam Williamson	AW	Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) Councillor
Paul Smith	PS	UHSC Representative
Jeff Beatty	JB	Dartbrook Operations Head of Operational Services
Geoff Mackenzie	GM	Dartbrook Operations HSEC Management Advisor
John Swan	JS	AQC Representative (Guest)
James Bailey	JBA	Xenith Consulting
Dorian Walsh	DW	Xenith Consulting
APOLOGIES:		
Arthur Mitchell	AM	Community Representative
De-Anne Douglas	DD	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council

1. INTRODUCTION & APOLOGIES:

- 1.1 The meeting was opened by LA at 09:08.
- 1.2 The above apologies were noted. Introductions were made, including for AW.

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.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 LA confirmed that final minutes of the previous CCC meeting were sent out on 10 October 2024.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 LA noted the actions arising from the previous minutes, including:
 - Appointment of a MSC Councillor delegate to the CCC. LA is continuing to consult with MSC over this and will provide an update at the next CCC meeting;
 - Providing a copy of the August newsletter to all CCC representatives, which had been completed on Tuesday 26/11; and
 - The need to manage African boxthorn around the Evaporation Ponds site. JB noted further spraying had been completed since the last CCC meeting and that a follow up treatment will be completed if required.

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5. CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 LA noted that correspondence since the previous CCC meeting was included in the December 2024 meeting agenda and subsequent reminder email.

6. PROJECT / COMPANY UPDATE

- 6.1 JB provided an update on the Dartbrook restart schedule, including:
- The schedule for restart of the wet plant (washing at the CHPP) and plans for first train. The first train was scheduled to deliver coal to Eraring Power Station on 2 December, a week later than was originally planned;
 - Dartbrook are also looking at options to supply other domestic power stations over the summer months;
 - There is approximately 27 kt of coal stockpiled at the CHPP at the moment, after first coal was delivered in late August. Some of this coal has been moved to the longitudinal stockpiles;
 - Safety statistics are tracking well against NSW underground benchmarks;
 - Boom gates have been installed at the CHPP entry since the last meeting, with the workshop gates locked when access is not required;
 - A real-time noise monitor installed north of the CHPP and will be used to review and manage noise from the CHPP; and
 - The appointment of a CHPP Manager.
- 6.2 JB noted that Dartbrook and Trepang have been meeting with EnergyCo over the OSOM vehicle movements required to transport wind farm components past Muswellbrook and the ability to use the Dartbrook access road. EnergyCo have been surveying the access road and bridges. JB's concerns remain around potential impacts to mine access if there is damage to access road or bridge infrastructure from OSOM loads.
- 6.3 JB also noted that a local landholder had been in contact with him regarding mine-related traffic concerns with speeding on Blairmore Lane. In response, JB has provided a toolbox talk to all Dartbrook employees regarding site access and road safety requirements and has approached Council on getting new signage installed.
- AR mentioned that there have been similar issues with speeding on Dartbrook and Nandowra Roads and AW confirmed that numerous calls have been made to Council on this matter. TL also referred to the scheduled closure of Castlerock Road, which might impact on the wider road network. Apart from an increased police presence and signage, LA suggested that Council could consider installing temporary electronic signage on Blairmore Lane to alert drivers if speeding.
- JBA also referred to the MSC Western Road Strategy (now the Mine Affected Roads Strategy) and that there might be an opportunity to review the strategy. However, the key issue was to encourage all mine workers to use the most appropriate parts of the road network when travelling to and from site and to encourage them adhere to speed limits.
- 6.4 JB stated that the new Dartbrook website had been updated since the last CCC. TL confirmed with JB that a copy of the CCC presentation would be placed on the website along with the minutes. JB will continue to review the information on the website to keep it up to date.

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- 6.5 JB provided an update on the current schedule for the DA 231-07-2000 MOD8 (MOD8) proposal. MOD8 is on track to be lodged by end of 2024, so it was likely that the NSW DPHI would put the document on exhibition in February 2025, with a Response to Submissions requested in March.

