



**Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)**  
**Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting**  
**Thursday 9 November 2017**

**Attendance**

**Chairperson**

Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

**Council**

Cr Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council

**Community Representatives**

Brian Atfield Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

**Company Representatives**

Mark Townson Mining Manager – Hunter Valley Operations

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment and Community (HVO/MTW)

Leah Scheepers Specialist Community Relations

**Presenters/Observers**

Daniel Solomon HVO Site Environmental Advisor

**Apologies**

Jason McCallum General Manager (HVO & MTW)

Charlie Shearer Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

**Minutes**

Sarah Purser

**1. Welcome: Housekeeping, Emergency Procedures**

Col welcomed the group and Dan provided an overview of safety & evacuation procedures and location of amenities.

**Acknowledgement of Country**

Stated by Andrew; *"We acknowledge the traditional owners, the Wonnarua people, of the land where we meet today and pay respect to Elders, past, present and future."*

**2. Apologies;** Advised and recorded.

**3. Declaration of pecuniary interests/conflicts of interest**

**Ongoing;** Col advised that both he and Sarah are engaged by Yancoal to provide the roles of independent Chairperson and meeting note taking.

**4. Correspondence;**

**ACTION 1:** Col to provide Dan with correspondence from the Mine Subsidence Board to be circulated to the CCC.

**5. Confirmation of the previous meeting's minutes**

Col called for any feedback on the minutes for the Meeting held on 13 July 2017, no comments were put forward and the minutes were adopted by the committee. The minutes can be accessed on-line via :

<https://insite.yancoal.com.au/document-library/cc>

**6. Matters arising from previous meeting**

There were no Action Items from the previous meeting.

Andrew advised that Jason McCallum is the General Manager for both HVO & MTW. Jason would have liked to have attended today's CCC meeting, but due to another appointment, Jason is noted as an apology. Andrew provided an overview of Jason's extensive experience over large mining operations.

### **Yancoal Australia Transition**

Formed in 2004 with the acquisition of the Austar underground mine in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales, Yancoal Australia has subsequently built its business via strategic acquisition to become one of the country's most innovative coal exploration companies.

- ✚ Yancoal's major shareholder is Yanzhou Coal Mining Company Limited (65.46%) in the People's Republic of China.
- ✚ Yancoal operates or manages mines in three states (NSW, QLD, WA), with shareholdings or allocated capacity at key NSW and QLD major coal terminals.
- ✚ On 1 September 2017, Yancoal Australia Ltd acquired Coal & Allied from Rio Tinto.

### **Glencore Joint venture**

As announced 27 July 2017, Yancoal Australia has entered into a binding agreement to establish a 51:49 unincorporated joint venture with Glencore Coal Pty Ltd ("Glencore") in relation to Hunter Valley Operations ("HVO JV").

- ✚ The HVO JV will be jointly controlled through a Joint Venture Management Committee.
- ✚ Yancoal will continue to operate HVO directly until such time as Glencore receives all regulatory approvals and the JVMC is appointed.

Leah noted that it remains business as usual at Yancoal, with the same people, just with different branding on shirts.

### **Audits/Inspections/Updates**

#### ***Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for Hunter Valley Load Point Incident***

Following a formal request for additional information, HV Operations received a Penalty Infringement Notice of \$15,000 from the EPA for this incident. Hunter Valley Operations has appealed this penalty notice because it did not have necessary regulatory approvals to construct infrastructure that would have mitigated the overflow of water from the sump.

#### ***Show Cause Notice – Dust West Pit***

Following a random dust inspection undertaken by an EPA officer on 14 August 2017, HV Operations received a show cause notice alleging contraventions of operating conditions with regard to dust. HVO was invited to submit a written response to the alleged contravention, which was submitted by HV Operations on 4 September 2017.

#### ***Department of Resources and Energy Annual Inspection***

There was an Annual inspection undertaken of HVO by DRE on 31 August 2017. No feedback had been provided at this time.

#### ***EPA Environmental Monitoring Levy***

There had been a request from the EPA to provide information related to calculation of the environmental monitoring levy for the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network. This information had been submitted as requested.

