



Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting
Wednesday 21 February 2018

Attendance

Chairperson

Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

Charlie Shearer Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Company Representatives

Jason McCallum General Manager (HVO & MTW)

Barry Coe Acting Mine Manager

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment and Community

Leah Scheepers Specialist Community Relations

NSW Gov't Planning & Environment

Michael Frankcombe Senior Compliance Officer, Compliance Planning Services

Presenters/Observers

Jonathon Deacon Environment Advisor

Minutes Sarah Purser

1. Welcome: Housekeeping, Emergency Procedures

Col welcomed the group and for the benefit of new members a round table introduction was conducted. Jonathon provided an overview of safety and evacuation procedures and location of amenities.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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

Nil advised.

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;

17 November 17; Invitation to attend HVO Community Information Sessions - 28 November to 2 December.

17 January 18; Information on HVOS Modification 5 - Notice of PAC Public Meeting - 6 February 2018.

25 January 18; Changes to Community Relations activities for HVO and MTW;

Singleton Shopfront closure and relocation of community relations staff to MTW/HVO.

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Confirmation was provided that the minutes for the Meeting held on 9 November 2017 had been endorsed by Chair and were available on Yancoal's website; <https://insite.yancoal.com.au/document-library/ccs>

6. Matters arising from previous meeting - action items

ACTION: Correspondence from the Mine Subsidence Board to be circulated to the CCC.

- ✓ Drew to circulate to members with the Draft for Comment Meeting Minutes.

ACTION; HVO to provide detail on their Apprenticeship Intake.

- ✓ Update provided at the meeting held 21 February 2018:

HVO Apprentices

First Year = 4

Second Year = 5

Third Year = 4

Fourth Year = 3

Total Apprentices = 16

Leah confirmed these figures are site specific for HVO and that the intake was four apprentices for 2018. The 2018 first year apprentices are currently at TAFE being trained in basic skills and are scheduled to be on site by June.

ACTION; HVO to consider the merits of using stemming plugs

- Stemming plugs have been designed for when stemming material was inferior, to help keep material in the ground.
- HVO has completed some work on stemming plugs and plan to do another trial of a cap on the top of a blast hole.
- There has not been much information available from other sites and HVO has so far ascertained that the plugs may be helpful for noise but that it is not likely they will assist at all around dust.
- HVO is unable to commit to using stemming plugs until a full trial has been conducted and there is enough information to ascertain if the stemming plugs would be beneficial.

Neville noted that the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG) had been active on the topic of stemming plugs both with the Mining Dialogue and the Department of Planning Compliance Officers. Neville advised that he had made a submission to the PAC for the HVOS Modification 5, asking the PAC to do a review of various Departments; EPA etc, around what community sees and what the anxiety within the community is.

7. Company Reports - Update on Hunter Valley Operations

Show Cause Notice – Blasting Incident

A blasting event in Riverview Pit on 17 January 2018 resulted in an overpressure (OP) exceedance. Both the EPA and DP&E requested information regarding the blasting planning process, monitoring results and management processes. HVO provided this information to the EPA and DP&E on 19 January 2018 and 24 January 2018 respectively. A show cause notice from the EPA was received by HVO on 8 February 2018. HVO advised they would provide a written submission to the EPA by 2 March 2018. No feedback had been received from the DP&E at this time.

David asked for an explanation on overpressure and Andrew advised that this is a displacement of air. As a result of a blast, gas is created which moves air and that can create a soundwave. The maximum overpressure limit for HVO is 120 dB. The blast on 17 January 2018 exceeded this measurement at two monitors that are located at Moses Crossing and Jerrys Plains.

Riverview Blast Face Burst

In this instance, there were two blasts as part of the sequence in roughly the same area:-

- The first blast was (RW24BFA01A);
- The second blast (RW25WHG01A) resulted in a face burst which appeared to be the cause of the overpressure exceedance.

HVO have procedures in place for designing all blasts so that overpressure and vibration limits will not be exceeded. This includes modelling, sequencing of the blast hole detonation and a typical amount of material between the edge of the bench and the first line of explosives (burden). The second blast that resulted in the face burst i.e. expulsion of expanding gasses through a previously unidentified geological weakness (potentially softer material or fracture), was the basis of this overpressure exceedance. The blast plume had been an unexpected result for HVO as modelling had indicated there would not be an overpressure exceedance.

