

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

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

Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Todd Mills Community Representative

Jeannie Hayes Community Representative

Company Representatives

Tony Galvin General Manager

Bruce Gould Production Manager

Philip Price Operations Manager

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment and Community

Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer

Apologies

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Council Representative

Michael Wellard Community Representative

Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

Minutes Sarah Purser

1. Welcome: Housekeeping, Emergency Procedures;

Col welcomed the CCC and Andrew ran through evacuation procedures, location of amenities, general rules and expectations for visitors to site.

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.

4. Out of Session Correspondence : Circulated by Merri via email;

27/08/2019; Advice to members about HVO's Community Grants - Round Two

12/09/2019; HVO's August Community Newsletter

23/09/2019; Draft Minutes from CCC meeting held 21 August 2019

26/09/2019; Advice of HVO's Topsoil Management Compliance Audit Report

28/10/2019; Confirmation of the HVO CCC meeting to be held 20 November 2019

28/10/2019; Detail on HVO's Community Information Sessions

5/11/2019; Circulation of Agenda and Business Papers ahead of today's CCC Meeting

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the minutes for the Meeting held on 21 August 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 held 21 August 2019 - Action Items

Action 1: In response to concerns raised by Todd & Janelle, HVO to look into blasts on the 6 and 17 August 2019.

Action 2: Andrew to discuss Procurement Spend in more detail with David out of session.

Action 3: Andrew to look into a noise concern that Todd raised at the August CCC Meeting, to see if HVO's attended noise recording lined up with their real time noise monitoring.

Action 4: In response to Todd querying blasting issues on 9 May and 6 June 2019 that had been attributed to rain, HVO to check back to their rain reports for those periods.

✓ **Actions 1 to 4 completed prior to today's meeting**

Action 5: In response to a request from Hollee, HVO to provide an update on employment indicating; the numbers around apprentices, plus contractors to full times, in and out of the area.

✓ Presented at today's Meeting by Andrew

Andrew explained that Hollee's query had been about Contractors at HVO that had been converted to permanent staff and Apprentices. . Andrew advised that of the 17 Apprentices there were 4 from Singleton and of the 81 Contractors that were converted to permanent staff 16 were from Singleton. Andrew provided further detail advising that the 17 Apprentices were made up of 1 Auto Electrical, 7 Electricians and 9 Mechanical. The 81 Contractors to Permanent Staff were comprised of 7 at the Coal Handling Preparation Plant, 2 in Commercial, 22 in Maintenance, 42 in Mining and 8 in Operations.

Action 6: In response to a query from Neville, HVO to look into sharing blast tracking data to show trends and the ranking of shots.

✓ Presented at today's Meeting by Philip

Andrew explained that this action had also come from the previous CCC where Shaun Leary (HVO's Technical Services Manager;)had presented HVO's undertakings to address blast fume reduction which had involved reduction of shot size and depth. Neville had then asked if HVO could track ratings that may indicate the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Philip advised in response to Neville's query, HVO's Drill and Blast Team put together data on their Blast Fume Ratings for the period 1 May to 18 November 2019, to show trends and the ranking of fume for shots. Philip ran through a typical matrix that HVO utilise for measuring blasts from Level 0 to Level 5 and explained to the CCC how each level is rated and what it would potentially look like i.e. the colours of output. Philip noted that this data does indicate that the levels had been trending down, with lower levels of fume, so he was able to confirm that there had been improvements achieved over this period.

Philip noted that the fitting of drills with a smaller bit size had been significant, explaining that if there is over confinement the rock may not move which can generate fume, he added that fume can indicate an incomplete combustion of the explosive. With these smaller drill bits, the pattern is tighter which results in a looseness in a blast to get the muck pile movement. Phillip reiterated that there had also been a process introduced to reduce blast depth, requiring the HVO Technical Services Manager to sign off on blasts deeper than 20 metres and typically HVO are working on 15 metres.

Phillip explained that rain or the presence of water does impact on the sensitivity of the explosive so HVO would then use water proof explosives. Todd asked if HVO experience many wet holes and Philip confirmed that there can be some deeper down in the pit but the predominant risk is from rainfall, for example HVO may be expecting a dry shot but get rain. Philip confirmed that HVO assess the likelihood of fume and wind direction prior to every shot.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

SAFETY SNAPSHOT;

Injury Rates 2019

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –2.60 (target is 3.00)

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –1.11 (target is 1.00)

Tony provided an overview on the nature of the reported injuries and advised he has been out supervising safety training which currently has a strong focus on personal behaviours whereby HVO are encouraging their staff to focus at the job in hand. HVO are getting good results from this training, particularly around these small behavioural type issues and continue in their efforts to further improve safety on site.