**Variation to EPL 640 – Hunter Valley Dust Risk Forecasting Trial – Spring 2017**

The EPA have requested that operational data (daily total tonnes moved) and air quality data be provided for Spring 2017 and have varied the licence to include this requirement. This is to assist with calibrating a "Dust Risk" Tool currently in development stage by the EPA.

**7. Company Reports - Update on Hunter Valley Operations; Presented by Mark Townson – Mining Manager**

Source; Slide 11 : HVO Presentation

**Mining Overview**

Mark advised there was similar equipment in the same Pits as advised at the previous meeting and any changes had been quite minor. There is one dragline on a major shutdown for a total of 6 to 7 weeks, with about another 3 1/2 weeks to go. There has been a lot of planned maintenance and refurbishments currently being conducted.

- ✚ **West Pit;** Continues with one dragline 104 and one electric shovel. There had been three hydraulic excavators operating and one was parked up today. There may be an opportunity to park up one excavator next year, therefore one less machine operating.
- ✚ **Carrington Pit;** There had been no further activity since dozers had been in this Pit pushing up dirt. These works may continue in February/March 2018. In response to a query from Brian, Mark confirmed there are a couple of seams in this area, about 350,000 tonne, and recovery of this coal is in the Mine Plan for approximately 7 months of next year.
- ✚ **Cheshunt;** The Mine Plan for next year, apart from Carrington, is envisaged to be similar to this year's Plan in terms of start points, infra-structure etc.
- ✚ **Riverview;** The excavator is currently parked on a shut pad with the boom down.

Neville asked if all equipment that is part of HVO will become part of the new Joint Venture (JV) entity. Mark responded that historically resources may have been shared however he felt from an operational point of view, the JV part would act as a single operator, rather than utilising joint resources.

HVO were on track with their target of 15.2 million tonne (Mt) for production, low coaling months in March and April saw this taken back to 14.8Mt to ensure a smooth, consistent product.

## Rehabilitation

Planned Rehab 2017 – 100ha

### Year to Date – October 2017

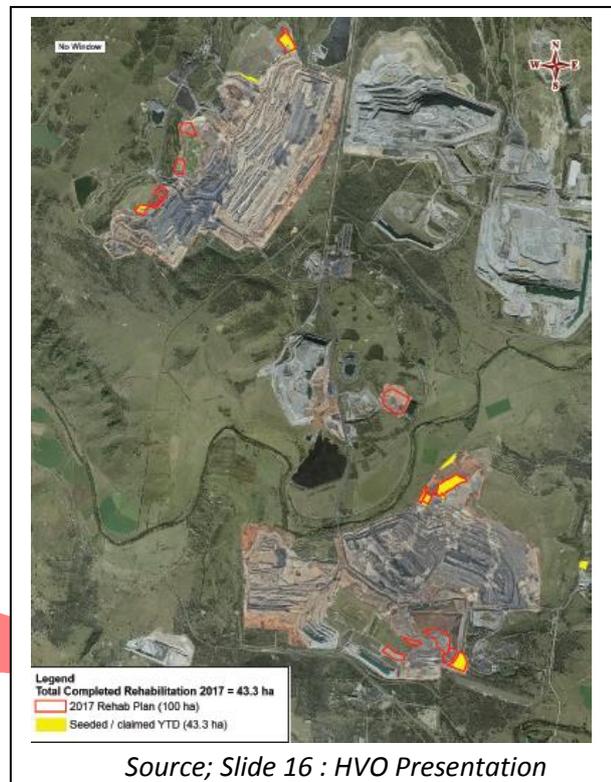
- + Released; 105.9
- + Shaped; 110.8
- + Topsoiled; 66.0
- + Seeded; 43.3

The Rehab outline is red.

43.3ha Seeded is shaded in yellow.

As of today there are 30 to 40 hectares ahead to be seeded that have already been topsoiled and composted.

Completion of 100 hectares is anticipated by year end.



Source; Slide 16 : HVO Presentation

In a response to a query from Neville, Andrew advised the target for disturbance was 151 hectares.