As a result of this incident, in subsequent blasts HVO have increased the amount of material between the outermost line of holes and the edge. By adding an extra one metre of material, this has decreased the chance of unidentified weaker material causing a face burst in future. HVO has also started a review of blasting protocols such as blasting permissions, which include wind direction, to make them more conservative. It was noted that the wind conditions had changed after this blast. HVO are also trialling the use of helium balloons to allow for better understanding of local wind conditions.

Neville asked if the drifting plume reached Jerrys Plains? Andrew advised that this blast had received complaints from Jerrys Plains on dust and odour and some subsequent media attention.

Neville queried if weather stations had indicated the wind direction was from the south-east, how the protocol did not identify that this weather pattern was also over Jerrys Plains? Andrew responded that at the time of the blast the wind direction was south-east but, from Riverview, this heads towards West Pit. In addition, once the blast was designed in terms of scheduling, the Drill and Blast Team then looked at the model a few days out and the plume prediction indicated this would most likely head towards West Pit. On the day of the blast HVO then worked off the weather station which provides a ten minute rolling average and this also indicated it was alright to fire.

Neville asked if the Corporate and Charlton Ridge weather stations were the ones that HVO use to give an idea of wind pattern and Andrew confirmed that these do help to validate predictions. Neville felt that the point with wind, was that should a big cloud appear there tends to be hysteria in the community, the SSHEG wants to find a way to reduce that cloud, noting that a plume can drift without colour as well.

Neville feels these types of incidents are serious issues and he is not saying that HVO need to buy stemming plugs but rather his point is that there needs to be better stemming. Neville feels blasting needs a more decent review as this is one area that would improve mining companies relations with the community, in particular working to eliminate the angst that is created when an incident reaches the media. Neville felt the community needed to also consider where to go in this type of situation and questioned if there should be procedures in place regarding should people be evacuated or at least warned. Jason advised he was interested to see what information Neville had around stemming.

Official Caution – Dust West Pit

Following a random dust inspection undertaken by an EPA Officer on 14 August 2017, HVO 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 HVO on 4 September 2017. HVO was issued an official caution as a result of activities on the day.

Safety Snapshot

January 2018 statistics

✚	Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)	=	9.65
✚	Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate	(LTIFR)	= 3.22
	- Injuries Lost Time Injury	(LTI)	= 1
	- Restricted Work Injury	(RWI)	= 2

Jason advised that for 2017 HVO had been under the industry average for injuries and this had been based on per million man hours, so that was not a bad year. When Yancoal took over, the way they measure a lost time injury and recordable injury is different and due to this Jason suggested that there may be a 25% uplift in numbers recorded. Jason provided an example of a person going off-site for medical treatment being classed as an injury by Yancoal. Jason detailed three injuries that had occurred in 2018 and actions undertaken by HVO as a result i.e. modifying human behaviour and processes put in place to avoid these types of incidents reoccurring.

Glencore Joint Venture Agreement

- # Work continues on the proposed joint venture agreement with Glencore and Jason advised there had been a lot of work required around aligning some of the I.T. platforms going forward.
- # Expected to commence in the second quarter of 2018.
- # Yancoal will continue to operate HVO until Glencore receives all regulatory approvals and then a Joint Venture Management Committee is to be appointed.
- # HVO have Tony Galvin on site from Glencore who has been seconded into the General Manager role. Currently Tony is getting to know the people at HVO.
- # Separation of the Environment and Community Team; currently a lot of Yancoal teams have been sharing their time across the two sites, with the proposed joint Venture with Glencore there will be two separate entities i.e. two separate mine sites, with no shared employees.

Andrew advised for the HVO CCC contacts there will be no change with people and phone numbers, as he, the Environmental Advisor role and Leah will remain with HVO. Should there be new contact details such as emails and phone numbers, this information will be provided to the CCC, as well as any change to the community complaints contact details which are currently shared with MTW.

