

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting Wednesday 19 February, 2020

Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Michael Wellard Community Representative

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Singleton Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council

Company Representatives

Tony Galvin General Manager

Philip Price Operations Manager

Michael Lawrence Mining Superintendent

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment & Community

Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer

Observers

Taj Morison Vacation Student

Apologies

Todd Mills Community Representative

Jeannie Hayes Community Representative

Bruce Gould Production Manager

Minutes Sarah Purser (arrived at 1:40 pm)

Meeting commenced at 1:35 pm. A number of people were delayed or could not attend the meeting due to the river over Moses Crossing blocking access to HVO.

1. Welcome: Housekeeping & Emergency Procedures

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners;

"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. Hollee advised that she is engaged by a business that does sub-contract work for companies that work for HVO.

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

12/12/2019; Draft Minutes from the CCC Meeting held 20 November 2019

6/2/2020; Agenda and Business Papers for today's CCC Meeting

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the minutes for the Meeting held 20 November 2019. 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 20 November 2019 - Action Items

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

✓ **At today's Meeting**

The new Rehabilitation MOP is being prepared to be submitted in 2020

- ✚ There is no change in operating areas, approvals or landforms being developed.
- ✚ The new MOP is to reflect change of ownership, variation to mining method, and there will be one MOP to cover HVO North and South.
- ✚ HVO is to progress away from Dragline to Truck and Shovel operation.
- ✚ Current Dragline Strip operation is to progress to Block Mining.
- ✚ There will be the requirement to change mine sequencing and where rehabilitation is progressed.
- ✚ Amending completion criteria and rehabilitation monitoring methodology.

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

✓ **At today's Meeting**

Andrew presented amenity resources by location being; 50% at Maison Dieu, 46% at Jerrys Plains and 4% at Long Point. Andrew advised with regard to amenity type, the breakdown was 67% for tank cleaning and 33% filters.

Col noted that there had been interest at the previous CCC Meeting around the actual numbers of water amenity offers that had been taken up over 2019 and HVO advised that there were a total of 22, comprising of 14 water tank cleanings and 8 filters.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

SAFETY SNAPSHOT;

Injury Rates as at December 2019

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –2.82 (target is 3.00)

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –0.85 (target is 1.00)

Injury Rates as at January 2020

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –0 (target is 3.00)

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –0 (target is 1.00)

MINING OPERATIONS;

Philip provided an update and overview of activities in West Pit, Carrington Cheshunt Pit and Riverview Pit.

TRUCK SOUND ATTENUATION

Andrew advised that HVO's Fleet consists of 81 Trucks, 76 of these have been sound attenuated, which equates to 93%.

- ✓ In 2019 HVO completed fitment of 8 sound attenuation kits to haul trucks with a further 5 are to be installed in 2020.
- ✓ Engineering delays have resulted in this program extending into 2020 which is to be completed by year end.

EXPLORATION DRILLING - EL 5291

Andrew advised that stakeholder engagement with private landowners had been undertaken in September and October 2019. HVO have received two signed access agreements and was awaiting a further two agreements to be executed.

COMPLAINTS 2019 YTD

There were 9 complaints received over the period March to October 2019, Andrew advised that the breakdown was 5 being for Dust, 3 for Blast and 1 for Other. "Other" relates to a complaint received by the pastoralist about a gate being left unlocked into the travelling stock route used for blasting clearance.

REHABILITATION

Total Rehabilitation for 2019 was 88 hectares

EOM December (including carryover):

- ✓ Released: 64.7 ha
- ✓ Shaped: 86.7 ha
- ✓ Topsoiled: 86.5 ha
- ✓ **Seeded: 88.4 ha**

FERAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Andrew provided an overview of HVO's Program of activities for 2020, including detail around the synchronised baiting/trapping programs - targeting pigs, wild dogs and foxes in conjunction with Local Lands Services, and an overview of the Autumn and Spring programs. Andrew presented HVO's Vertebrate Pest Control Summary by pest species and control numbers for 2019 and YTD 2020.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS

Round One of the HVO Community Fund will open in April 2020. The link to access the Community Fund will be emailed to CCC members prior to the commencement of the round.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR 2020

Andrew advised that Round Two of the HVO Community Fund will be in September 2020. HVO will produce and distribute two biannual Community Newsletters and hold two Community Session Rounds at Jerrys Plains and Maison Dieu. HVO have also committed to an Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) School Site Tour.