## Feral Pest Management

### **The following vertebrate pest management activities will be undertaken during the year:-**

- ✓ 3 x 4 week 1080 baiting program, targeting wild dogs and foxes based on historical and recent sighting locations (including ejector baiting trial; summer, autumn, spring)
- ✓ Spring results indicated an 80% success rate, with baits taken from 48 of the 60 bait sites, 70 baits taken overall (multiple baits taken in some instances)
- ✓ Wild Dog Trapping
- ✓ Winter Feral Pig Trapping (complete)
- ✓ Kangaroo Culling
- ✓ Opportunistic Open Range Shooting
- ✓ Rabbit baiting (1080) at the Carrington Billabong in August

Di advised that there remains a big issue with wild pigs and that two sows with large litters of piglets had been seen twice this week and also on a couple of occasions the previous week near a property on Jerry's Plains road.

Andrew confirmed that HVO are running a fairly heavy program in relation to pig trapping, probably the largest program that has been run for a while, and the company will continue to do this. Andrew acknowledged that feedback on where pigs had been sighted was helpful in assisting the company to ascertain what areas to target.

## Approvals

### ***HVO South modification 5 project***

- The Department of Planning and Environment is conducting its assessment and the application will be determined by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) in due course.

## 8. Community Representative Feedback

### ***Di Gee***

Di asked if Yancoal had purchased the Berry's property which is located down around Wylies Flat way and if so, would it continue on as a dairy or be let go. Di had heard there were a couple of people interested in using it as a dairy, if it could be continued for that purpose. Andrew confirmed that this property is located within the zone of acquisition but at the time did not believe the property had been purchased. If Yancoal were at the point where they were to own it, then the lease would be put out to tender. Andrew added that at this point in time he did not feel there was a strategy in place on what this property would be tendered for.

### ***Neville Hodkinson; Update from the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG)***

#### ***Copy of notes to be distributed with the Meeting Minutes***

#### **Does the Yancoal Control Centre act upon the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network (UHAQMN) Alerts ? *Refer Presentation***

Neville asked if Yancoal's Control Centre receive the UHAQMN alerts and if so, does the Centre respond to these. Andrew confirmed that the company would be keeping an eye on the UHAQMN monitoring at both Mason Dieu and Bulga and that they actually use the data from the monitor at Mason Dieu, this data is seen at 15 minute intervals and therefore very regular.

Neville felt that there is monitoring all over the place and advised his interest was to ascertain if periods of elevated monitoring results may relate to and correspond with specific weather events. Neville advised his presentation was to show what the community respond to when looking at Mason Dieu monitoring and queried if the company is working to minimise dust.

Andrew advised that Insite has been set up for HVO to provide that type of data to the public e.g. should there be an alert for one day, this will be on Insite the following day and would indicate what actions may have been undertaken by the company. <https://insite.yancoal.com.au/>

Neville explained his interest related to the Government alerts i.e. UHAQMN and if these are utilised by HVO. Andrew responded that Yancoal do receive alerts that come from the UHAQMN however alerts from the monitors next to the mine are more effective for dust management.

#### **Air Quality Peer Review Wambo / HVO Assessment Modelling; *Refer Presentation***

Neville's key point was the concern that Air Quality Monitoring does not identify the actual community experience.

### **Calling for written submissions; Refer Presentation**

Neville advised that he felt the Independent Chair of the HVO CCC needed to be aware of the depth of Community Consultation with Mining that there is now, and also of the expectation that the issues are awaiting a timely and constructive Yancoal Mine response for the Community. Neville provided Col with a CD copy of this correspondence.

Col and Andrew asked Neville if there was a list of specific conditions related to either HVO or MTW that he felt had not been met and Neville advised there were many matters and complex issues being considered by the SSHEG and noted that he had just wanted to show some subject matters that were being worked on by the SSHEG to the CCC. Neville said there had been positive feedback to the SSHEG from Planning, Heritage and Local Government.

Andrew advised that conditions are very strict on compliance and these are checked and double checked by the Regulator, Community Interest Groups etc not to mention internal assurance programmes.