Truck Attenuation

- # Number of trucks attenuated to date: 20
- # Number of trucks scheduled for attenuation in 2018: 28
- # Number of trucks scheduled for 2019: 32

Since 2012/2013 HVO has been attenuating it's fleet, the 28 trucks scheduled to be attenuated to 118 Db in 2018 are primarily to the South Pit. The attenuation program is due for completion in 2019.

Maison Dieu Noise Compass Installation

This is a state of the art noise monitoring equipment with 26 directional microphones:-

- Capable of more accurately determining the source direction of noise
- Better response to noise alarms



Source; Slide 17 : HVO Presentation

Andrew advised that this monitoring equipment had been installed on the Moxey's property at Maison Dieu, replacing a Barnowl. A number of microphones can be seen on the array and the more microphones the better to be able to identify noise source. It was anticipated that this would be fully operational by March. There is also a Noise Compass at the Jerrys Plains town entry and these units have the capability of picking up ambient noise.

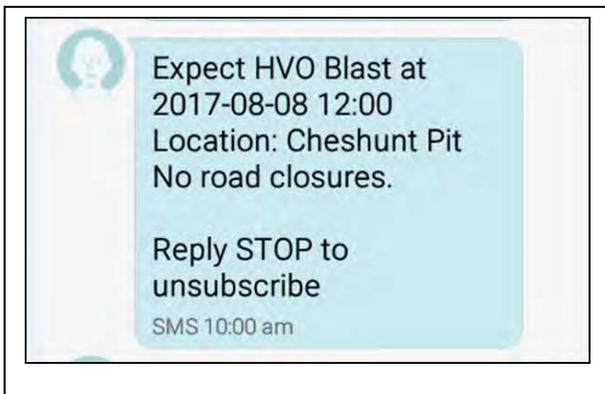
Neville asked if data from this monitor would be used by the Control Centre and Andrew confirmed the Noise Compass at Jerrys Plains currently is being utilised and the Maison Dieu one will be as well, once it is operational. Andrew advised it will be a similar situation as with the Barn Owls, whereby monitoring goes into the HVO data system and creates alerts should readings go over internal limits, this then allows for alterations to be made to controls.

Andrew advised this unit gives a compass bearing indicating where noise is coming from and from that typically HVO would need a supervisor in the Pit to validate that reading. Neville asked if operational downtime was tied in with noise monitoring alerts and Andrew confirmed yes, there is definitely a variation seen depending where operations are working in the pit.

HVO Blast Notification System

Community members can 'subscribe' to SMS alerts relating to HVO Blasting Plans and Road Closures

- ✓ Notifications will be updated where significant delays are experienced or cancellations occur
- ✓ Subscribers can unsubscribe at anytime
- ✓ To subscribe/unsubscribe at no cost, please contact Yancoal on 1800 727 745 and they will register your details for the service



Source; Slide 18: HVO Presentation

Note; you can choose to subscribe or alter the subscription yourself, however this would be at your own cost (mobile carrier's SMS rate).

- ✓ SMS received by the subscriber are at no cost to the subscriber.
- ✓ The weekly HVO Blast Schedule is also available on-line via Insite: <https://insite.yancoal.com.au/>

Text blasting notifications will advise blast date, time and expected road closures for the Golden Highway and Lemington Road. There are now three options to find out about blasting schedules; the SMS notification system, the 1800 Hotline and Yancoal's website - Insite.

Neville asked what the take up had been for the SMS service and Brian noted quite a few folk had signed up at the Community Sessions held in Jerrys Plains in November 2017. Brian advised that he had subscribed and felt it was beneficial. All members agreed that this was a handy service, Leah offered to sign Charlie up and she asked that the CCC representatives let other community members know about the service.

InSite – Environmental Monitoring Website

InSite website is HVO's public reporting website which provides regulatory information and environmental monitoring data. Environmental monitoring data is for the previous 24 hour period and includes, noise, air quality, blasting and meteorological conditions.

HVO put detail up around what they have done as a response to environmental alerts.

The website also has links to a number of reports and documents such as CCC minutes and presentation

Mining Operations

HVO are mining three Pits;

West, Carrington and Cheshunt.