MAINTENANCE - 2020 Apprentice Intake

HVO have welcomed aboard six new 1st Year Apprentices comprised of 3 Mechanical, 1 Auto Electrical and 2 Electrical, taking the companies Apprentice Team to 19 across the 4 years of their Trade Training Program. Andrew said that this intake will provide additional resources for HVO to assist with community projects and noted that the CCC had been previously advised of the support provided to Jerry's Plains Public School and the Singleton Family Support Centre. Andrew asked members to advise HVO should they hear of a worthwhile project that needs assistance, so that the company may be able to provide support via assistance from HVO's apprentices.

Col asked members if there were any questions to HVO around the Company Reports, with no queries raised. Col asked for community representatives to put forward their feedback.

8. Community Representative Feedback

Dr Neville Hodkinson

Neville noted that HVO provide detail to the CCC around incidents in their Business papers and felt that there seemed to have been an increase in hydraulic hose leaks, blown hydraulic hoses and spills reported. Neville asked if this may be the result of a maintenance management issue.

Andrew confirmed that maintenance does play a role but he explained that the increase in reporting was predominantly due to HVO placing an increased focus on the reporting of hydrocarbon leaks and spills during 2019. Andrew advised that previously, spills over 20 litres were reported, but due to a change in reporting culture and to align with the Glencore environmental site standards, there is a requirement for HVO's teams to report all hydrocarbon incidents.

Neville queried if these incidents could be attributed to breakage or damage and Andrew confirmed there can be breakages but in most cases the cause is equipment fatigue. Philip noted a key issue around hoses that HVO had needed to address came from a few incidents in 2019 where operators had driven off prior to disconnecting the nozzle from the diesel pump, explaining that the hoses are designed to break away.

Philip advised HVO's main management technique had been to conduct post service inspections and look at the life of each hose. These maintenance practices have been improved to now have a greater focus on equipment inspections at the start of service. Philip explained this involves machinery being inspected for poor fitment i.e. to make sure hoses are fitted and installed correctly to avoid any rubbing or potential leakage at joints, and to also make sure the coupling is intact. Philip noted that poor fitment can also lead to degradation, so with everyone reporting any issues, then maintenance practices improve.

Neville noted from HVO's incident reporting that a dam had overtopped on the 30th of March 2019. Andrew confirmed that there had been rainfall events on both the 18th and 30th of March where HVO had reported two incidents, the first was run off from a rehabilitation slope and the second was in relation to two sediment dams overtopping. Neville felt there is a greater need now to consider dam capacities due to climate i.e. with rain tending to come in heavier bursts.

Andrew advised that HVO are conducting a review of their sediment dams. Previously HVO had applied Erosion Sediment Control Criteria as per the Blue Book in NSW, whereby there are different types and levels in terms of recommendations for storage, one being 85% of the rainfall record i.e. 30mm storage capacity in dams. HVO are now increasing their own criteria up to 95% to ensure greater capacity.

Andrew added that by having dams designed to a statutory capacity then the company meets their obligations under their Development Approval. Given that HVO's methods are aligned with these designs, it would be unlikely for the company to be penalised by the EPA for the incidents under discussion, but HVO does have a requirement to notify this regulator as water travelling off site does have potential to cause pollution. Andrew explained that the water runoff on the 30th of March was not mine affected but contained turbid water from surface runoff, similar to water that may travel off housing developments.

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG) - Update from Neville

Neville advised that the SSHEG has conducted a 10 year review with Air Quality and Sense of Place emerging as issues.

Air Quality

Neville queried what mining companies did during bushfire smoke events, when air quality alarms were received throughout the Valley i.e. how did they operate and what were their guidelines. Neville asked what actions did HVO undertake during the 6 to 8 week period of bushfires over the recent summer in response to those conditions.

Tony confirmed that HVO had been impacted by bushfire smoke and already had alarms and a TARP system in place to respond to dust, but the smoke had been an unusual circumstance not experienced previously

Tony researched information to assist HVO in developing a system in response to the bushfire smoke conditions and the only data available was from NSW Health in regards to managing health e.g. avoiding strenuous activities when outdoors. Tony also contacted the SES and Bushfire Brigade seeking guidance however their advice was of a similar nature and they did not have any additional information to share.

