

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting
Wednesday 17 February 2021 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 - attended via WebEx
Todd Mills Community Representative
Michael Wellard Community Representative
Janelle Wenham Community Representative

Company Representatives

Tony Morris Operations Manager
Andrew Speechly Manager Environment & Community
Merri Bartlett Environment & Community Officer
Catherine Fenton GCAA – Approvals Officer, Projects

Apologies

Cr. Hollee Jenkins Singleton Council
David Love Community Representative
Di Gee Community Representative

Minutes

Sarah Purser – attended via WebEx

1. Welcome

Col welcomed members to today's meeting held both on site and via teleconference due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Andrew 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".

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 respective roles of Independent Chairperson and meeting note taking.

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

23/12/2020 CCC Minutes from 18 November 2020 Meeting and Community Newsletter
4/2/2020 CCC Agenda and Business Papers for CCC Meeting 17 February 2021.

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the minutes for the Meeting held 18 November 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 18 November 2020 - Action Items

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

✓ At today's meeting

Andrew explained that at the previous presentation on the HVO Continuation Project Survey Hollee had expressed interest in the breakdown of contributors by location. Andrew advised the survey was conducted in two parts;

- 1) An invite to complete the survey was distributed via HVO's Community Newsletter which was sent to HVO near neighbours in the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA). Near neighbours were also contacted by telephone to discuss the project.
- 2) In addition, the survey was listed on the project website which was not advertised to those outside of the Singleton LGA and that had attracted input from other areas i.e. Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria.

The feedback is tabled below.

Location	Strongly Opposed	Strongly Positive
Location not specified	11	
Western Australia	1	
South Australia	2	
Queensland	2	
Victoria	8	
Sydney	4	1
Dubbo	1	
Lismore	1	
Narrabri		1
Tamworth		2
Muswellbrook	3	1
Singleton	10	14
Maitland	1	3
Newcastle	10	
Central Coast	1	

The below table is broken down by respondents in the Singleton LGA.

Location	Strongly Opposed	Opposed	Neutral	Supportive	Strongly Supportive
Jerry's Plains Residents	1		4	5	
Maison Dieu Residents	1			4	
Long Point Residents		2			
Community Groups				1	2

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

SAFETY SNAPSHOT

Injury Rates as at end January 2021

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) –8.26 (target is 3.00)

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

HVO had two recordable incidents in January 2021 being minor hand injuries. HVO finished well at year end 2020 below the TRIFR target of 3.

MINING OPERATIONS

- ✚ **West Pit;** There is one Dragline and the new 9800 Excavator operating in West Pit. HVO will bring in a Swing Machine to de-coal. The Shovels are not operating in West Pit and one Excavator has been taken out. Members were shown pictures of the new 330 Shovel and 9800 Excavator that is operating in West Pit. Howick Coal Handling Prep Plant (CHPP) is in care and maintenance and not currently operating, Howick is due to come back on line in April 2022.
- ✚ **Carrington - as at November 2020 now Tailings Storage Facility (TSF)**
- ✚ **Cheshunt Pit;** There are two Shovels, four main Diggers and a Swing Digger operating in Cheshunt.
- ✚ **Riverview Pit;** In Riverview south the Dragline strips are working back towards the direction of the Golden Highway. There are approximately two more years of operating in Riverview Pit, HVO anticipate this to be completed at the end of 2023, or early 2024. The Dragline (DL) in Riverview Pit was to be moved on Sunday 21 February 2021, this DL will come up onto a higher bench and given that this position is closer to the Golden Highway, the boom will be visible.

Col queried HVO's general production levels for 2021 and Tony responded that these will be in the order of 11 1/2 million tonne (Mt.) of product, 15 Mt. of ROM and HVO have dropped dirt back to approximately 90 Mt. HVO intends to bring production levels back up again in 2022.

Whilst HVO have wound back production for 2021 from a market perspective the business remains cash positive. HVO do not sell a large amount of coal to China, however coal from other mining companies that would normally go into China is now being forced into HVO's market, so that does have an impact on their business.

In a response to a query from Jeannie regarding coal being sold out of countries such as Colombia and South Africa Tony advised that HVO supply their coal direct to the customer and theirs does not go through South Africa.

HVO Continuation Project - Update; Presented by Catherine Fenton

- ✚ Scoping Report and request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) was lodged by HVO with the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) on 4 December 2020.
 - HVO are consulting with Heritage NSW on what methods are to be utilised for the text excavation of Aboriginal site CM_CD1 i.e. manual or mechanical.
- ✚ HVO's Application for Site Verification Certificate (SVC) was lodged with the DPIE on 24 December 2020.
 - This verifies that there is not strategic agricultural land in areas where the new mining lease is required.
- ✚ HVO require a new approval under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) and will be lodging this referral in the coming month to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.
- ✚ HVO's technical studies to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are well underway, with a number of Draft Reports due in March 2021.
- ✚ HVO propose to undertake further targeted community consultation to discuss outcomes of these technical studies via these Draft Reports.
- ✚ Documentation can be accessed on the Major Project Portal sites, which are maintained by the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE), via the links below:-

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40761> (HVO North)

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40756> (HVO South)

Col asked if members had any questions around the HVO Continuation Project Update and nil were put forward.