- ✚ **West Pit;** This is HVO's biggest pit with one dragline operating.
- ✚ **Carrington Pit;** HVO has come back into this area which had been bulk pushed a few years back and where there was a strip of low ratio coal not mined. There will be tailings placement later in the year.
- Cheshunt;** 70% of coal comes from this Pit, and there can be 50 trucks operating on any shift.
- ✚ **Riverview;** The excavator has gone from Riverview back to Cheshunt. This Pit is the closest to Jerrys Plains and the Golden Highway. HVO has stringent environmental monitoring processes in place to manage air quality and noise.

Rehabilitation

2017 Review

Planned rehabilitation for 2017 was 100 hectares

Actual rehabilitation 2017:

- ✚ Released; **164.5 ha**
- ✚ Shaped; **143.8 ha**
- ✚ Topsoiled; **105.6 ha**
- ✚ Seeded; **103.2 ha**

Year to Date – January 2018

Planned rehabilitation for 2018 is 100 hectares

2017 carryover dump release is 51.5 hectares

An important point is the release and this is when the mine delivers enough material to the dump to start rehab.

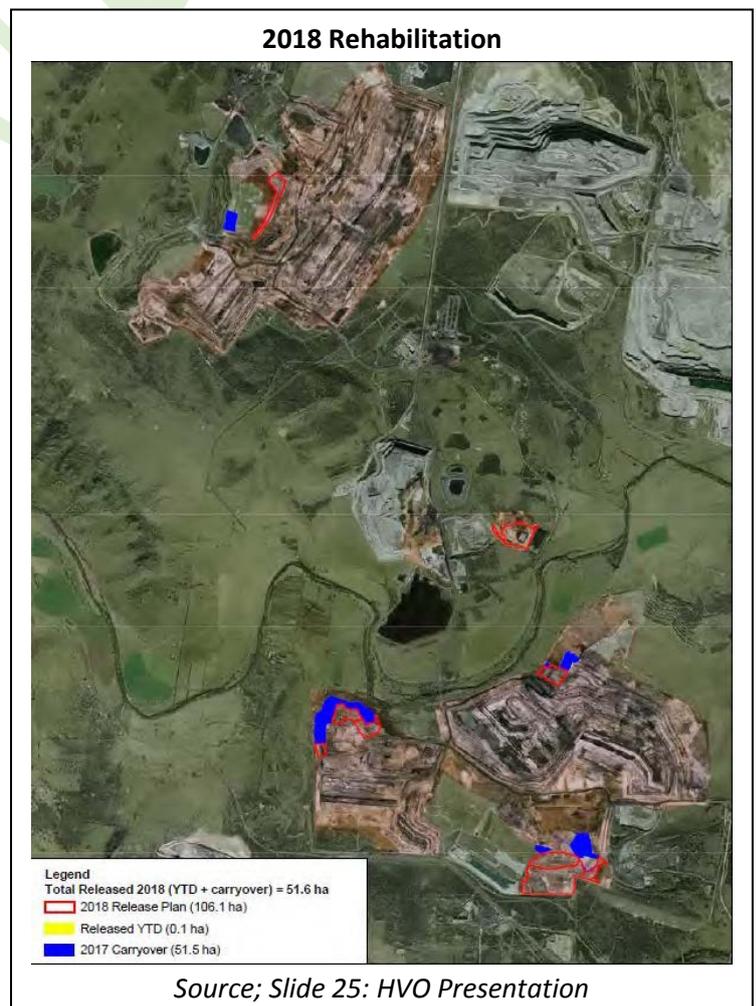
When conditions are more suitable for seeding in Autumn, HVO will get ahead of the game and seed.

Areas planned for rehab are marked in red and blue.

From the Golden Highway a mine dump can be seen and that is going to be rehabilitated which will help close out that area and improve visual amenity. In addition, there will be the screening of Lemington Road.



Pit locations Source; Slide 19 : HVO Presentation



Source; Slide 25: HVO Presentation

Feral Pest Management

An overview of Vertebrate Pest Management for 2017 was provided to members. HVO will continue to carry out seasonal vertebrate pest control programmes during 2018 to limit feral pest impacts on landholdings and surrounding neighbours.

Programmes for 2018 include:

- ✓ Three 1080 ground baiting programmes scheduled to be undertaken during summer, winter and spring to target wild dogs, foxes and rabbits.
- ✓ Wild dog/fox trapping.
- ✓ Feral pig trapping.
- ✓ Opportunistic shooting.
- ✓ Commercial kangaroo harvesting.