Based on this, Tony advised that HVO therefore conducted a Risk Assessment utilising the guideline numbers from NSW Health and used that criteria to produce a TARP System for their staff. People were categorised, from a fit active person through to someone that may have a possible medical condition i.e. respiratory issues. The company then split these into sub-categories as to what staff were permitted to do i.e. some staff ceased work outdoors, some worked outdoors under a risk assessment process, and others with a medical condition may have been placed in an air-conditioned environment. This TARP was rolled out across HVO's workforce and Tony added that staff were also provided with respirators.

Neville asked if HVO would be willing to share the TARP system they had created in response to the bushfires and Tony confirmed that this had been shared across all Glencore Mine Sites and also with Yancoal, and was more than happy to provide the TARP to the CCC. Tony reiterated that HVO had only been able to find very sparse guidelines for the bushfire smoke conditions and therefore had taken the initiative to develop their own management practices.

Neville asked about the actual mining operations and if HVO had shut down during the bushfire period. Tony responded that would have depended on what the issues were but could confirm that equipment had been shut down.

Tony explained that during the bushfire conditions, real time measurements were of greater assistance to HVO to ascertain the PM2.5's and reiterated that he would be pleased to share HVO's TARP. Neville felt it would be good for community to see what mines undertook in response to those conditions.

ACTION 2: HVO to provide an overview of the TARP they created and implemented in response to the smoke conditions created by the December/January bushfires in the Hunter Valley.

Neville was concerned that mines could have been seen to use the smoke cloud to continue operating, even if alarms were continually being received, and queried if the group were aware of Government limits. Tony confirmed that the criteria HVO applied to their business was out of NSW Health and reiterated that the company did do a lot of research but there had been no additional information available at the time to give them any better guidance.

Neville felt the upshot to come from the bushfire conditions was there seemed to be a stronger focus on one hour PM2.5 figures and that was what the community were reacting to all around Australia.

Neville said from SSHEG's position, the impacts of mine dust and power station dust were identified back in 2008 and he feels that this issue remains and still needs to be minimised. Neville explained the SSHEG believe that the dispersion of pollution is still not fundamentally identified, and therefore understood, due to current monitoring systems.

Neville believes there have been improvements that have come from community, mines and industry but this has not removed the issues around PM2.5 and PM10. Neville said as a result of this, the SSHEG has written a document that he would provide to HVO for their review.

Neville also provided a hard copy of his presentation to the Mining Dialogue on behalf of the SSHEG regarding a project that has been submitted to the UHMD for their evaluation. Neville was not sure if this project will be considered in 2020 but summarised that the concept of dispersion was the fundamental issue i.e. to gain an understanding where pollution is travelling to and if it is dispersing or not dispersing, and this is aligned with SSHEG's continued focus on health.

Sense of Place

Neville feels that people react to mines when for example; they are at home and a blast is detonated where their house shakes, he feels this affects their stability and that these situations gradually effect local residents.

Neville explained that the sense of place component is something that the SSHEG became familiar with five or six years ago within an area where there are not only five mines but also where there is a large number of people who have strong connections with that land i.e. some being fifth generation with a knowledge of the whole history of the area.

Neville noted that the previous owner of both MTW and HVO had looked at Cultural Heritage at all of their sites across the valley. Neville raised that MTW have Historical Heritage Management Plans but there does not seem to be any in place for HVO, even though there was a relationship between the two sites in the past.

Neville would like to see Cultural Heritage raised as a legacy from HVO's previous owner, he felt enough time has passed for that to be sorted out. Neville explained that he had raised this matter a few years ago and that Cultural Heritage is a topic that is currently being reviewed by the SSHEG.

Andrew asked if Neville could clarify any issues around Cultural Heritage that specifically related to HVO and if it would assist for the company to provide an explanation of what HVO has in place. Neville explained that he felt there had been some areas within HVO's mine site that had been identified by the previous owner and expected that the company would have some Historical Management Plans in place for these.

