

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting
Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 1.30pm

Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

Jeannie Hayes Community Representative

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Singleton Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council

Company Representatives

Tony Galvin General Manager

Bruce Gould Production Manager

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment & Community

Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer

By Invitation

Peter Bowman Environment and Community Officer

Peter Walsh Project Manager, Glencore – HVO Continuation Project

Vicki McBride Approval Manager, Glencore – HVO Continuation Project

Apologies

Todd Mills Community Representative

Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Michael Wellard Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. **Welcome;** Col welcomed members to today's meeting held via teleconference due to COVID-19 restrictions and Andrew introduced the HVO personnel that were in attendance.
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; Standing;** Col advised that both he and Sarah are engaged by HVO to provide the roles of independent Chairperson and meeting note taking. Hollee confirmed that she is engaged by a sub-contractor that works for Glencore.
4. **Out of Session Correspondence : Circulated by Merri, Peter & Andrew via email;**
 - 15/06/2020 HVO's 2020 Aerial Seed and Fertiliser Program
 - 19/06/2020 Draft Minutes from CCC Meeting on 20 May for review
 - 10/08/2020 Information about HVO's planned shutdown periods
 - 28/08/2020 Community Newsletter and hyperlink for Round Two 2020 Community Grants
 - 31/08/2020 Details of Heritage items as per Neville's email request of 29 August
 - 8/09/2020 Teleconference/WebEx details 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 May 2020 and the CCC 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 20 May 2020 - Action Items

Action 1: *HVO to add Historical Properties and their associated Management/Maintenance Plans as a standing agenda item for future CCC meetings.* Actioned; HVO have engaged an archaeologist; Arrow Heritage Solutions, to update the 2012 Historic Heritage Register which includes a summary of Management and Maintenance Plans, along with a variety of actions for various sites and buildings. This Register is in final draft and currently under review.

Action 2: *HVO to collate an inventory of European Heritage artefacts that are stored within heritage buildings.* Actioned; Peter confirmed that a range of movable heritage items are located in and around the Archerfield outbuildings. Arrow Heritage Solutions were tasked to prepare an inventory which also forms part of the Historic Heritage Register. This inventory describes and includes photographs of items that have been identified;

✚ **Inside Stables;** barrel hoops, horse drawn plough, pulley system and drive, pump, sickle tooth mower.

✚ **Outside Stables;** Chisel plough, gearing mechanism, horse wagon yokes and gear, Lister motor, brick collection of varying ages, wagon wheel remains.

✚ **Between Stables & House;** dam scoop.

✚ **Inside & outside Stables;** water tank and cover.

Peter noted that these items are significant when considering the history of agricultural land use at the Archerfield property e.g. the original hoops were used for barrels when it was a functioning vineyard producing fortified wines and brandy in the 19th Century, the collection of bricks include some from when the property was originally built in the 1820's and 1830's, and a number of other implements relate to the last two centuries of agriculture. Currently Archerfield is a modern operational dairy farm.

HVO are investigating opportunities for the off-site preservation of these items via an offer to interested parties including local historical societies and vintage farm machinery clubs that have the resources and capability to store/display/curate items as part of their existing collections. Peter advised that HVO had consulted with the Singleton Historic Society; however this collection exceeds their capacity, and Hunter Valley Vintage Farm Machinery Club; who do not have fixed premises. Peter was referred to Denman District Heritage Village (DDHV); which does have facilities and is closely tied to the Denman's Men Shed and he will endeavour to make contact with DDHV and report back to the CCC how that enquiry proceeds. Peter added that HVO can make this opportunity available to other organisations.

Peter advised that from HVO's point of view it is important that a place be found where these items will be valued, restored, stored and made accessible to the public for viewing. That way the stories associated with the artefacts could be told by people who have a passion for them and Peter hoped this proposal would be support by the CCC. Neville felt that HVO had taken a step in the right direction in tying together buildings, documents and commitments, and provided the following feedback.