MINING OPERATIONS;

West Pit; Dragline 104 has walked up to the far southern end of this pit where it is now operating. Dragline 341 is located in the top levels and will come down deeper into the pit. There has not been much of a change to operations in this Pit since the last CCC was held in August

Carrington as at November now TSF; Tailings emplacement continues.

Cheshunt; Shovel 340 had been working high in the spoil and was walked off to the shut down pad last week. The second larger Shovel 4100 is located in the middle of Pit 2. Phillip identified via mapping where four Excavators are mining coal in Cheshunt.

Riverview; Dragline 105 has been operating up in the spoil and is now back completing another set of strips. Brian asked if there was much work left in Riverview and Tony responded the plan is to reach a distance of 150 metres from the power lines and this is anticipated to be achieved around 2023, noting that year was the proposed shut down of the dragline in this pit. Phillip advised that this Dragline's function is to do the pre-strip and Andrew added that this will be a stop start type operation whereby the Dragline will complete its work and then the pit waits for operations in Cheshunt to come in behind it.

TRUCK SOUND ATTENUATION

Andrew confirmed that the fitting of sound attenuation was on target, with another 8 trucks completed since the previous CCC meeting and 5 to be completed by the end of 2019. Brian felt the attenuation had resulted in a good improvement in noise having personally noticed the difference.

PERMITTING AND APPROVALS

The North consent expires in 2025 so HVO are required to submit a new DA to extend the life of their North Operations which covers the northern area i.e. north of the river and predominantly within HVO's current mining areas. HVO have completed some Pre Feasibility and now moved into Feasibility phase which includes the studies required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. The approvals process has an indicative timeline of 2020 to 2023 with the aim of having the approval in place by mid 2025. Andrew explained that Pre-feasibility studies are preliminary and are to define what HVO would like to have approved prior to commencing consultation.

EXPLORATION DRILLING - EL 5291 and EL 5606

Andrew noted there had been interest at the Community Information Sessions around where HVO are up to with their exploration drilling programme. There are 4 private properties where HVO would like to drill, so the company has engaged with these landowners and draft access agreements have been sent to the property owners for their review.

Once these agreements have been executed, HVO will conduct environmental and heritage assessments prior to the submission of applications to the Resource Regulator. There will also be a rehabilitation cost estimate required for rehabilitating the exploration holes.

With regard to exploration work on HVO's own land, the Complying Exploration Activity (CEA) for drilling to be undertaken on EL5606 was submitted to the Resource Regulator for approval on 15 November 2019.

Brian was concerned about drilling being conducted in such dry conditions and Andrew responded that drilling has only commenced on HVO's own properties, not on private land, and that the company has emergency controls in place when carrying out this work.

Andrew advised there are two types of environmental assessments that HVO are required to submit to Government, he explained these cover the two Exploration Licences; EL5291 (which includes some private properties) and EL5606 which is within HVO's operation in North Pit.

REPORTING, EXCEEDANCES, INSPECTIONS & AUDITS

Penalty Notice received on 18 October 2019 for dust exceedance on 21 August 2019

Andrew advised that HVO had received this notice in the form of a \$15,000.00 fine in response to an allegation that HVO did not control dust that left site on 21 August 2019. Andrew explained that a Compliance Officer, who had been observing via the Golden Highway truck stop, had identified dust coming off the Riverview pit where a digger had been operating which had resulted in a show cause notice.

HVO advised that their OCE's had already identified this dust and shut down, however the Compliance Officer made the observation that HVO were not compliant in minimising dust. HVO are seeking a review of this notice as there are elements the company would like clarified.

Warning Letter received on 19 September 2019 from the Department of Planning and Environment for overpressure exceedance on 28 May 2019

Andrew explained that through an investigation it had been ascertained that this overpressure exceedance was related to an issue with one of the blast monitors. HVO had calculated that they would not get that level of overpressure at that monitor and believed that the wind had enhanced the overpressure reading. As a response to this issue, HVO have installed a new blast monitor with a high resolution wind sensor and intend to start using this once they have gone through the required EPL variation. The Department asked HVO for a more detailed assessment and Andrew confirmed that the company has provided that data.

