

# HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)  
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting  
Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 1.30pm

## Attendance

### Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair HVO CCC – attended via webex

### Community Representatives

Brian Atfield Community Representative

Jeannie Hayes Community Representative

Dr. Neville Hodgkinson Community Representative

David Love Community Representative

Di Gee Community Representative

Michael Wellard Community Representative

Todd Mills Community Representative

### Singleton Council

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council

### Company Representatives

Tony Galvin General Manager

Tony Morris Operations Manager

Bruce Gould Production Manager

Andrew Speechly Manager Environment & Community

Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer – attended via webex

Peter Bowman Environment & Community Officer – attended via webex

### Apologies

Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Minutes Sarah Purser – attended via webex

- Welcome;** Col welcomed members to today's meeting held both on site and via teleconference due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Andrew introduced the HVO personnel that were in attendance and ran through housekeeping and emergency procedures for the benefit of those on site.

*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".*

- Apologies;** Advised and recorded.

- 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.

- Out of Session Correspondence : Circulated by Merri, Peter & Andrew via email;**

19/10/2020 Draft Meeting Minutes from CCC Meeting on 9 September 2020 for review.

6/11/2020 Agenda and Business Papers for CCC Meeting on 18 November 2020.

16/11/2020 HVO Historic Heritage Register distributed to CCC.

- Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes**

Col called for formal approval of the minutes for the Meeting held 9 September 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 9 September 2020 - Action Items

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

- ✓ Distributed to the CCC on 16 November 2020, members confirmed receipt.

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

Management Plan update not available at the time of the meeting, action carried forward.

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

- ✚ During August 2020 HVO blasted on 14 dates.
- ✚ 10 minute data availability was reviewed for each dust monitor (TEOM's) on each of the blasting dates.
- ✚ Of the 14 dates only one blasting event correlates with dust monitors being offline.
- ✚ The Warkworth dust monitor was offline due to an unplanned power outage on 27 August from 8.30am and then was online again from 4.00pm. Two shots were fired on 27 August at 9.12am and 4.56pm.
- ✚ The Warkworth dust monitor, managed by the Department of Environment, Energy and Science, was not online for the shot fired at 9.12am but was back online for the shot fired at 4.56pm. Andrew explained that HVO do not have direct control of this monitor but rather have their own radio in there.
- ✚ Wind direction was 301 degrees from the north west at time of firing.
- ✚ The Wandewoi dust monitor, which is across Lemington road on the hill near the white property, was online but missed five 10 minute data point's from 9.20am to 10.00am. Andrew explained it would have been unlikely for that monitor to have recorded anything.
- ✚ Dust monitors that produce less than 75% daily dust data capture are reported to the DPIE, as that is their standard for HVO to maintain.
- ✚ The data mis-capture on 27 August was notified to DPIE on 31 August after it was confirmed that missed data could not be recovered.

Andrew asked Hollee if this detail satisfied her query and Hollee responded this data had been exactly what she had been seeking. Hollee understands that there will be instances when monitoring will not be running but felt only two incidences over a month was reassuring, as that indicated this was not a frequent event. Neville queried if monitoring failures may be due to batteries and Andrew responded that on these occasions the issues had been due to local power outages.

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

Andrew indicated the Lemington Underground Bore location via mapping, noting this is between MTW and HVO near the South Lemington Pit. The volume extracted for 2020, from the start of January to the end of Q3 2020, was 513 megalitres (ML) and that had been all to MTW who are operating that Bore, no water was taken up by HVO. The licence is for 1,800 ML over the water year and take up was in the order of 1,500 ML last water year. Andrew explained lower figures for 2020 were to be expected due to rainfall.

Andrew presented the strata cross section via a conceptual underground schematic, he identified the three coal seams; Woodlands Hill Seam, Bowfield Seam and Mt Arthur Seam, being the over-burden and inter-burden layers. Andrew explained that the Mt Arthur Seam is down the bottom where the workings are i.e. that is where the bore goes in and identified the area that is called the goaf. Andrew explained 100% coal extraction creates a porous area with water draining down dip, so there is also water access from the goaf. Neville queried the depth of the goaf and Andrew advised this goes down 190 meters.