Storage & Display of Heritage Artefacts; Neville believes that items relating to a property should remain in situ, therefore the building where they resided would be the most appropriate place to keep them and he could not understand why these items would be removed and dispersed. Neville added that these items need to be maintained, then documented and photographed and sees their preservation as a comprehensive factor. Neville believed that the artefacts should be kept at Archerfield and would like to see that the property is used as a facility for the community to visit.

Neville noted that he had visited Archerfield on two occasions around 2012 and felt it would be very likely that there would be a well for water there, as it was typical for that type of property to have one located near the house and believed this would also be of historic significance. Neville recalled there was a building that had two to three openings and at the front there was part of a stable, and felt that the artefacts could be displayed inside of that. Neville believed there has been a lack of understanding as to what is at Archerfield and that is why these items should be documented.

Historical Documentation; Neville clarified that his questions to HVO had also related to the documented history of places being made available to Heritage Groups, Museum and Library. Neville would like to see this documentation explaining the heritage connection of the artefacts in relation to their location. Neville did not believe there was detail in the Historic Heritage Management Plan that explained this type of connectivity and he would like to see anything that has been written documented e.g. by family descendents, to see some history captured about the people that have lived at Archerfield and what had been done over the past 200 years.

Terms of Reference for European Heritage artefacts; Neville queried what the goals are for the archaeologist Arrow in terms of. what they have been engaged to do and what is being looked at. Neville felt that if Arrow's role was just to identify items, that would not really be holding on to the heritage. Neville acknowledged and appreciated HVO's update and overview of undertakings, he stressed how important it is that these actions be implemented to take the next step into reality and for this to then manifest to the community. Neville believes there is a great opportunity for mining to get people to move with this industry by aligning their business with Cultural Heritage.

Jeannie acknowledged Neville's passion and efforts to tie all elements of Historical Heritage together and understood that Neville was proposing that all artefacts remain at Archerfield and be documented and displayed, similar to as in a Museum, and that there also be a historical document for people to view and to be shared. Jeannie felt this would provide a good opportunity for community to view these historical items and documents at a Mining Open Day or on a Site Tour. Jeannie made reference to the book "Plasht" that was well presented and documented, and she felt it would be nice to have something similar for Heritage Properties.

Brian queried if there would be a possibility for an Open Day for the Public if all the artefacts were to be left on the Archerfield property and Andrew confirmed that this might be possible given that there was enough interest. Andrew noted in relation to Archerfield that consideration needs to be given to the tenants, therefore some advance notice would be required. Andrew added that anyone can access that area, as there is not a requirement to go through the mine, and Brian responded that he believed the community felt that was mine owned land so they were not able to go on there. Brian thought that if HVO were to advertise a tour of Archerfield that they would get a lot of interest from the community. Andrew confirmed that HVO are intending to hold an Open Day when COVID-19 restrictions have lifted and there could be potential to provide an opportunity for people to visit the property.

Peter agreed that this was a worthy project to aim for but there is the need to be mindful that HVO have a program for maintenance on these buildings which they are currently rolling out. As examples, Peter noted the Stables are approximately two years away before they are structurally safe to allow members of the public to visit and the Distillery, which is a brick building in front of the Stables, is undergoing important foundation underpinning, so that work would need to be completed before allowing people inside. Peter acknowledged that would be a good objective and provide a focus on how work activities are prioritised. Peter reiterated there is a strong commitment in place for HVO to work towards maintaining buildings so they are ensured beyond the life of the mine. For safety reasons Peter advised that public access to these types of buildings at Archerfield would be approximately two years away.

Neville felt that a two year time frame for community access was not an issue and believed the focus point is to establish a program of works with time lines and provide updates on activities to the community in the lead up to reaching those goals. Neville felt by having that focus those goals become for the community as well, as they can also see what is happening.