Warning Letter received on 16 October 2019 from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, sediment control dam and clean water dam failure on 30 March 2019

Andrew explained that HVO's sediment dams are generally designed in accordance with Management Plans however on this occasion it exceeded design parameters. Improvements to HVO's water infrastructure are further discussed in the next section on Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP).

Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) submitted to EPA on 27 September 2019 for water infrastructure upgrades

Andrew confirmed submission of HVO's PRP relating to assessment of water infrastructure on site and comparing these with contemporary design criteria for water containment to prevent spills.

HVO have submitted a priority list of work to the EPA including indicative time frames which span over 5 years. The next stage will be for HVO to commit to another Pollution Reduction Program with the process being for the company to select additional stages to commit to on a progressive basis.

Response to Section 240 notice from the Resource Regulator (RR) submitted 30 September 2019 regarding a review of rehabilitation method and performance and maintenance plan

Andrew said this had been common to a lot of mine sites as a result of inspections by the Resource Regulator quality of rehabilitation and how appropriate are the mines rehabilitation cost estimates compared to rehabilitation status. HVO have been working with the Resource Regulator on this for a while and the RR has specifically asked the company to look at the rehabilitation method and assess the status of where rehabilitation is at.

Jeanie asked if HVO benchmark their rehabilitation method with other mines in the Glencore group and Andrew responded that HVO benchmark this against their own criteria. Andrew advised that the current criteria sets the bar for ecologically endangered vegetation whereas HVO's intent was to create a mixed pasture woodland with the type of timber and vegetation that is more commonly seen in the area, rather than that of high ecological value. Therefore HVO are currently coming up with a criteria that is better suited to putting back that type of vegetation.

2018 Annual Environmental Review – approved by Resource Regulator on 27 September 2019

- ✓ HVO's 2018 AER is approved and on the company website Insite.

EPA Inspection and 5 Year Operating Licence Review was held on 21 October 2019

Andrew advised that there had been an EPA inspection as HVO's Operating Licence had been up for review, he explained that this is a standard process conducted every five years. Andrew advised there is likely to be some administrative changes as part of this review. The EPA conducted a site inspection of HVO's loading points, South Pit and carried out a dust inspection, there were no significant concerns raised.

Independent Environmental Audit : 2 to 5 December 2019

Andrew advised that every three years HVO are required to conduct an Independent Environmental Compliance Audit and noted that Col may be contacted as part of that audit in relation to the HVO CCC consultation.

Revised Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment on 6 September 2019

REVISION OF REHABILITATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (MOP's)

Key changes:

- ✚ Currently have two MOPs these will be combined into one, maintaining any requirements specific to North and South approvals
- ✚ Revision of closure criteria to better match prescribed final land use and vegetation types
- ✚ Revising the monitoring method to improve monitoring and subsequent maintenance requirements
- ✚ Improved mapping
- ✚ No significant change to current landform anticipated

Andrew noted that at the previous CCC meeting, HVO advised they had submitted a review of their Air Quality & Greenhouse Plans and that these have now been approved and published on Insite. There are a few more management plans to be updated over the next couple of months including the MOPs. HVO currently have two MOP's; one for the south and one for north of the river and these will be combined into one, whilst maintaining any requirements specific to North and South Approvals.

Andrew advised that HVO that there will be a revision of their rehabilitation closure criteria to better match the prescribed final land use and vegetation types.

The University of QLD have been reviewing rehabilitation monitoring methods and there has been subsequent benchmarking across Glencore sites where the business is looking at all monitoring programs to see how they can be shaped to provide better data and to put an improved rehabilitation program in place. In terms of mapping within this MOP, Andrew confirmed there are no significant changes to landform but revisions are mostly in relation to rehabilitation status.

Andrew explained that HVO's approval requires the company to consult with the CCC on the revision of their Rehabilitation Management Plans (MOP) and asked if representatives would be looking to review the full document before HVO submits this and Jeannie and David asked that the CCC be provided with just the key points of the revision.

ACTION 1: HVO to provide the CCC with the key elements in relation to the revision of their Rehabilitation Management Plans (MOP).