### ***Hollie Jenkins***

**ACTION 2: HVO to provide detail on their Apprenticeship Intake at the next CCC Meeting.**

### ***Leah on behalf of Charlie Shearer***

Leah advised that Charlie requested her to raise his concerns in relation to a couple of recent blasting incidents. Andrew confirmed that HVO had taken each of these complaints on and provided specific responses back. Andrew noted that one or two others in September had been in response to a significant blast through dry conditions and that HVO have endeavoured to take some learning's away from this.

Brian asked if the majority of blasting complaints come from the Maison Dieu area. Andrew responded that had been the bulk in recent times, however over a year, these would be spread over Maison Dieu and Jerry's Plains. Hollie was concerned that the company had been here and blasting for so long, to still have things going wrong was alarming and she would like to see stricter controls in relation to blasting.

Andrew advised that there will always be dust with a blast, there are controls in place that the company complies to and that there are times where predicted dust may be quite visible and these are not unexpected conditions. Some reasons for dust being seen may include; a dry product and also darker product tends to be more visual, in relation to the above blasts, HVO were not able to pick up anything considered as unusual or an anomaly.

Neville feels the approach should be to improve blasting so as to stop releasing large plumes of dust into the atmosphere and noted that there are stemming plugs that can be purchased. Neville explained these plugs are called a cap, with the normal stemming inside, so when the blast hits the cap it cracks the strata rather than releasing into the atmosphere.

Andrew advised that blasting does produce gas which expands to fracture the rock, he acknowledged that this may be minimised by stemming but reiterated that dust cannot be totally avoided. Andrew noted also that whilst the cap may work for a single hole, when blasting a series of holes, this creates fracture in the rock where gas and dust would permeate.

**ACTION 3: HVO to consider merits of using stemming plugs.**

## 9. Community Relations Update

### Near Neighbour initiatives

- ✚ Near Neighbour Amenity Resource - HVO

43 properties tank clean-outs. Leah asked members to keep the message going out that this is still available.

### Near Neighbour Engagement Questionnaire

11 responses to date

This is around filling in forms regarding engagement, face to face etc and reaching out to areas to fill in

### Site community initiatives

- ✚ Blue Truck – Mental Health Awareness

Raising awareness of mental health

- ✚ Pink Bucket – Breast Cancer Awareness

\$20,000 donation to the McGrath Foundation, to support the Breast Care Nurse in the Hunter Valley region

### Community investment

- ✚ Donations and Sponsorship funding round closed Friday 3 November

8 applications received and being assessed

- ✚ Jerry's Plains Public School – Ready4School program

Proudly celebrated two year partnership and renewal for 2018

13 pre-kindergarten students have participated

- ✚ Singleton Show Campdraft

Yancoal major sponsor, attracted more than 800 people

### Upcoming activities

- ✚ Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) – School Tour program

13 sites participating, 29 tours, targeting year 5 and 9 students

St Catherine's High – HVO mine tours 13 and 20 November

### HVO Community Information Sessions

**Jerry's Plains** – 5.00pm – 8.00pm Tuesday 28 November

**Long Point** – 7.30am – 9.30am Friday 1 December

**Maison Dieu** – 9.00am – 11.00am Saturday 2 December

Leah asked the CCC to please encourage people to visit and find out about the company's activities.

## 10. General Business

Andrew advised that this was to be Dan's last CCC meeting, having taken up a new role outside of the business and Dan was thanked for his support for this committee.

## 11. Next Meeting:-

Meeting Room 1; Hunter Valley Services Building

**Wednesday 21 February 2018; Commencing at 1.00 P.M.**

### Future Meeting Dates:

24 May 2018 / 23 August 2018 / 22 November 2018

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Action	Page	Action Proposed	Accountability
1	1	Col to provide Dan with correspondence from the Mine Subsidence Board to be circulated to the CCC.	Col & Dan
2	6	HVO to provide detail on their Apprenticeship Intake at the next CCC Meeting.	Leah
3	6	HVO to consider merits of using stemming plugs	MT

**CENTRAL SWITCHBOARD LOCATED AT SINGLETON SHOP FRONT : (02) 6575 5800**

**INFORMATION LINE : 1800 727 745**

**COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS LINE – 24 HOUR SERVICE : 1800 656 892**

**Contact details for CCC Members**

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