Hollee noted the Ravensworth Homestead project currently underway where one potential option is for relocation to Broke. Hollee said that rather than artefacts being relocated, this Homestead may provide a good opportunity to form a safe keeping place for all of these heritage items to be grouped together and stored in one place. That way the items could be easily accessed by community members with additional potential to create a beautiful tourist attraction e.g. to have a cafe and heritage items on display. Hollee would like to see Glencore working as one entity to initiate a combined effort on a grander scale and felt if this was done as a global entity and professionally, a property like Ravensworth could be a very big draw card for people to visit.

ACTION 1: In response to a request by Col, HVO to circulate the Historic Heritage Register to the CCC when finalised.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

SAFETY SNAPSHOT

Injury Rates as at end August 2020

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –2.02 (target is 3.00)
Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –0 (target is 1.00)

MINING OPERATIONS

- ✚ **West Pit;** has a good neat set up, particularly with the Shovel that has been driving through the Arties Bench.
- ✚ **Carrington - Tailings Storage Facility (TSF);** continues to be utilised for tailings deposition. HVO have undertaken some additional water control with floccing that had done a good job and was beaching well.
- ✚ **Cheshunt Pit;** two Shovels continue to run and there are another four excavators in this pit. HVO are transitioning both pits into a block configuration out of strip mining methodology. This pit is looking exceptional and the crews are doing a good job.
- ✚ **Riverview;** this pit is progressing well with a dragline and excavator removing coal. HVO will despatch an excavator to do some pre-strip mid September and therefore will monitor dust in that area. Andrew added that the excavator would be seen working nearer to the Golden Highway to get that material down, however that location is close to the natural surface anyway.

Jeannie queried if there is the intention to continue running a dragline operation for the longer term and HVO confirmed they have budgeted for an additional strip that will run the dragline out for another two years, after that the dragline will be parked up or continue to be utilised if there is more to dig identified.

Jeannie asked if HVO anticipate running more excavator type operations and HVO confirmed that they will make that transition. It was noted that the dragline works well in Riverview as it is self sufficient. In West Pit there is a combination of the dragline moving 20% and trucks/shovels moving 80% of the dirt which requires an increased fleet size. HVO advised it makes good business sense to move to a block configuration.

PLANNED SHUTDOWN PERIODS;

The COVID19 pandemic overseas continues to impact the coal market environment, including demand for Australian coal exports. In response, HVO is introducing measures to manage their coal production profile which includes temporary shutdowns, except for train load outs, during school holidays; 26 September to 11 October 2020 and over Christmas-New Year; 25 December 2020 to 1 January 2021. In addition there will be temporary shutdowns of S341 from the West Pit; 18 September 2020 to 1 January 2021 and S346 from the South Pit from 12 October 2020 to 1 January 2021. Jeannie queried the current coal price and referral was made to Global Coal NEWC Index; that provides the benchmark price for seaborne thermal coal in the Asia Pacific region.

Andrew advised that HVO had conducted a thorough assessment of environmental and community risk that may occur as a result of reduced personnel on site. Andrew noted that not operating machinery means that one risk is mitigated and will reduce any noise impacts. HVO will continue to monitor for dust via their real time monitors, particularly in case of high winds. HVO have water management in place in case of significant rainfall to ensure there is no overflowing of dams.

TRUCK SOUND ATTENUATION;

100% of HVO's truck fleet of 81 are now sound attenuated. Andrew advised that HVO will retrofit some fleet with older attenuation that goes back to 2011-2012. HVO have reached the end of this first program; which was to obtain attenuation on all of their trucks. Sound Power Testing is to be completed in October 2020.

REPORTING, EXCEEDANCES & INSPECTIONS

- ✚ EPA Inspection on 4th August with a primary focus on dust and water controls. Areas inspected included West Pit lookout, water management controls ahead of West Pit and the ROM coal stockpile. The EPA Officer was satisfied with operations and advised that there were no actions arising.
- ✚ A blast overpressure exceedance measured at the Knodlers Lane blast monitor (Maison Dieu) following a blast in Cheshunt Pit 1 at 9:12 am on 27 August. The monitor recorded 127 dB(L) against a Development Consent criteria of 120 dB(L). No complaints were received. DPIE were notified and an internal investigation by HVO is underway. HVO will provide a follow up report to the DPIE in week ending 23 September 2020, as to what they believed to be the key causes.