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

NSW Government - CCC Guidelines - Minutes of Meetings

Andrew advised that HVO's consent states that the company is to act in general accordance with the NSW Government CCC Guidelines and that the current timelines are a bit longer than defined in Section 4.3 which states that within one week of a meeting, the Independent Chairperson must distribute the draft minutes to all committee Members. Then within two weeks of receiving this feedback, the Independent Chairperson must finalise the minutes in consultation with members, and ensure the proponent publishes them on its website (in web accessible format).

Andrew suggested that given the requirement is to be in general accordance with the guideline, this committee come to an agreement on how that process and timing should go and have members feedback recorded in these Meeting Minutes. This will also ensure for compliance purposes that HVO have demonstrated that the CCC has been consulted and that everyone agrees on a certain process.

HVO put forward a proposed modified process that reflects the current actuality in terms of administrative capabilities and that is for the draft minutes to be sent to CCC members within 4 weeks of the Meeting, with the provision of two weeks for members to offer their feedback. Within two weeks of receiving this feedback the Chair will endorse the minutes and HVO will upload these to their website. The Minutes are formally accepted at the following CCC where they become final and this version replaces the Endorsed Draft version on HVO's website.

Col advised that he Chairs a number of CCC's and has confirmed with the Department that their timelines are guidelines and was supportive of Andrew's feedback and HVO's proposed process. Col acknowledged that Sarah is able to provide a good level of detail and is very thorough with the preparation of the meeting minutes and his personal opinion is he sees good quality minutes being worth some extra time and Brian agreed with this.

Col would like to continue with the current process but he stated that this is up to members and asked if there were any comments from the CCC. Jeannie, David, Brian voiced their approval of the current process and other members nodded their agreement to the proposed time frame.

COMPLAINTS 2019 YTD

There have been 9 complaints received for 2019 YTD with two complaints being received since the previous CCC Meeting in August.

4 October at 11.20am - Dust coming from HVO

- *A field inspection was undertaken of the dust in Cheshunt Pit.*
- *Confirmed that four water carts were in circulation.*
- *In addition, two shovels and an excavator at Cheshunt were stopped and the proposed blast at 1pm at Riverview had been postponed.*
- *A review of environmental alarms showed that a dust alarm was received at the Maison Dieu dust monitor at 11.00am (20 minutes prior to the complaint) after which all OCE's on shift were notified and all shovels and excavators were dumping in-pit (not on the top of dumps) with no visible dust observed coming from HVO.*

30 October at 5.02pm - Odour from a blast fired in Cheshunt Pit

- *The Environment and Community Manager called the complainant at 5:17pm who advised he could smell a blast fume and observed a dust plume passing across the Maison Dieu river flats at approx. 5.00pm.*
- *The odour and plume had dissipated at the time of the phone call.*
- *The Environment and Community Manager advised that HVO had waited for most favourable wind conditions and fired within blasting permissions.*
- *The approximate wind direction at the time of shot was W to WNW with wind speed approximately 3 m/s but within HVO's blasting permission for wind speed (<6 m/s).*

REHABILITATION

Planned rehabilitation 2019 = 86ha

EOM October (including carryover):

- ✓ Released: 121.5 ha
- ✓ Shaped: 99.9 ha
- ✓ Topsoiled: 60.9 ha
- ✓ Seeded: 59.1 ha

Andrew advised that 59 hectares of the 86 hectares have been completed i.e. seeded, as at end October and HVO continue to move towards the target. Andrew added that as of today this has increased to around 70 hectares that had been seeded. Andrew identified the areas on mapping where there is more rehabilitation to be completed in the areas of Riverview and West Pit. Andrew acknowledged that HVO will not get all of these areas completed this year but will continue doing what they need to do and if more is presented, more will be completed. Andrew noted that HVO have started to shape the Cheshunt dump down as well.

FERAL PEST MANAGEMENT

HVO presented their program of activities for 2019 inclusive of synchronised baiting/trapping programs, targeting pigs, wild dogs and foxes. Detail on their Autumn program was provided and Andrew advised that the Spring program is now underway since the last CCC Meeting with the two programs being; pig trapping and a wild dog/fox control program that have been co-ordinated with Hunter Local Land Services. Routine activities are in place to address kangaroos and a wild dog/fox program has been brought forward to December 2019 due to ongoing sightings.

Andrew presented HVO's Vertebrate Pest Control Summary by pest type for 2018 and 2019. Some species in this report indicate the same sort of levels as 2018, but there had been some variances with others being down in numbers compared to other years e.g. pigs. Andrew advised HVO's Contractors are using hog eyed traps which are remotely monitored for pigs and these have shown to be more successful.