Neville questioned the water quality and Andrew responded that this is moderately saline, approximately 7,000 milligrams per litre, and would not be suitable for stock water. Neville queried the two Piezometers marked out on the cross section and Andrew advised that these are monitoring bores.

Andrew asked if this detail had satisfied Neville's query and Neville responded that he was concerned about poor quality water being taken from this underground and how there had been permission granted to do this. Andrew responded that the water quality is what would typically be seen from a coal seam and that it is not re-injected water. Andrew noted that water quality is influenced by the chemistry of the rock that's within the aquifer. Andrew advised that this is classified as mine water, therefore HVO treat it in the same water as water that has come into contact with coal. In addition the pipeline that MTW utilise has a leak detection system.

Neville queried if there was an interconnection between the two mines and Andrew advised that all mines in the locality are connected to some degree via coal seam aquifers. The water bore abstraction is operated under a water licence which is capped so as not to adverse lower better quality water sources into that draw down area. Neville queried if the water is utilised for "make up water" and Andrew confirmed that it is utilised as a source to make up MTW's water supply. Neville asked if this could be described as a reservoir of old water in an old mine and Andrew responded that is correct.

- ✓ **Ongoing Annual Action; HVO to present their yearly Local Procurement Spend data when that reporting is available.**  
*Referenced from HVO CCC Meeting 21 August 2019 Minutes*

- ✚ Total local procurement spend at HVO for the period June 2019 to June 2020 is \$346,238,067 versus local spend of \$353,789,241 in June 2018 to June 2019 period.
- ✚ Local Government Areas closest to HVO total \$286,127,310 versus \$283,134,436 in the previous reporting period of June 2018 to June 2019.
- ✚ The Singleton LGA spend of \$100,562,727 includes Singleton Council rates, access agreements, labour hire companies and community grants

At this point in the meeting, Bruce Gould departed from the Meeting and Tony Galvin stepped in to present the Company Reports.

## 7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

### SAFETY SNAPSHOT

#### Injury Rates as at end October 2020

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –2.39 (target is 3.00)

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) –0.34 (target is 1.00)

The TRIFR remains under target of 3.00, HVO's focus is to remain under target.

### MINING OPERATIONS

- ✚ **West Pit;** Operations continue in the same areas over in West Pit / Horwick area. With regard to Dragline sequence; the Dragline is conducting its last couple of passes for 2020 and other pieces of equipment are still working in that area.
- ✚ **Carrington** – operating as a *Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)*.
- ✚ **Cheshunt Pit & Riverview Pit;** Operations continue in both of these Pits. There is one shovel at the base of Riverview de-coaling. Andrew noted that there is pre-stripping of soil being conducted in the top area of Riverview as operations work back to the final highwall position. Andrew advised that he would discuss recent n lighting complaints in the complaints reporting as there had been a number of concerns raised by one resident on Jerry's Plains Road. Andrew identified the location of HVO's lighting plant at the Riverview Pit on mapping.

### REPORTING, EXCEEDANCES & INSPECTIONS

- *Blasting overpressure exceedance on 27 August;*  
*DPIE issued penalty notice of \$15,000 received by HVO on 3 November 2020.*

Andrew confirmed that this blasting issue in Cheshunt Pit had been reported to the CCC at the September Meeting and at that time was under investigation. The overpressure was over 127 dB(L) against a Development Consent criteria of 120 dB(L). There had been no complaints received by HVO in relation to this blast. HVO had an external consultant conduct an investigation and provide an incident report.

In relation to key causes, the report provided to the Regulator advised that one hole had been under-stemmed resulting in a hole ejection and coupled with a wave front that reinforced overpressure, particularly in the direction of the Knodlers Lane Blast Monitor at Maison Dieu. Andrew advised that HVO's learning's from this incident was the significance of both drilling and design of blast patterns. In relation to design; HVO have implemented new Blast Logic Software that will improve their analysis on wave front reinforcement.

- *DPIE undertook surveillance on HVO operations on 4 November 2020 with a focus on dust with no significant issues observed.*
- *There had been a follow up inspection by the Resource Regulator on 12 November 202 regarding tailings and large water dams with no actions arising.*

Andrew acknowledged Dam Safety NSW as the new regulator for dams with a consequence category of significant or above which came into place in 2019. Dam Safety NSW are gaining an understanding on what occurs from a mining perspective. Andrew explained that this covers around 400 dams, with only a small portion being mining related.