- ✚ EPL Licence Variation;
 - Monitoring and maintenance requirements of sewage treatment plants
 - Relocation of Maison Dieu blast monitor
 - Turbidity monitoring during discharge events
 - Referencing mine water transfer locations between neighbouring mines.

Andrew advised there are variations to HVO's EPL as a result of a five year review completed by the EPA whereby a number of changes have been considered to align existing coal licences consistent across mining. Andrew explained the EPL document has become far more extensive and detailed than previously.

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPATE

Submitted to DPIE for review;

- ✓ Environmental Management Strategy –submitted in April
- ✓ Water Management Plan –submitted in July
- ✓ Noise Management Plan -submitted in April
- ✓ Blasting Management Plan -submitted in April
- ✓ Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan -submitted in July
- ✓ Integrated Biodiversity Management Plan –submitted in July

Andrew confirmed that HVO had previously provided the CCC with an overview of their Management Plan updates and advised that these have been submitted to the DPIE for approval.

ACTION 2: HVO to provide the CCC with a Management Plan update when these have been approved by the DPIE.

Andrew noted that HVO had also presented updates to Mine Operations Plans (MOP's) at previous CCC Meetings. There has been an extension to the time frame for HVO's MOP submissions, pending incorporation of the amended Mining Plans that are coming out through their planning process. HVO plan to submit their MOP's for approval by the end of 2020.

ENVIRONMENT

Complaints YTD 2020; There had been a total of 7 complaints from operations and Andrew provided an overview of each, noting HVO had also provided more detail around these in their Business Papers. Andrew asked if there were any queries around the complaints data.

Hollee asked if HVO were within their permission to blast if their dust and/or noise monitors were down. Andrew responded that HVO are required to monitor all blasts as part of their licence requirements. Hollee provided the example of a noise monitor being down due to a power failure and asked if this would mean HVO would not go ahead with a scheduled blast. Andrew advised that would not be the case with a noise monitor, but a blast monitor is required at the time of blasting.

Andrew added that dust monitoring is required to run continuously and the requisite is that there be enough run time to capture 75% of a day. Hollee queried if dust monitoring went out for half an hour during a blast, that would mean HVO would still be in permission, given that 75% of the day was captured. Andrew responded that could occur, noting that HVO not only measure dust from a blast, they also are measuring ambient dust potentially caused by any source from site i.e. blast, trucks or diggers. Andrew explained that HVO do not require dust monitoring running just for blasts but rather for all potential sources.

Hollee was concerned that it is permissible to blast if dust monitoring is off-line given that someone may phone with a dust concern when the monitoring is not working. Andrew noted the type of outages HVO normally get are related to power outages which are more typical for TEOM monitoring. Hollee asked if it would be difficult to correlate when a dust monitor is down to see if that coincides with a blast and Andrew responded HVO could look at a series of blasts.

Andrew added that it is more than blasting that causes the dust that HVO need to manage and Hollee noted that it is a sudden peak interaction with the air. Andrew acknowledged Hollee's feedback noting that in relation to blasts dust can be more point source, therefore may not be picked up from the monitors around site.

Hollee felt it would be interesting to see a 6 month average of dust monitors being down to ascertain if those reconciled with blast events. Andrew asked Hollee if there was a particular blast that occurred that she would like HVO to investigate and Hollee responded that this topic had been raised at a CCC at another mine where monitors had been down at the time of blasting, therefore Hollee had raised this subject out of interest to see if when mines are blasting that their dust monitors are operating. Andrew advised that HVO typically fire four to five shots per week, he felt there would be enough data to look at and provide this over a month.

ACTION 3: HVO to provide detail of blasts conducted over a one month period and correlate any occasions that dust monitoring was off-line.

