

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting Wednesday 20 February 2019

Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Todd Mills Community Representative

Jeannie Hayes Community Representative

Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Michael Wellard Community Representative

Singleton Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Council Representative

Company Representatives

Tony Galvin General Manager

Shaun Leary Technical Services Manager

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment and Community

Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer

Apologies

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

Bruce Gould Production Manager

Minutes Sarah Purser

1. Welcome: Housekeeping, Emergency Procedures

Col welcomed the group and thanked all for their attendance. Col noted that this was the first CCC Meeting for Michael Wellard - Community Representative from Long Point, and Merri Bartlett - HVO's Environment & Community Officer. For the benefit of new members a round table introduction was conducted. Merri ran through evacuation procedures and location of amenities.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners; Read by Andrew

"We acknowledge the traditional owners 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 HVO to provide the roles of independent Chairperson and meeting note taking. Jeannie advised that she works at Council and Hollee stated that she is engaged by a Sub-Contractor that does work for HVO.

4. Correspondence;

22/11/2018	Andrew Speechly	Email Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interest forms
24/01/2019	Merri Bartlett	Email requesting comments on November CCC meeting minutes and date of next HVO CCC being 20 February 2019
1/02/2019	Merri Bartlett	CCC business papers and invitation sent out Brian Atfield, Col Gellatly, other members had been confirmed by telephone.

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for approval of the minutes for the Meeting held on 21 November 2019 and members confirmed their acceptance. The CCC Meeting Minutes are available on HVO's public website - In-Site and can be accessed on-line via <https://insite.hvo.com.au>

6. Matters arising from the previous meeting - Action Items

Action; The Department's Guidelines for CCC's Code of Conduct to be sent to Neville, Brian, Di, David and Janelle for sign off.

- ✓ Andrew confirmed that he had emailed the guidelines on 22 November 2018 for sign off by members.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations; Presented by Tony Galvin

SAFETY SNAPSHOT;

Injury Rates 2018

- ✚ Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –6.65 (target is 3.00)
- ✚ Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –1.45 (target is 1.00)

Tony reported that most importantly there had been a decrease in the number of incidents and injuries on site, noting this had been a significant improvement and that HVO will continue on with this good work around safety from the end of last year.

MINING OPERATIONS; Presented by Shaun Leary

Shaun identified the locations of West, Carrington, Cheshunt and Carrington Pits via mapping.

- ✚ **West Pit;** Work had been conducted on opening up strips and the dragline had completed another pass to de-coal in that area. Operations are coming in close to Lemington Road and there is a fair bit to go in this Pit but the pre-strip is back in final position on that Road.
- ✚ **Carrington Pit;** was completed in November 2018. Approvals were in place to set up a tailings area in Carrington and in January 2019 HVO transferred that over and ceased deposition into the North Void Tailings Storage Facility.
- ✚ **Riverview Pit;** The dragline will have been seen working on its last pass of stripping towards the Golden Highway, there were about four strips to go to get back to the final haul.

TRUCK SOUND ATTENUATION

- ✓ 66 trucks have been attenuated as at 24 January 2019
- ✓ 40 trucks are scheduled for 2019 (28 of these already have partial attenuation)

COMPLAINTS (2018)

Andrew advised that there had been 26 complaints last year, with noise and blast having been the primary concerns.

Dust Complaint - 13 December 2018

Andrew advised there had been one dust complaint since the last CCC Meeting and this was from Maison Dieu at 6.15 p.m. on the 13th of December. HVO's real time monitoring data had indicated that a sudden change in wind direction and increase in wind speed had occurred at 6.00 p.m., prior to this complaint.

Andrew noted that a review of operational data had indicated that trucks dumping above 155RL had ceased operating at approximately 6.13 p.m. Another alarm was received by HVO's dispatch at 6.20 p.m. by which time the pit had already pulled up due to storm activity.

Data for 6.20 pm:

- ❖ Maison Dieu PM10 10min - 21.3ug/m³. rolling 24hr avg. 14.5ug/m³
- ❖ Knodlers Lane PM10 10min - 125ug/m³. rolling 24hr avg.10.2ug/m³

Andrew showed photos taken at 5.55 p.m. where conditions had been reasonably good and then the same area of the Pit at 5.57 p.m. that showed how strong the storm cell was that had come through and had resulted in a wind speed increasing to 60 to 70 Kilometres an hour. Andrew advised that investigation into this complaint regarding dumping on the outer rim of Cheshunt, indicated that operations had responded to alarms and complied with trigger actions. In these types of weather events it is also important for operators to respond to observations of increased. Andrew advised that HVO had conducted tool box talks with their operators discussing the need to be more responsive to changing wind conditions and the message back to crews had been that if they see a dust concern happening to call their Supervisor to decide if there is the need to pull up due to dust rather than waiting for an alarm.