## ENVIRONMENT

**Complaints YTD 2020;** Andrew provided an overview of complaints and actions undertaken by HVO in response.

**Lighting;** A number of lighting complaints had been received from a resident on Jerry's Plains Road. HVO confirmed that there was not a lighting plant pointing in that direction however they did note a gap in the terrain facing that property, so as Riverview progressed the light had become more apparent during the evening. In response HVO put in a plan to build a bund in that location to the west of that strip to help shield the light from the lighting plant. In the meantime HVO were operating at a level not to expose lighting plants. Andrew noted that a portion of the new lighting plants coming on site will have orange/yellow lights, in comparison to white lights, which are less intrusive.

**Travelling Stock Reserve;** This TSR is located next to Riverview Pit and on a couple of occasions the licensee had been locked out of their property. HVO also have access to this TSR for blast surveillance and their padlock had been put over the licensees effectively locking out the licensee. To ensure that issue did not happen again, HVO installed a new set of gates to provide their own access off the Carrington Stud area.

**Dust;** In response to dust being produced by a truck travelling on the haul road at HVO South (near the workshop) HVO had that truck pulled up and relocated.

## Rehabilitation

**Total rehabilitation YTD 2020 = 50.2 ha**

To end of month October:

Released:	118.4 ha
Shaped:	102 ha
Topsoiled:	66.8 ha
Seeded:	50.2 ha

Andrew advised that rehabilitation had been going well, 50 hectares had been seeded against a target of 94 up to the previous week. Andrew identified via mapping where HVO had completed all top soiling on the bottom area of Cheshunt and advised that the top levels of that area will be conducted in two parts in 2021. Andrew also identified the location of where HVO were dumping top soil and where they had finished up in West Pit. Andrew noted that the aerial seeding that HVO had conducted in June was going well.

## Feral Pest Management

Andrew provided an update on HVO's program of activities for 2020 relating to the management of kangaroos, feral pigs, wild dogs and foxes. Andrew advised that it had been reported that feral pig numbers were getting back up again and asked if this had been observed by neighbours. Members responded that they had not noted an increase and Andrew confirmed that HVO will keep the feral pig program rolling.

## HERITAGE

### Update

- ✚ Hayshed repair works at Archerfield Homestead were completed August 2020.
- ✚ Hunter Valley Operations Historic Heritage Register updated and finalised 24 September 2020.
- ✚ Termite Interception System inspections at LEP listed properties report no identified termite activity end October 2020.
- ✚ Yard maintenance works at LEP listed properties completed 1st week November 2020.
- ✚ Removal of tenants equipment from around Archerfield Stables progressing November 2020.
- ✚ HVO planning for temporary onsite storage of Archerfield agricultural heritage items while repair/preservation works at the Archerfield Stables progress in the forthcoming year.
- ✚ HVO were calling for quotes to reinstate security boarding following a recent report of forced entry, but no damage, at the Chain of Ponds Inn.

Peter asked if members had any questions and nil were put forward.

### Community;

Andrew provided an update on the second round of the Community Grants Program and advised who were the successful applicants that had obtained funds totalling approximately \$22,000.00 (including out of round donations).

- ✓ Singleton Heights Pre-School Inc.
- ✓ Singleton PCYC.
- ✓ Hunter Valley Campdraft Club Inc.
- ✓ Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.
- ✓ Aberdeen Senior and Little Athletics Centre Inc.
- ✓ HVO will continue to support the Jerrys Plains Public School Jerrys Juniors and Ready4School pre-school programmes in 2021.
- ✓ HVO will contribute \$3000 to the Singleton Beef and Land Management Association Field Day to be held on 20 November.
- ✓ HVO will contribute \$1000 to the Singleton Fire Brigade Santa Lolly Run.

HVO will hold Community Information Sessions at Jerrys Plains on 26 November, Maison Dieu on 28 November and Long Point on 3 December 2020. Andrew asked community representatives to pass detail of these sessions on to their networks.