Rehabilitation

Total rehabilitation YTD 2020 = 19.0 ha

To end of month August:

- ✚ Released: 69.8 ha
- ✚ Shaped: 51.0 ha
- ✚ Topsoiled: 24.6 ha
- ✚ Seeded: 19.0 ha

Andrew advised that the rehab target for 2020 is 94 hectares and provided an overview of the Riverview area; RL 125-150, noting there is in the order of 40 to 50 hectares coming out of that area. Andrew noted that HVO will work to complete a good deal of the South Pit area first and then finish up at West Pit.

Feral Pest Management

Andrew provided an overview of HVO's program of activities for 2020; kangaroo culling (commercial harvest ongoing) and open range shooting (ongoing bounty system linked to the commercial harvest program). Synchronized baiting/trapping programs targeting pigs, wild dogs and foxes were scheduled for autumn and a second wild dog and fox control program is scheduled for spring.

Brian asked HVO if their feral pig baiting was a success and Peter advised that this program is now co-ordinated with other mines sites. Peter said that an increase in pig numbers had been noted up to 2019. The synchronized program was completed in June 2020, after which the numbers across all participating sites had dropped significantly. Peter advised that the most active areas were at the confluence of Wollombi Brook, along with Glennies and Bowman Creeks. Peter noted that other areas that had been particularly active around Wandewoi and Carrington Stud had been very quiet in terms of activities and numbers.

Brian asked if HVO were finding the carcasses, and noted that pigs are big travellers and asked if the reduction in sightings could be attributed to the pigs moving on. Peter agreed regarding pigs travelling, and noted that as HVO are coordinating the pest management with other sites, they have been collating information and looking for consistent patterns. Peter reiterated that it had been found that numbers were down, particularly in June. Peter noted that human activity can promote pig numbers and provided the example of HVO identifying some vandalism to fencing and gates where subsequently there had been the appearance of a fully formed pig family.

HVO noted that feral pigs were an ongoing problem that requires management and until HVO get two to three years of consecutive data it would be difficult to confirm how pest management practices are impacting on numbers. Peter added that the Local Lands Service had done a great job in keeping all participants focused and subsequently produced a good data set. Peter advised another benefit of collating data is that Government Agencies; Forest & Parks have now been added in and are being encouraged to get onto the same program.

Weed Management

In addition to routine programs, HVO had also undertaken specific weed control measures at the Wandewoi Offset to reduce the density of Farmers Friend. Andrew noted that Farmers Friend can be seen all around the Valley and the drought conditions followed by rain have favoured this weed. Andrew explained that this weed had already been in seed, so it was not a case for spraying but knocking it down by slashing helps to prevent the spread of this weed.

Bushfire Management

- + Firebreak maintenance
- + Non operational firebreak maintenance completed in August and ongoing maintenance will be implemented as seasonal conditions require
- + Operational firebreak –asset protection zone maintenance is ongoing
HVO were conducting additional activities i.e. checking that water sources are accessible to Rural Fire Services and correct fittings in place for the RFS to obtain access.

8. HVO Approvals

Hunter Valley Operations - Continuation Project Presented by Peter Walsh

Peter advised that the HVO Continuation project is commencing public consultation, hence consultation with the CCC. For more detailed project information please refer to:-

Project web pages and consultation and planning process: <https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/hvo>

Community survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X5F8YJJ>

- + Environmental and Social Impact Studies are underway to inform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) supporting continuation of mining at HVO beyond the expiration of current approvals. The target is to prepare the EIS for submission in 2021.
- + There is an opportunity to recover a further approximate 400 million tonne (Mt) coal resources within the mining tenements at HVO (including recently acquired exploration licences at depth) through an optimised mine design and this is mining through an area predominantly mined through before.
- + HVO have two consents, the current development consents expire at HVO North in 2025 and HVO South in 2030. Under the Project, mining is proposed to continue to 2050 at HVO North and 2045 at HVO South.
- + This project provides the opportunity for continuation of a well-established mining operation, thereby supporting the extension of direct employment and economic benefits:
- + Operational workforce to remain approximately consistent to present levels, up to a maximum of around 1,500 full time employees (FTE).