Tony explained that HVO is a standalone Joint Venture and Neville felt that the company should therefore have their own Plans. Andrew advised that any Historical Management Plans that MTW have in place would be due to their Development Approval guiding those. HVO does not have that requirement but does have Management Plans for heritage listed areas such as Chain of Ponds, as they belong to HVO and therefore are theirs to manage. Neville understood that there is a Community Advisory Group also contained within MTW's Approval and Andrew reiterated that is not part of HVO's Approval.

Neville clarified that in an area where there are five mines, he would like to understand which company is looking after each of the historical structures and properties. Neville believed that the potential relocation of the Ravensworth Homestead had brought this community issue to the surface, noting there had been strong interest from community around that. Andrew explained that all mines would have individual maintenance plans in place to meet Government expectations and that HVO can provide detail on what properties are registered as Historical Properties in relation to their own site.

ACTION 3: HVO to provide detail of properties that are registered as Historical Properties and the Maintenance Plans in place for these.

ACTION 4: In response to a request from Hollee, HVO to provide detail on how the company looks for and identifies artefacts when conducting exploration work.

Brian Atfield

Brian queried the pipe laid on the ground at the Wandewoi airstrip and asked if the pipe was for a water line. Andrew confirmed that is correct, adding that HVO are working to improve their water transfer capacity between Parnell's Dam and Dam 9. Andrew explained there is about 10 kilometres of pipe work to be installed and that these dams are already connected by smaller pipe. Andrew explained that West Pit tends to be a bit of an island when conditions are wet or dry, so this will improve HVO's capacity to move water in wet conditions and likewise to service water cart fill points and other surrounding areas, hence reason for upgrading their pipeline for that area.

Cr Hollee Jenkins

Hollie asked where HVO obtain their references from when naming places i.e. Parnell's Dam and Andrew responded in that case Parnell's Creek travelled through that alignment. Andrew added that the identification is often associated with names of endearment, people or past events, as well as HVO having a numbering system.

Hollie felt that a tribute to Charlie Shearer would be a kind sentiment for a piece somewhere on the Maison Dieu side given his contribution to the CCC over so many years. It was agreed by all that perhaps a space such as a well rehabilitated paddock or a piece of land that Charlie would have liked to have seen. HVO agreed to take that on board should the right place arise.

Jeannie Hayes

Andrew advised that Jeannie provided the following questions via email to be tabled at today's meeting.

- *What is HVO's fire plan for the Moses property across the river from us and our neighbours? There is concern that in the event of a bushfire that Jerrys Plains will be at risk given the amount of trees and vegetation that is growing on the property. It is becoming another national park though under the Department of Planning it is a "green offset".*

Andrew responded that the Moses property is included within HVO's Fire Management Plan, the company has put fire breaks in place along its boundaries, along with conducting fuel load assessments. Andrew advised that areas are also grazed as the key control to reducing fuel loads.

Andrew noted that part of Wandewoi is listed as federal Conservation Area (Offset) that has been previously discussed at the CCC's whereby HVO are negotiating with the Commonwealth Government to swap some offset with a property in Belford and that will mean this land can be primarily utilised for grazing.

- *How much of HVO property is now used as "farmland".*

Andrew advised he would need to seek exact figures for Jeannie but could confirm that HVO have not changed any areas, so what was farmland still is. Andrew added that an exception to grazing would be if any areas got so dry due to the drought that it was not possible to run stock i.e. in the case where feed was running out. HVO also need to consider how grazing may affect the soil for when there is rain after drought. HVO are obligated to control erosion, so they do have to manage stock on farmland and have destocked some areas where necessary. Andrew added that when grasses are re-established they would restock.

- *Are there any further modifications on the horizon for HVO?*

Andrew confirmed that at the November 2019 CCC, HVO advised that their North Consent expires in 2025 and the company is starting to work through that process now. Andrew felt that HVO would be able to provide a more detailed update with the next 6 months.

9. General Business

Col asked if there was any other General Business and none was advised.

10. Next Meeting: 20 May 2020

1.30p.m. Hunter Valley Services

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: HVO to provide an overview of the TARP they created and implemented in response to the smoke conditions created by the December/January bushfires in the Hunter Valley.

ACTION 2: HVO to provide detail of properties that are registered as Historical Properties and the Maintenance Plans in place for these.

ACTION 3: In response to a request from Hollee, HVO to provide detail on how the company looks for and identifies artefacts when conducting exploration work.

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/>