8. Topsoil Management Audit Compliance Report

- *An audit of topsoil management activities associated with mining operations at Hunter Valley Operations South (HVO South) was undertaken on 5 June 2019 by the Resource Regulator.*
- *Audit report from the site audit reflects the sound topsoil management practices in place at HVO and substantive compliance with management commitments.*
- *A copy of the report is available on the NSW Resource Regulator website; (https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1154925/Audit-report-Hunter-Valley-Operations-topsoil.pdf).*

Andrew noted that HVO had advised the CCC of this audit by email and a copy of this report is available on the NSW Resource Regulator website.

Andrew advised there had not been too many revelations and that feedback from the RR had been mostly around weed control, formalising processes, and that they would like HVO to stockpile less, which is also the companies aim. Andrew advised this audit provided opportunities for HVO to formalise areas such as monitoring and maintenance for weeds, with the goal to achieve the best soil health they can for when the topsoil is utilised. Andrew explained that when the RR conduct audits, they rank any risk findings and for HVO these had all been low or moderate.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Jerrys Plains and Maison Dieu (7 and 9 November)

Since the last CCC Meeting on 21 August 2019 HVO held two community information sessions, 10 community members attended the Jerrys Plains event and there were 13 at the Maison Dieu session. These sessions continue to be informal community catch ups with HVO staff in attendance to answer questions and provide information on HVO's operations.

Andrew believes these community sessions also support the CCC process, as it is similar information that is shared at these forums. Andrew noted the key point of interest was the upcoming drilling programme on EL5291 and confirmed there had been nothing out of the ordinary to come from these sessions. Andrew thanked those people that had taken the time to attend these events.

HVO COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM - Round 2

Andrew advised that the Round Two Grants have been awarded and noted there was a varied range of recipients with 12 local organisations being successful in obtaining funds totalling \$41,000.

- ✓ Singleton Council
- ✓ Singleton Tri Club
- ✓ Hunter Wayila
- ✓ Singleton Rugby Club
- ✓ Jerrys Plains School of Arts Hall
- ✓ Country Women's Association
- ✓ Singleton Australian Football Club
- ✓ Australian Stock Horse Society Eastern Branch
- ✓ St Catherine's Catholic College
- ✓ Early Links Inclusion Support Service
- ✓ Singleton Girl Guides
- ✓ Australian Christian College

HVO APPRENTICE DAY

Andrew said that HVO's Apprentice Day will be held 30 November and forms part of the "Giving Back" program and that HVO had previously shared detail regarding the support that had been provided to Jerry's Plains Public School. On this occasion HVO will assist the Singleton Family Support Centre with a number of projects, namely; planting vegetables in raised garden beds, installing playground equipment, installing a picnic setting and bench seat, installing a portable yoga stand and a new security light.

Andrew asked if the CCC had any feedback or issues in response to HVO's Company Update, no questions were put forward.

8. Community Representative Feedback

Jeannie Hayes

Jeannie felt it had been reasonably quiet out in the community, she was interested to know how the Upper Hunter Mining Dialog (UHMD) Forum, that was held on 19 November, had gone and if there might be any outcomes or ideas to come out that were applicable to HVO. Andrew confirmed that HVO have representation with the UHMD through Glencore, noting that the feedback through that dialogue tends to be seen as an industry initiative and would generally reflect in what HVO does and likewise the company channels back through the UHMD.

Jeannie advised that there had been discussions about dust at a meeting she recently attended and that it was not just in regard to mining but this being an impact of drought and the time of the year. Jeannie had felt certain that parts of the community would have been represented about air quality at the UHMD Forum and asked if there had been any initiatives to come from that.

Andrew felt targets for outcomes tend to be directed towards the EPA, then through those Agencies and Ministers there will be some type of response. Andrew did look at press reports and what demands had been put through to the EPA noting that some of these type recommendations, such as licensing total dust emissions from site, are not practicable as mine dust is not a point source emission (like a smoke stack for example).

With regard to Jeannie's query around air quality Andrew provided an overview on the main focus of the following two bodies:-

1. The ***Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue*** covers more than just air quality and could be likened to a Regional CCC.
2. The ***Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee*** is more specific to air quality, this is the group that set up the Air Quality Monitoring Network and have now broadened their focus into air quality management.