This project would provide ongoing support of; Local and regional businesses, through ongoing use of goods and services and local community organisations and programs. Along with ongoing economic contribution to Local, State and Federal levels of government, through payments of rates, royalties and taxes.

Peter provided an overview of this project via mapping, he noted that HVO will distribute newsletters to near neighbours so people can take a closer look at the following areas under discussion;

- + **KEY;** HVO North & South proposed approval boundaries and existing disturbance area.
- + **Existing Environment;** Rail line, major road, named watercourse, named water body.
- + **Existing HVO Elements;** South Lemington Rail Loop and haul route (approved, not yet constructed), existing mining infrastructure area, Lemington Coal Preparation Plant (approved, not yet constructed).

Peter identified the project boundary in the North being not too dissimilar to the current HVO North project boundary, with the exception of a new area encompassing the realignment of Lemington Road, and the South being also very similar, he also indicated the current approved disturbance area. Peter explained that HVO are proposing to mine back through the Carrington area, currently they have only mined to the Bayswater seam and they now are proposing to mine down to the Barrett seam.

- + **Proposed HVO Continuation Project Elements;** Lemington Road relocation, proposed haul route to Ravensworth, proposed power line relocation, existing and proposed mining area, dam subject to upgrade, Coal Preparation Plant/Mining Infrastructure Area to be upgraded, proposed product stockpile.

Peter noted that Lemington Road runs through the middle of a proposed mining area, so HVO will be seeking to relocate that road via an alternative alignment to the eastern side of HVO South. This will veer off the existing Lemington Road alignment, roughly beside Ravensworth's Narama Void, down the eastern side of Lemington and join back onto Comleroi Road near the Glider Club Air Strip. It is HVO's intent to upgrade Comleroi Road to the same level as the new section of Lemington Road and upgrade the intersection as well.

There are transmission lines that run up through the north west that will need to be relocated, therefore HVO are talking to AGL and land holders in the vicinity. Coal is currently processed at the Hunter Valley and Howick Preparation Plants; HVO have planned some upgrade work to maintain their life and improve efficiency. There are two train loading points at Hunter Valley and Newdell in the north and HVO will continue to maintain those. HVO want to upgrade the Newdell product stockpile with a new stockpile and train loading facility. HVO South has approval to build a coal preparation plant and rail loop off the Wambo spur and HVO will be seeking to retain that approval.

Peter identified where HVO have approval for three satellite pits; South Lemington Pit 1, South Lemington Pit 2 and Riverview South-East Pit which is in an area known as Gliders Pit. HVO are seeking the opportunity to mine the South Lemington Pit 1 at a later date to be determined. HVO will not be seeking to renew the approval for South Lemington Pit 2 or Riverview South-East Pit.

Peter noted that Parnell's Dam and Lake James are to be upgraded and there is also additional flood water levy protection that HVO will install, particularly at the North Void TSF, HVO North and Cheshunt and Riverview pits.

The Continuation Project is practical, feasible and achievable within existing legislation:

Minimal or no change to a number of key aspects of the existing operations at HVO:

- ✓ No proposed increase in annual production volumes.
- ✓ Mining predominantly through areas previously disturbed to access deeper seams.
- ✓ No proposed increase in height of in-pit overburden emplacement areas and no out-of-pit emplacement areas proposed.
- ✓ Continuation of a brownfield site in a long-established coal mining precinct.

There are opportunities:

- ✓ For improvement in local public road network, through provision of new Lemington Road Hunter River crossing and bridge across the Hunter River at Moses Crossing, 9 meters higher than Moses Crossing, so better clearance.
 - ✓ To provide long-term job stability and certainty to local and regional workforce.
 - ✓ For positive rehabilitation outcomes and various post-mining land use options, given the fact HVO North has quite an old consent, so HVO can contemporise that and align i.e. north and south consents aligning.
- This project fits within the Glencore committed global production cap of 150 Mtpa of thermal and coking coal.