Feral Pig Trapping Program

- ✓ This operates on a bounty system
- ✓ There had been 13 pigs trapped in the Wondewoi area

HVO advised that they have a bounty system in place whereby people are paid for quantities and certain types of pests, with tags also being provided to the licensed shooters. HVO has found this to be a successful way of getting good numbers and provided an overview of areas that are under control through animal management and also where there is more than one provider used. In addition, HVO get licensees involved with pest control on their own properties.

8. Community Representative Feedback

Charlie Shearer

Col asked how the situation was with wild pigs and Charlie noted that they are still located around on Maison Dieu flat and was concerned that no one seemed to be worrying about them.

Di Gee

Di said that she had addressed some issues around wild pigs with Leah and advised that from the end of Lemington Road nearly right to Jerrys Plains, all the farms along that flat have had pigs running up and down there. Di felt that if it was not pigs, that it may have been dogs running cattle through their fences. Brian felt they had been coming out of Wandewoi and the place next door to that.

Di's main concerns around the wild pigs were:-

- Digging up of weeds and bushes.
- Potentially contaminating cattle.
- Lucerne paddocks being ripped up.
- Stock feed being eaten.

Leah advised that feedback from HVO is that the company will continue with feral management, noting that 13 pigs had been trapped in the Wondewoi area and Leah will keep Di updated. Di advised that people along that river flat would question what the company was doing and the more feedback provided to Di, the more she can share.

Neville Hodkinson

Neville felt when looking at reports coming out, there were still high levels of dust coming over and questioned if the response at the Control Centre was not enough to control those figures. Andrew did not have that data available for HVO at this meeting but advised that the experience at MTW had been similar. Andrew noted that machinery down time at MTW in 2017 had been almost double to that in 2016 and advised this had been a direct result of responses to air quality alarms and had proven that these alarms were coming through - triggering the company to stop machinery to minimise dust. Andrew noted also that the conditions had been extremely dry in 2017 and that HVO are trying to do all they can to minimise dust.

Neville feels dust is showing up at Jerrys Plains and Maison Dieu and that would be expected, he asked what other focus HVO has to limit dust concerns, other than shutting down equipment, and queried if there was any concern that rehab was not keeping pace to point and that too much dust may be coming off stock piles. Andrew responded that dust concerns are primarily caused by active equipment, not exposed land, and that HVO continue to aerial seed every year the land that is not ready to rehab. In addition, HVO manage haul roads with water carts, and if conditions get too windy and equipment cannot be relocated, the only option is to shut them down until conditions improve. Neville had some concerns about ongoing emissions i.e. from trucks and the dragline.

Presentation by Neville on behalf of the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG)

Copy of Neville's notes to be distributed with the Meeting Minutes

Neville felt that the biggest impact on air quality was combustibles. Neville was concerned that there was too much blast material followed by dust being released into the atmosphere and that is what needs to be trapped. Jason explained that previously their blast initiations had been from the surface with detonation at valid points, the company now uses electronic detonations that are controlled under the surface. Neville felt there should be proper monitoring and video recording of blasts and Jason confirmed that the company does do this.

Neville showed examples of what stemming / capping products look like. Jason asked if Neville knew of a stemming plug manufacturer in Australia that HVO could contact and the name BF Carr came up in discussion. Neville felt that if concerns around blasting could be removed, then that would reduce the angst coming out of the community.

9. Presentations

HVO South Modification 5 Update

The Independent Planning Assessment Commission's Public Meeting held was held 6 February at the Singleton Civic Centre. HVO were awaiting the Independent Planning Assessment Commission's determination and will advise the CCC of any update.

Community Relations Update

Community Information Sessions

Three sessions held had been held over November and December at Jerrys Plains, Long Point and Maison Dieu. 49 community members had attended and the topics of discussion had been focussed around:-

- ✚ The Yancoal transition
- ✚ November CCC Meeting information
- ✚ SMS blast system and InSite Environment Monitoring web page
- ✚ Land management; Rehabilitation and Feral Pest Management Programs
- ✚ Community investment
- ✚ HVOS Modification 5 Project
- ✚ Programmed; employment opportunities

Leah felt the level of attendance had been a good response and thanked Brian for the Jerrys Plains Hall Committee's BBQ catering to support the information session. There were many different topics covered with community and overall the sessions had been very well received. Leah asked if there had been any questions or feedback from the Jerrys Plains community and Brian advised no, that attendees had seemed to have been pretty happy in their response to the session.