JB stated that MOD8 was seeking a six-year extension in time only, and that mining areas and methods already approved under the development consent would not change. JBA confirmed for TL that the six-year period sought was consistent with precedents for similar approvals in NSW and that the extension would align with the approval period of Dartbrook's coal lease and catch the business up to time lost during the MOD7 approval process.

JB will notify LA when the MOD8 application has been lodged and when it will be advertised for public exhibition by DPHI.

- 6.6 DW provided an update on Dartbrook stakeholder consultation and environmental monitoring results since the last CCC meeting.

All compliance monitoring data was within approved criteria and surface water monitoring trends upstream and downstream of the site were closely aligned. JB described the trends and spikes in water quality Electrical Conductivity data seen in the long-term to AW, noting these were related to salts being mobilised following rain events. DW stated that the 'Hulbert' HVAS monitoring location is not yet back in operation.

- 6.7 DW and JB gave an update on the October dust complaint received from a neighbour in Kayuga and response to the complaint.

JB noted that Dartbrook had recently assisted in putting out a fire in a hay bailer. The fire wasn't related to Dartbrook Mine activities.

AR also asked about a new road that's being put into the Kayuga Homestead. JB confirmed that this was established by Trepang to provide better access during renovations to the Kayuga Homestead and is not a Dartbrook Mine related activity.

7. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- 7.1 LA noted that no community questions were raised prior to the meeting.
- 7.2 LA advised that she has been contacted by Cr Earle Shield who introduced himself as the alternative UHSC representative on the CCC. Cr Shield had enquired about the previous Dartbrook Newsletters - JB confirmed that they could be on the Dartbrook and AQC websites. LA said that she would send him the link. On the issue of newsletters, AR and TL noted that the distribution area for future newsletters should be extended.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 TF confirmed that MSC were in the process of selecting Councillor representation to CCC's. TL indicated that a single Councillor may be appointed to multiple CCC's.
- 8.2 JB confirmed for TF that Dartbrook hadn't recorded any impacts from the recent earthquake.
- 8.3 AW noted that UHSC are seeking nominations for the Aberdeen Community Advisory Committee (ACAC) and requested that members are sent copies of Dartbrook newsletters in future. A committee is also being set up to look at funding from Dartbrook and Mount Pleasant Mine. LA will write to ACAC and see whether they would be interested in being represented on the CCC as a stakeholder group in the area. **Action.**

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- 8.4 JB has met with Cr Jeff Drayton regarding interactions with MSC. Dartbrook are currently providing accommodation and messing arrangements for up to 128 personnel in Muswellbrook. This is expected to increase in 2025 as the third miner unit is brought online.
- JB is trying to ensure that as much local spending occurs as possible. Records show that around 80% of the \$80M spent in the last twelve months has been within the Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland / Cessnock LGAs.
- 8.5 JB provided an update on the approximate workforce breakdown, which consists of:
- 70% based in the Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland / Cessnock LGAs;
 - 20% FIFO from Queensland; and
 - 10% from Wollongong, Gunnedah, Narrabri and others.
- Dartbrook have also secured an aviation services agreement with a local business for two small flights (8 people) per week from Brisbane to Scone.
- 8.6 JB is also looking at:
- The possibility of providing housing finance packages to Dartbrook workers, to encourage them to move into Muswellbrook. Discussions regarding potential land development in UPSC LGA ;
 - An apprenticeship program through MIGAS and a ‘cleanskin’ employment strategy, which is to be rolled out in 2025. The apprenticeship program will target locals with the likelihood that some of their training would be through the Muswellbrook TAFE.
- 8.7 LA confirmed there was no other general business.

9. MEETING CLOSE

- 9.1 LA scheduled meetings for 2025 on 12 March, 11 June, 17 September and 10 December. Each meeting will start at 9am on site
- 9.2 LA closed the meeting at 9:59 am and thanked all representatives for their input in 2024.

Action Items

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1.	Give an update at the next meeting on the process for appointing an additional MSC representative on the CCC (action held over from July and September meetings).	LA
2.	Approach ACAC and see whether they would be interested in being represented on the CCC.	LA
3.	Notify LA when MOD8 is submitted and when the Modification Report will be put on public exhibition by DPHI.	JB
4.	Send Cr Shields the link to previous newsletters. Complete – sent 6/12/24	LA