Key environmental assessment topics: *Presented by Vicki McBride*

HVO are currently conducting environmental studies to support the EIS that they plan to submit with Development Applications mid 2021. The following summarises the key Assessment Topic & Project Aspects / Key Assessment Issues.

Land and Soils

- ❖ New disturbance areas verified as non-Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land.
- ❖ Project entirely on HVO or Glencore associated entity-owned land.
- ❖ Project is compatible with surrounding land uses.

Water

- ❖ Current operations have sufficient water licences in place to account for all water extraction - no significant change anticipated for Project.
- ❖ Planning underway to integrate HVO into Greater Ravensworth Area Water Sharing network for improved water storage capability and potential reduction of reliance on raw water extraction.
- ❖ No changes to licensed discharge limits (HRSTS) or practices proposed.

Flooding

- ❖ Improved and ongoing flood protection for operations.
- ❖ Increased elevation of Lemington Road Hunter River crossing above 1:10 year flood level.

Biodiversity

- ❖ Large portions of land have been subject to clearing from historical agricultural and mining activities.
- ❖ Commonwealth and State listed species and communities are known to occur at HVO.
- ❖ Comprehensive biodiversity offset strategy is in progressive development as more is understood about impacts.

Noise & Vibration

- ❖ Operational impacts are anticipated to be much the same as existing operations.
- ❖ Assessment of construction noise and vibration impacts is also a consideration.
- ❖ This was noted as a key issue for neighbours.

Air Quality

- ❖ Focus on minimising impacts to neighbouring communities (Warkworth, Maison Dieu, Jerrys Plains and Long Point).
- ❖ Impacts anticipated to be much the same as existing operations.

Visual

- ❖ Impacts are anticipated to be much the same as the existing operations;
 - ✓ No increase in height to overburden emplacements.
 - ✓ Commitment to progressive rehabilitation, with natural draining landform design incorporated.
 - ✓ Ridgeline between Jerrys Plains and HVO North remains.

Transport

- ❖ Realignment of Lemington Road to maintain its function as a connection between New England and Golden Highways.
- ❖ Existing operations of road network to be maintained until new section of road built.

HVO advised they would deliver the first Project Newsletter in mid September 2020 and that these will provide detail about the project. HVO will be seeking further interaction with the community regarding this project and the first phase of engagement will be seeking feedback on residents preferences on how they would like to engage with HVO in the future i.e. drop in days, one on one meetings.

Jeannie confirmed that she had studied the project detail and had queries around the Lemington Road realignment and how far mining will come behind the ridgeline near Jerrys Plains. Peter responded that HVO are not moving the mining footprint in the south-west against the ridgeline any further than what is currently approved.

Jeannie queried the timing for the continuation project, she assumed the cost of this project would be significant and presumed that HVO would have had a preliminary look at the time lines. Peter responded that timing will depend on how long it takes for HVO to obtain regulatory approval and that there is hope to receive this in 2023 if HVO lodge their EIS in 2021. Peter noted that the road realignment and power lines are priority for HVO and it would be desirable to conduct that work in 2024/2025.

In response to a query from Jeannie around the Lemington Road realignment, Peter explained that this road veers east a little straight off the Golden Highway, however it is almost north-south up to the current Lemington Road intersection with the New England Highway and that is part of the new alignment that they did back with Ravensworth North. Jeannie asked where Lemington Road will come out at the Golden Highway and Peter confirmed that it will be at the current intersection at Comleroi Road.

Peter advised travel from Jerrys Plains to Singleton Post Office would be about 3 kilometres longer due to the requirement to travel further down the Golden Highway. The upside is that Lemington Road will not be flooded in as often, being the case every time Moses Crossing floods, so there will be better access.. Peter noted also that the road will be the same quality as the newer part of Lemington Road in terms of width and sighting distances. HVO will be presenting to Singleton Council and Transport for NSW for this to be maintained at 100 km/h.