## 8. HVO Approvals

### Hunter Valley Operations - Continuation Project

- ✚ Newsletter delivered to local community: Jerrys Plains, Maison Dieu, Warkworth, Long Point and Camberwell.
- ✚ Continuation Project website live –social pinpoint  
<https://www.hvo.com.au/en/Pages/home.aspx>  
<https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/hvo>
- ✚ Community interviews offered and completed by telephone / video conference.
- ✚ Regulator briefings held, including briefings to Singleton and Muswellbrook Councillors.
- ✚ Positive media coverage in Hunter River Times (25 September 2020).
- ✚ Expressions of interest sought from Registered Aboriginal Parties.
- ✚ Draft Scoping Report (requesting Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements) currently under review, this is to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment prior to end of November 2020.
- ✚ Project referral to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in preparation for lodgement will be in early December 2020.

*The online survey* received a total of 101 responses; 49 responses were from local residents, 6 surveys within the area of reference (Hunter Valley and Newcastle) and 46 were located interstate or internationally.

**Support from within Singleton and Muswellbrook LGAs;** Andrew advised that feedback for the Continuation Project within the area of social influence had been predominantly strongly opposed or supportive/strongly supportive. Andrew noted there had been a high percentage of very positive responses in relation to employment. Hollee asked if the response could be broken down to LGA.

**ACTION 1: HVO to provide Continuation Project survey responses broken down to LGA.**

### **Mining Tenements**

Two mining tenements; ML1810 and ML1811 and 3 Assessment Leases AL32, 33 and 34 have been granted. Andrew identified where these tenements are located via mapping and noted that the Assessments lease replaced EL5291.

### **Exploration Drilling EL 5606 and EL 5291**

Andrew confirmed that HVO had previously provided the CCC with detail on this exploration drilling. Andrew advised that 20 of the proposed 29 drill holes located on HVO's North Pit property have been completed under EL5606 and at this stage there will be no drilling on EL5291, including those drill holes proposed for private properties.

### **Insite Update**

HVO will be closing down the Insite page which currently hosts the document library and operational data including dust and noise data and operational downtime statistics:-

- ✚ Most of the information will be transferred to a new website page to align with other Glencore sites.
- ✚ The Insite "data" page was analysed for foot traffic over the period 1 May 2018 to 3 March 2020 which found that on average there was less than one page view per day.
- ✚ Given that this page is generating very little interest, HVO intends to remove this data.

Neville queried if this means that HVO will be removing real time data and Andrew responded that the information provided was in semi real time with data being presented daily via a graph for the previous 24 hour period, or provided on a Monday for weekend data. Neville felt the number of views may not be the significant point but rather to understand if people were looking at that data when it may relate to a concern. Andrew advised that when people have concerns they phone HVO to let them know, confirming that he and his team have those conversations.

Neville asked if HVO are going to collate all the information that is currently put up on Insite e.g. exceedances, he felt there was a lot of logic in having that detail made accessible. Andrew advised that information will still be available however not on a day by day basis and HVO will continue to produce their Monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports which contains this detail. Andrew reiterated that their analysis had confirmed that Insite was receiving minimal views however he asked members to let HVO know if they receive feedback that a lot of people had interest in this page. Andrew advised that HVO will not close down Insite straight away, but rather in 2021. Andrew asked the CCC to let him know of any feedback they may receive in the meantime.

Andrew advised that Glencore are conducting a major webpage upgrade and HVO will move across to that format, and confirmed that all other information on the website will remain i.e. HVO's contacts, the CCC Meeting Minutes, the Environmental Impact Statement and so on.

## **9. Community Representative Feedback**

### **Michael Wellard**

Michael queried if HVO may be able to provide him with some more water filters and if they are getting any better quality ones. Michael said when his water tank was cleaned the water that had come out had been filthy. Michael is concerned that when there is rain, the rubbish will go back into his water tank. Andrew queried where the filter was out of and Michael advised the filter had come out of his house, he explained his issue is the water supply from the tank to his house.