REHABILITATION

Total rehabilitation – 100.9 ha

- ✚ Released – 115.9 ha
- ✚ Shaped – 88.5 ha
- ✚ Topsoiled – 71.6 ha
- ✚ Ready to Seed – 8.8 ha
- ✚ Seeded – 100.9 ha
- ✚ 2018 Planned Rehab – 100 ha

Carryover areas from 2018

- ✚ Released: 67.9 ha
- ✚ Shaped: 24.0 ha
- ✚ Topsoiled / Ready to Seed: 8.9 ha

2019 Annual Rehab Plan

- ✚ 2019 Rehab: 86 ha

Andrew advised that HVO had a good start to the year confirming the rehab target is 86 hectares and identified the proposed rehab areas via mapping. Andrew noted that rainfall would be of great benefit to get rehab successfully moving forward and acknowledged that the lack of rain is something impacting on everyone in the region.

FERAL PEST MANAGEMENT - 2018

Program of Activities

Andrew provided an overview of all the work that had gone into HVO delivering this program in 2018, he noted that there had been synchronised baiting and trapping programs that had targeted pigs and wild dogs undertaken on a regional basis, in conjunction with the Local Lands Services and other Industry.

Rationalisation of Pig Control Programs : 2018 Feral Pig Control Program

Andrew provided an overview of the 2018 Feral Pig Control Program indicating where feral pigs had been controlled and the results, along with the proposed locations for hog - eye traps, that have a camera in place and will be undertaken as part of HVO's 2019 Program.

Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Program : 2019 Kangaroo Harvest Areas

Andrew confirmed HVO continue to have a bounty program in place and he identified via mapping where the harvest areas are located.

NORTH VOID TAILINGS FACILITY

Andrew advised that HVO's Monitoring had detected an upward trend in salinity in a groundwater bore adjacent to this tailings facility that triggered further investigations per their TARP. Andrew noted that groundwater quality adjacent to this facility is naturally saline due to presence of coal seams and that an increase in sulphate had indicated seepage of water from the tailings. Andrew identified the location of this area and provided an overview of the type of material located in the strata levels.

HVO had notified all relevant agencies; EPA, DPE, NRAR and RR and has subsequently put in ten new groundwater monitoring bores / piezometers, in addition to those that were already in place to assist in identifying how far the seepage had spread and at what rates. Studies indicated most importantly that this had been slow moving and that there had been no change to Hunter River quality. In response to this elevated monitoring, HVO submitted a Management Plan on what the company felt should be done to mitigate this to the Regulator who came back with some further suggestions on what HVO could look at and would apply as licence conditions. The key parts of this Management Plan were around managing any potential seepage by increasing consolidation of tailings in that facility.

HVO confirmed that they have ceased tailings deposition in that area and the next phase will be additional ground water modelling to assess with the effectiveness of tailings settlement and consolidation. Andrew advised that this situation is now quite stable with no significant changes in quality being seen, HVO will put additional monitoring in place if there is any change. In addition, Andrew also identified the Carrington Billabong River Red Gums where HVO plan to undertake additional monitoring to identify any change in the health of that community, which is not currently apparent.

Janelle asked if there was already some existing sulphate in the Hunter River and Andrew advised yes, the level is about 50 micrograms per litre. Andrew confirmed that some level of sulphate is quite common given the marine derived geology of the Hunter Valley. Andrew advised that HVO will keep the CCC updated should there be any substantial changes.

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES

Andrew advised that there had been updates to all Management Plans to reflect the new ownership. The most notable changes were to MOPs, Air, Noise and Blasting Plans:-

- **Noise;** Updated protocol for determining non-compliance (reference to new Industrial Noise Policy for Industry)

Andrew advised that the EPA had put out a new policy that deals with how noise is measured and assessed against low frequency i.e. when a noise measurement is taken, the characteristic of how much is low frequency. Andrew advised that an example of low frequency is that typically produced by the rumbling of trucks and that HVO had updated their Management Plan to reflect that protocol.