Andrew said that through these two bodies there are good connections for both Community and Regulatory Agencies.

Andrew asked members if they felt issues, such as air quality, were being raised and being dealt with appropriately through those forums and Brian responded that community attendance had not been very strong at the UHMD Forum but that there had been plenty of representation from industry.

Andrew felt that there had been a lot of interest in the UHMD when it started up and that had been triggered as industry grew and created issues such as housing availability, so industry had recognised that they wanted to be out front and get this feedback to manage negative issues and to also create some positives. Andrew noted that the UHMD continue to work to reinvigorate interest but it is difficult with limited community involvement, he confirmed the commitment is still there from industry. Andrew acknowledged that both broader and community input would make this body more valuable.

Brian Atfield

Brian advised on the community side that he had let Merri know that HVO's newsletter had been a bit confusing around the Near Neighbour Amenity Resource, as the wording made it seem like residents can get both under sink water filter kits and water tank cleaning. Andrew asked if Brian felt that HVO can word this better and Brian confirmed yes, that is what he would recommend.

Todd asked if there was a specific program in place, for example; three months for Jerrys Plains residents, then for the offer to go to another area. Andrew explained this resource is a discretionary thing that HVO do on a no prejudice basis to provide a positive impact to near neighbours. HVO offer tank cleaning or the fitting of filter kits annually but don't schedule these resources as this depends on requests from property owners.

To provide further context, Andrew explained this offer had commenced with water tank cleaning, then there had been the thought that people may not need another tank clean in the second year so the company decided to offer filters, in this third year HVO decided to let people decide what was most desirable for themselves being either another tank clean or filters.

Todd asked how residents access the Amenity Resource offer and Andrew advised to contact Merri who will put people onto a register and organise for HVO's contractors to conduct the preferred works. Col felt it would be interesting for HVO to report on what resources had been taken up over the year, Jeannie and Todd agreed that it would be good to know that detail.

ACTION 2: HVO to report on Amenity Resources (under sink water filters kits and water tank cleaning) that had been taken up by residents over 2019.

Brian was concerned that people may get their tanks cleaned but they are not getting their water tested and therefore worries that people may be drinking unsuitable water. David asked if there was a certain recommended period between having water tested i.e. would that be over a number of years and Andrew responded that HVO do not prescribe that but would refer people to take a look at the NSW Government Health - Guidelines on Rainwater tanks that covers drinking water. Andrew explained this Government body makes recommendations on treating water as opposed to saying how often.

Andrew asked if members had seen less pigs as HVO's feral pest management data had indicated there had seemed to have been a drop in numbers. Todd said he had not previously had any pigs at his residence but had now sighted five, he felt they were of concern around Glenriding way. Jeannie agreed that the pigs are most likely travelling.

Andrew noted that HVO had not yet shared what the Local Lands Services had achieved in their own pest management program and that is another important element in the control of pigs. Andrew noted that HVO's pest management is just one part of the LLS program and it is this co-ordinated approach that has contributed to its success.

Jeannie asked how the water situation is with HVO and Andrew responded that the company is holding steady with their site stock by accessing river water. In the past HVO have had enough water on site from rain and only in the last 18 months have been reliant on the river.

HVO would like to find other opportunities to use mine water outside of their site, Andrew explained that many of the mines are physically connected i.e. MTW, Wambo, United and the Greater Ravensworth area. Brian asked if that means water can be shifted between those sites and Andrew advised theoretically that is correct but the practicality is that the water needs to be in the right place and at the moment it is not as everyone is needing water.

Brian said there had been talk at the UHMD about shifting water around e.g. to abattoirs and it was noted by the group that may not be that easy due to the number of surrounding roads. Andrew agreed that when looking at aerial pictures the water is potentially there but to do these type of movements there may need to be a number of land agreements and approvals required. In response to a query from Brian, Andrew identified these potential connections via mapping and noted that this would be also to share water when conditions are right, not only when it is dry. HVO are focussing on more water storage and Brian agreed that you can never have too much space to hold water.

9. General Business

Nil advised

10. Next Meeting: 19 February 2020 1.30p.m. Hunter Valley Services

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: HVO to provide the CCC with the key elements in relation to the revision of their Rehabilitation Management Plans (MOP).

ACTION 2: HVO to report on Amenity Resources (under sink water filters kits and water tank cleaning) that had been taken up by residents over 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 / 7

Websites:

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

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