Vicki confirmed that the Continuation Project detail can be found on HVO's Project web pages <https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/hvo> and that HVO will be progressively adding the proposed infrastructure to an interactive map that will allow people to view specifications such as the Lemington Road realignment more closely.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS;

Round One of HVO's Community Grants Program closed in May with 12 applications received. A number of local organisations were successful in obtaining funds totalling almost \$30,000. Andrew noted that applications received had been a bit lower which was most likely Covid-19 related but HVO still provided sponsorships to a variety of organisations and activities.

9. Community Representative Feedback

Dr Neville Hodkinson

Update from Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group (SSHEG); Neville advised the SSHEG has submitted documentation relating to the issue of Historic Heritage which is broader in that it includes Cultural Heritage. Neville advised that the SSHEG are working to understand the commitments that have been given by mining, but have not yet come to fruition. In addition, the SSHEG are looking into what the community sees as issues with Historic Heritage. Neville's main points around Historic Heritage were that prior to mining companies purchasing properties these were inhabited family homes and many of these estates have been allowed to fall into a state of neglect. Neville believes that if there is a change in mine ownership, heritage obligations and commitments made by one company should continue to the next. Neville was appreciative that his feedback had resulted in positive undertakings by HVO and as a next step he would like to see there be community dialogue around Historic Heritage.

Neville advised that he had reviewed the water reporting in the Annual Reports, it had seemed to him that both HVO and MTW draw make up water from a lug bore that extracts from the old Lemington Mine underground, he asked if the CCC could see a section identifying where the water comes from that bore and queried the volume of water being taken out. Andrew confirmed that the underground bore is part of the old Lemington Mine and water is stored in a goaf, which is a void within the underground. Andrew advised that this does not extend across Maison Dieu or the Hunter Valley precinct. Andrew said it would be difficult to provide a cross section, as it is an old area, however he could provide an indication of the coal seam that the Goaf was formed in abstraction volumes.

ACTION 4: HVO to provide available information on the strata where the LUG Bore draws water from and abstraction volume for previous water year.

Neville noted from reporting that water levels from aquifers vary a great detail, he clarified that his query was if this may be a result of HVO and MTW taking out large amounts of water, he felt that being a reservoir the water would be drawn out of the seams in a reverse direction. Andrew confirmed HVO's Groundwater Impact Report would have shown a draw down on that bore and that this was currently almost solely utilised by MTW. Neville said he would like to gain an understanding around the water capacity and activities in relation to the old Lemington underground mine lug bore.

Cr. Hollee Jenkins

Hollie advised that she had not been required to re-submit an expression of interest to be Council representation at CCC's and that these would be announced at the September Council Meeting. Hollie said if this was to be her last CCC meeting with HVO she would like to thank all of the Committee.

9. General Business

Community Sponsorships; Round Two of HVO's Community Grants Programme opened on 7 September and closes on 2 October, 2020. Andrew advised this would be advertised in the press and encouraged the CCC to spread the word. Brian queried if this program covered the Putty area and it was confirmed that this area is included in the Singleton LGA.

10. Next Meeting:

Wednesday 18 November at 1.30pm

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: In response to a request by Col, HVO to circulate the Historic Heritage Register to the CCC when finalised.

ACTION 2: HVO to provide the CCC with a Management Plan update when these have been approved by the DPIE.

ACTION 3: HVO to provide detail of blasts conducted over a one month period and correlate any occasions that dust monitoring was off-line.

ACTION 4: HVO to provide available information on the strata where the LUG Bore draws water from and abstraction volume for previous water year.

HVO 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/>

SMS Blast Notification System

Community members can subscribe to the blasting notification system to receive an SMS alert at no cost. To register, please send an SMS to 0447 448 982 with your details and make sure to include the word subscribe in the text.