- **Air;** Use of real-time monitors for compliance assessment

The key element to this change is that HVO have been using real time monitoring for operational control for ten years and they are now using this for compliance assessment. Previously the monitoring for compliance was data from High Volume Air Samples (HVAS) that perform like a vacuum cleaner and are on timers to activate for 24 hours, every six days, whereas real time monitoring is running every day. Brian asked if real time data was worked out on an average or daily. Andrew responded that for compliance, the data is assessed against a 24 hour average and there is also an annual average criteria for the year, there are different measures with the annual average being 25 micrograms and the 24 hour average is 50 micrograms. For operational control, when monitoring is produced at much shorter intervals i.e. as low as every 10 minutes, then HVO will know when there is a potential dust issue and can act on those.

- **Blasting;** Receptor maps

Andrew advised that these receptor maps identify properties that are represented by each monitor, for example; at Maison Dieu, at the Moxey's property and Jerry's Plains across from the Hall.

✚ **North and South MOP updates submitted for approval late January 2019**

✚ **New North MOP**

- ✓ Updated rehabilitation and disturbance areas for next 3 years
- ✓ Revised completion criteria and mapping
- ✓ Rehabilitation improvement plan for management of weeds and progression from cover crops to native vegetation
- ✓ Updated rehabilitation cost estimates (bonds)

Andrew advised that direction from the Resource Regulator(RR) about the quality of rehab triggered some revised completion criteria with improved and clearer mapping. Andrew explained this was primarily about weeds in rehab and moving cover crops to native vegetation and that HVO have also updated their rehab cost estimates and bonds using a new costing tool that the Resource Regulator provided. HVO were anticipating approval in the near future and then the company would be asked to provide that security to the RR. Jeannie asked if there was a significant increase in the bond and Andrew confirmed yes, it was in the order of around 10 to 15%.

✚ **Amended South MOP**

- ✓ Revised completion criteria and mapping
- ✓ Rehabilitation improvement plan for management of weeds and progression from cover crops to native vegetation

This reflects the same again around rehab quality.

HVO's Grants Program

Making a difference -HVO Community Grants Program

\$52,246.00 donated to support 14 local Organisations and Events

Andrew advised that most of the event based projects had been undertaken, some are yet to start their programs such as; the Pre-School, Scout Group, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and Penguins Garden Group. Andrew advised that HVO had previously supported the Jerry's Plains School Preschool Program, there are around 30 children that use this program and the preschool is a key part of learning and the company acknowledged how important it was for the community to have that program. Andrew advised that HVO have committed to continue this support in 2019.

User Organisation	Project Title	Total Allocated
Wildlife Aid Inc	Wildlife warriors	\$2,700.00
Singleton Council	International Day People with Disability Bush Dance	\$1,550.00
Cancer Council NSW	Transport to cancer Treatment. Singleton	\$5,000.00
Singleton Heights Pre-School Inc.	Physical Acknowledgment of Country	\$4,181.50
Singleton Fire brigade social club	Singleton Christmas lolly run	\$1,000.00
Singleton Heights Public School	Reaching for the Heights	\$1,353.48
Singleton Historical Society & Museum	Newspaper Microfilm	\$1,800.00
Australian Stock Horse Society Eastern Branch	Eastern Branch ASHS Championships	\$1,500.00
Singleton Scout Group	Lighting and heating	\$6,000.00
Singleton Council	Pass Your Hat - Charity drought fundraiser	\$7,338.14
Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Paving of Outside area	\$5,000.00
Singleton Council	Blast - youth adventure festival (Colour run)	\$5,490.00
Penguins Garden Group	Penguins Garden Group	\$5,000.00
Salvation Army Singleton	Children's Christmas Party	\$5,000.00

Community Events

- ✓ Blast Adventure Festival 18 Nov
- ✓ Bush Dinner Dance 1 Dec
- ✓ Wildlife Warriors 4 Dec
- ✓ Salvos Christmas Party 5 Dec
- ✓ Christmas Lolly Run 10-14 Dec

Andrew advised that they had gone along to help wrap a large number of gifts for the Salvos Christmas party. Many people hadn't realised that the Salvos put on this event and felt this would have made a very big difference for those that would normally wake up on Christmas Day and not get a present.

Community Grants

Submissions from community for the HVO Community Grants Program will open on Monday 1 April 2019. Andrew advised the focus is on two round of Grants per year but he asked if something people felt worthwhile came up outside of that to take that to HVO for their consideration.

ACTION 1: HVO to advise the CCC when the Community Grants online application system reopens in April 2019

REMINDER OF HVO'S NEW CONTACT DETAILS

HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline:

1800 888 733 (free call)

- ✓ To make an environmental complaint
- ✓ Find out road closure times for blasting
- ✓ Attended 24 hours a day / seven days a week

Websites:

HVO -information about the operation: <https://hvo.com.au>

HVO InSite-environmental monitoring performance: <https://insite.hvo.com.au/>

8. Community Representative Feedback

Dr Neville Hodkinson by email 18 February 2019

Neville's feedback was provided to the CCC and his concerns around community health and air quality were acknowledged.