Brian felt that installing "first flush" on tanks helps no end and Michael explained that his gutters are not high enough to put in that system. Michael advised that he did have his water tank cleaned out a couple of times about 12 months ago. In addition Michael's gutters were cleaned about twice a year and he was concerned about the purple colour of the water running out the other end.



Andrew advised that HVO are still running their Amenity Resources Program for filters or tank cleaning and will publish this in HVO's newsletter.

Brian added in relation to tank cleaning that if there is only a vacuum utilised to remove the material on the bottom of the tank, this does not get any matter from the tank walls. Brian believes that the correct process is to empty and clean the whole tank, otherwise there will be a problem when it fills.

Michael advised his second issue related to rubbish in the river that is coming down again about every third night, he felt that the brownish coloured scum on the water was a result of someone putting waste in there. Andrew recommended that Michael get in touch with the EPA or Water NSW as they may be best able to assist with this.

### *Cr. Hollee Jenkins*

Hollie confirmed that Singleton Council had renominated their CCC representatives and that she will continue as a member of HVO CCC.

### *Dr Neville Hodkinson*

Neville acknowledged the heritage works that had been undertaken by HVO and advised that he most likely would have some feedback after he had reviewed the Historic Heritage Register.

Neville said he was uncertain in terms of the boundary where Warkworth is, he felt that seemed to come across to take in where the rail loop is and the bridge, so it looks like it is part of the Convict Trail and the bridge associated with that. Andrew believed that the area Neville was questioning would most likely be the old Jerry's Plains Road. Neville said his interest is in the Mitchell's Road continuation of Wallaby Scrub Road. Andrew advised he did not believe HVO had anything of historical significance in there.

Neville said he had found the historic report presented at today's meeting very interesting as it showed what HVO had undertaken and the next steps, so that people then know what is going on in that area.

Neville had noted it appeared that incidents around hydraulic and oil spills had accelerated and that he may have commented on that at the last CCC. Andrew advised that is due to HVO's new reporting culture, previously less than 20 litre spills had not been reported however smaller incidents are now reported along with any larger issues. Andrew said that any time an incident is seen regarding machinery it is reported and this includes not only spills but safety issues.

Neville queried if issues with monitors had been related to lightning or electricity and Andrew confirmed that some were power related, he provided an example of the HVAS dust monitor at Moses Crossing which required some trouble shooting as an electrician had checked all through the circuit identifying the same power carrying another dust monitor that was working fine. Another example of run time failure was attributed to a n issue with a motor in a dust monitor that HVO swapped out three times to get working.

### *Todd Mills*

Todd explained his residence is on the eastern side of HVO and he experiences a fair bit of dust when there are westerly and north westerly winds. Todd did note that this had settled down during the period that HVO was shut, so his main concern relates to dust.

### *Brian Atfield*

Brian queried coal production and asked if that will go off site or would there be a requirement for HVO to stockpile this. Tony responded that HVO will continue to send its coal offsite and that they also have their normal raw coal system on site.

Brian asked if HVO have a Committee in place for heritage and Andrew advised that this subject had been brought into the HVO CCC forum for members to raise questions and bring items of interest in.

*Jeannie Hayes*

Jeannie queried if HVO are sharing the Heritage Register with other parties such as the library. HVO advised they have not shared that document yet. It was questioned if HVO would put the Heritage documents in the Company Reports or on the Website and Andrew confirmed they would consider that.

Hollie suggested that if heritage is a matter for the CCC that there be a site tour at the next meeting to go and look at Heritage Sites, Andrew confirmed that COVID-19 restrictions may place some limitations regarding that timing.

Hollie queried if the reduced throughput of coal had resulted in a reduction in employees and sub-contractors or was HVO running at the same numbers, she also asked how HVO were travelling with regard to intakes. Tony advised that overall HVO are able to run with the same number of employees and had been in discussion with the labour hire company in an effort to place contractors in other mines.

## 9. General Business

Col called for general business items and nil were put forward. Col closed the meeting and said he was looking forward to seeing everyone in person at the next meeting scheduled for February 2021. In the meantime, he asked that the CCC stay safe and wished all members a good Christmas.

## 10. Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 1.30 p.m.

### ACTION CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING

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

### ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: HVO to provide Continuation Project survey responses broken down to LGA.

### 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.