Near Neighbour Initiatives

HVO's Near Neighbour Amenity Resource 2017 Program had been to conduct tank cleaning and Leah advised that 50 properties had participated in that program.

Leah advised that feedback was now required for HVO's 2018 Amenity Resource Program and was seeking input from the CCC as to what would be of interest to HVO's Near Neighbours. Leah provided the following examples of what the company could offer; installation of under-sink water filtration system and supply of water filters for a 12 month period (equates to a set of 6 filters), first flush, roof gutter cleaning and air conditioner unit/filter cleaning. Members expressed their appreciation for all the programs that were on offer from Yancoal and felt they all had their own merits.

In response to a query from Di, Neville advised his understanding from the Health Department was that water tanks should be cleaned every two years. Di felt then that the community may be appreciative of air conditioner unit filter cleaning and from a round table discussion, it was noted that the CCC had mostly indicated that under sink filtrations systems / water filters was the most likely initiative to be well received by other members of the community.

Brian advised that he has water filters on as they get a sludge in their gutters, his water was clear but not drinkable and after filters had been installed the water was totally different to drink. Charlie has had his water tank cleaned out twice and was very concerned how anyone could drink it, as it seemed like plain mud had come out of the tank.

In response to an issue Charlie had with the servicing of his air conditioning, Leah advised that she would follow that up for him.

HVO advised that 7 people had taken up their offer to do First Aid Training and an invitation was now open for community to participate in this Training again. The following dates were provided for 2018; 29 March, 24 May, 26 July, 27 September and 29 November.

Community Investment initiatives

2017

Leah provided an overview of Quarter 4 2017 HVO Donations and Sponsorship applications. Brian noted that the Jerrys Plains School of Arts Hall Committee - Community Christmas Event in 2017 had been very successful with around 60 or so adults and a lot of children there. Brian said that there had been raffles and a lot of children's activities such as a water slide and jumping castle, he felt that no one had wanted to go home and he thanked Yancoal for their support.

2018

Leah advised that the 2018 community investment program was being developed.

Upcoming Community Activities

Diary Dates for 2018:-

6 to 15 April; The Hunter Coal Festival will see a range of events during that timeframe and more information can be found at <http://huntercoalfestival.org.au/>

4 May; The Outstanding Business Awards 30 year anniversary will be held by the Singleton Business Chamber and the host and key note speaker had been confirmed as Kerri-Anne Kennerley

10. General Business

Brian asked what locations the four Apprentices had come from, as that detail had been of importance to Hollee. Leah advised there was one apprentice from Singleton and three from the Cessnock/Maitland area. Jason confirmed that HVO's instructions were to directly target the Hunter area and if there was anyone put forward outside of that area, the company would have needed to know why, he felt that it was clear that there was a significant number of young people in the area.

Charlie thanked the CCC for the card sent to him whilst he had been in hospital and Col responded that Charlie's presence at the meetings had been greatly missed, all members were very glad to see Charlie back.

Feedback on future meeting structure

Col asked if everyone was happy with the CCC meeting format and Leah wanted to know if members would like to see more Tours incorporated. The CCC responded that they would like to get out and suggested; rehabilitation, a blast and the dragline. Collectively the group was happy for the company to organise tours around what they felt would be most beneficial to the CCC.

Michael was thanked for his attendance at today's meeting.

11. Next Meeting:-

24 May 2018 (**rescheduled to Wednesday 23 May 2018**) at Meeting Room 1; Hunter Valley Services Building - Commencing at 1.00 p.m.

Future Meetings; 19 July (**proposed Wednesday 22 August**) and 22 November (**proposed Wednesday 21 November**)

COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS LINE – 24 HOUR SERVICE: 1800 656 892**Contact details for CCC Members**

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Charlie Shearer	Community Representative	02 6572 1701	
David Love	Community Representative	02 6573 2515	dawege@aapt.net.au
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