- *SSHEG remain concerned (of the impact on Community Health - especially children) at the high levels of PM10 Daily Averages of around 36ug/m3 emitted alone from HVO operations into the Maison Dieu and Jerrys Plains areas, and the consequential PM2.5 levels.*
- *The continuous stream of UHAQMN SMS Alerts including some received at Midnight are most unwelcome by the community and especially the Near Neighbours.*
- *By now HVO should be aware that the Community is not protected as Indoor Air Quality closely mirrors Outdoor Air Quality*
- *A further HVO Commitment is needed to minimise Mine Air Pollution at all times, even if operations are to cease and this means adjoining mines inter communications of the Cumulative Impact of entering and exiting adjoining Air Drifting Patterns on HVO,s ability to keep operating.*
- *The EPA reporting of Monthly Minimum, Maximum, Average, & Mean is a small step in the right direction, however HVO would gain better Community support by reporting and controlling Daily and Weekly Min, Max, standard deviation PM10 levels as a means of recognising the Valley Air Drifting Patterns and their impact on Community Disease.*

Michael Wellard

Michael advised that a neighbour had asked him to enquire about a blast that had occurred on Friday the 15th of February, his neighbour felt that this had been an HVO blast and wanted to know detail around its time and location.

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Michael, Andrew to look into what blast HVO may have had on the 15th of February.

Michael asked if HVO knew any detail around Redbank Power Station, as he felt that there was someone trying to start that back up, and where they aware of any joint venture that was in place. Andrew advised he was not aware of any connection with HVO in that regard.

Di Gee

Di asked what communication channel HVO's contractors use when on site and Andrew responded the mine site uses digital radio and contractors may also have their own radios. Di had received a few comments back that if people are using Channels 4 or 34 on site that they should be advised that others are hearing their conversations and some language being used is not appropriate and not needed, she asked if they could please be mindful of what they are saying on UHF'S.

Di felt that HVO had done a really good job around feral pest management and she had not seen many need her residence. Di advised that there had been 8 small piglets sighted at Shanes and the other thing she had noticed were some dog tracks in an area where their own dogs do not go. Andrew confirmed he was aware of some wild dogs and would catch up with Di for an update on sightings.

David Love

David asked with regard to feral animal numbers being reported, does that mean they are trapped and destroyed or just sighted. Andrew responded that unless they are reported as baited, then the data relates to confirmed kills and this is because with baiting HVO are only able to identify if it has been chewed or taken.

Janelle Wenham

Janelle added there is a litter of 8 pigs and one large one that are located around Maison Dieu that no one can seem to catch.

Janelle said there was a blast on the 11th of February at 1.10 p.m. that they had been heavily impacted from. Janelle felt that the blast would have been in Cheshunt Pit. Janelle reported another impact that had come from the west on the 19th of February and that early in the morning, around 8.30 to 9.00 she had been quite sick from sulphur and that felt that bad she had needed to take an antihistamine.

ACTION 3: In response to concerns raised by Janelle in relation to blasting impacts, Andrew to look into activities on the 11th and 19th of February to confirm if these were HVO's shots.

Janelle is still concerned about a wall that is changing the shape of her mountain view and creating dust issues. Janelle reiterated that an HVO representative had advised that where the wall was intended to go would not impact on her but she feels that wall is creating problems. Janelle said the noise level is alright until there are wet weather conditions but she understands HVO do not have any control over climate, her main concern is that wall is getting higher and higher and she had been told they would not see it.

Andrew advised that this is the perimeter bund at Cheshunt and Tony advised there had been subsequent changes to the plans for this bund, the key element that had changed was that HVO were going to a height of RL240 but presently only planning on going up to RL175.

Janelle said there had been a picture shown taken between her property and Bruce where there was a tree in the photo and Brian noted that he had seen that as well. Andrew felt that would have been in the Environmental Assessment report and that what is actually going to happen will be a lot lower than it was shown to be. Janelle said her point was that they were told that they would not be influenced, as operations were going to be too far back and further west. but now she is finding that she is losing her view and seeing a lot of dust and the like coming off it.

Andrew felt he understood what Janelle was talking about and how she had interpreted HVO's feedback. Andrew noted that the original design was for a dump with what looked like a fairly uniformed increase. When discussions were held with community, the view had been raised that the previous design would cut out a lot of the mountain view so there had been talks about reducing this from the south. Andrew said that now it is unlikely that the dump would get to the level predicted and therefore the plan for total height has been reduced.

With regard to Janelle's concern around dust, Andrew advised that HVO are trying to be as careful as they can and will leave that area if conditions are not favourable i.e. they did not operate up there on the day before when it was windy. Andrew advised that plans are to shape that area quite soon and then rehab, there will be another 10 metre lift and that will be the final height this dump is currently planned to. Andrew acknowledged Janelle's concerns and committed to keeping the CCC updated on progress in this area.

Jeannie Hayes

Jeannie asked if HVO were aware of another independent company conducting monitoring during the day and night. Andrew advised that they engage Global Acoustics and now also have another company that is going out to provide more information to compare with their real time monitoring. Andrew thought it may have been this company Jeannie had seen and if the CCC was interested in that information they could provide an update around this being more of an operational control.

Andrew confirmed that the Department were conducting some of their own night time monitoring and performing unannounced inspections to mine sites, so from time to time they will also be seen out and about.

Jeannie queried the area at Wondewoi across the river from her residence and asked if HVO were going to green belt that area with trees. Andrew responded that within their current approval there had been agreement to do that as part of an offset. Andrew added that HVO are in discussions with the DP&E around keeping the trees that are there, fencing it off and to conduct work on generating some of that area without planting and then swap part of that off-set with one the company has at Belford. Jeannie felt by changing this area to highly timbered may lead to an increase in feral pests and Andrew agreed. Andrew noted that HVO must remain committed to what is in their approval until there is any agreed change but he did note that the alternative off-set would be of better value.

Jeannie asked what are HVO's plans for behind the ridge line and Andrew identified via mapping what is in their current approval for works at Mitchell Pit and a basic extension to West Pit, that is relatively close to Wilton Pit. Jeannie asked when it would be likely for this mining to commence and Sean advised he would take that on notice.

ACTION 4: In response to a query from Jeannie, Shaun to confirm detail around anticipated works behind the Ridge Line and potential timing for commencement.

Todd Mills

Todd noted that he had raised the subject of the quality of tank water and the issues around the need to change filters and the expense in relation to that. Todd brought along some water filters to show the CCC to indicate what they absorb and the colour. Todd would like to see some water testing conducted at Jerry's Plains and Maison Dieu to get an analysis of pre-filter and post-filter. Todd said he'd lived out in the area for 30 years but filters had only really come in for the last 10 years, so there was concern that they had been drinking unfiltered water for a long time. Todd feels the water quality is not there, sometimes he utilises finer filters but they restrict flow and get a strong odour when they need to be changed. Todd knows that there is a lot of dust that lands on his roof and felt it would be interesting to test a clean water tank and compare that with some further testing 12 months down the track.

Di feels that the water tastes different and Brian felt there had also been discussions around "first flush" systems. Jeannie and Todd advised they had not had any success with the "first-flush" and filters and felt they had not made any difference. Andrew advised that HVO would undertake some water testing given the ongoing interest of the CCC. Todd felt it would be good for HVO to pick three or four random residences around the Maison Dieu and Jerry's Plains area and Andrew added it would also be good to get a control from a property not so close to the operation. Andrew advised that previous testing had identified that bacteria i.e. e-coli could be expected if the tank was open e.g. birds may have had access or that hadn't been cleaned out, as the key cause of concern.

ACTION 5: In response to feedback from Todd, Andrew to look into conducting some tank water testing at random properties at Maison Dieu and Jerry's Plains, along with a control property not located within close distance of the operation.

Cr Hollee Jenkins

Hollie noted that concern around African Love Grass had been raised at the MTW CCC and asked if HVO had any success with a solution to control this weed. Andrew acknowledged that this is one weed that does cause issues when you're trying to achieve diversity in native rehabilitation. To control HVO manage top soils, use cover cropping and ongoing spraying, he felt like most weeds and any pest control it is a matter of continuing efforts.

9. Next Meeting and Meeting Close

29 May 2019 at 1.30 p.m. : At HVO's Main Administration Offices

Actions arising from this Meeting:

ACTION 1: HVO to advise the CCC when the Community Grants online application system reopens in April 2019

ACTION 2: In response to a query from Michael, Andrew to look into what blast HVO may have had on the 15th of February.

ACTION 3: In response to concerns raised by Janelle in relation to blasting impacts, Andrew to look into activities on the 11th and 19th of February to confirm if these were HVO's shots.

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