Howick Communications Tower

Andrew advised that HVO have submitted a Development Application (DA) and Statement of Environmental Effects to Singleton Council for assessment for the installation of a 25 metre Tower for HVO site communications. This is in an area that is just outside HVO's DA for West Pit and where Telstra already have their existing Towers in place.

Drilling; EL5606 and EL8821

Andrew provided an update on HVO's Exploration Licences EL5606 and EL8821, explaining that EL5606 sits on top of EL8821. HVO conducted 25 drill sites in 2020 and there will be another 5 in 2021, these sites are all within HVO's current mine and no access to private land will be required.

ENVIRONMENT; *Presented by Andrew Speechly*

Complaints 2020 and YTD 2021

Andrew provided an overview of complaints and actions undertaken by HVO in response.

2020 - 16 complaints in total

Andrew advised that since reporting at the HVO CCC Meeting in November there had been two more complaints received to year end 2020.

9 November 2020- Jerrys Plains, Noise; This noise complaint came from Redmonvale Road, Jerrys Plains and was received by HVO via the EPA in December 2020. HVO have responded to the EPA's request for information on noise levels and await feedback from that Department.

21 November 2020 - Singleton, Noise; HVO provided a response to a resident around a noise concern from a location up near the Water Tower on the outskirts of Singleton at Gowrie. Given that was quite a distance away from HVO the closest noise monitor was at Long Point and HVO confirmed that the levels were below criteria.

Complaints 2021 - YTD 2 complaints

2 January 2021 - Long Point, Lighting; HVO recommenced operations on 2 January 2021 and received a lighting complaint from Long Point during the evening. The lighting plant location was on the east of the operation and set up so that it was not pointing directly towards the resident who had raised this lighting concern. However investigations identified that there was an offshoot of lighting and in response HVO moved their trucks to a different location at night time and changed to operating that area as a day time dump.

3 January 2021 - Long Point, Noise; This noise complaint was received from the same resident that had raised the lighting concern on 2 January 2021 and in response HVO's OCE conducted a field assessment. Noise levels were also checked from the closest noise monitor which confirmed that the level was well below criteria.

There had been no further complaints received by HVO for the period 4 January to 17 February 2021.

Rehabilitation

Total rehabilitation 2020 = 94 hectares

To end of month December 2020:

- ✓ Released: 124 ha
- ✓ Shaped: 105ha
- ✓ Topsoiled: 99 ha
- ✓ Seeded: 94 ha

Andrew identified via mapping the location of HVO's main rehabilitation areas being Riverview and to the east and south-east. HVO have commenced the first of their natural landform rehabilitation on the rim of Cheshunt dump that is located closest to Maison Dieu and will continue that type of rehabilitation in 2021. Rehabilitation will then move into a number of areas in West Pit as those dumps progress.

Rehabilitation target for 2021 = 78ha

As at end of month January 2021:

- ✓ Released: 23 ha
- ✓ Shaped: 23 ha
- ✓ Seeded: 5 ha

Andrew confirmed HVO's target for rehabilitation in 2021 is 78 hectares, he identified via mapping the planned rehabilitation for the year, indicating areas that HVO were emplacing top soil and from there will move across to Cheshunt and West Pit to make up their rehabilitation target.

Feral Pest Management

Program of activities for 2021

Andrew advised there had not been a lot of activity around feral pests as at February 2021. HVO had conducted two kangaroo culls via a commercial harvest in January 2021 and were awaiting on data from those shoots.

The first of HVO's synchronized baiting / trapping programs, targeting pigs, wild dogs and foxes in conjunction with the Local Land Services (LLS) was conducted on 1 February and scheduled to complete 19 February 2021 for the summer period.

HVO's Autumn, Winter and Spring Programs will commence on a date to be confirmed with the LLS. The Autumn Wild dog / fox control program will likely commence in May 2021, the Winter Hog – eye pig trapping program will likely commence July 2021 and the Spring 1080 Wild dog / fox control program will likely commence September / October 2021

Andrew explained HVO's Feral Pest Management is a routine program that can be adaptable if numbers are seen to change across the business. Andrew noted there had been an increase in mice baiting around office buildings and awareness provided to employees and contractors about crib room cleanliness and removing food sources.

Janelle advised that she had noted a feral pig problem, she had seen a big sow and litter moving across from HVO land to her property. Andrew responded that when reporting is available HVO can advise if any wild pigs were shot in the commercial harvest and confirmed that HVO will also run the same Feral Pig Control Program in 2021 that they conducted in 2020. Janelle noted that it was back in January when she had seen the feral pigs and Andrew confirmed that HVO will put that feedback on their radar.

ACTION 1: HVO to advise if any feral pigs had been sighted or controlled during the kangaroo commercial harvest in January 2021.

Andrew presented HVO's Vertebrate Pest Control Summary for 2020 and YTD 2021 by species and control numbers.

Brian queried how many wild dog baits had been taken up, he felt that the dogs were not touching the baits but rather they are taken by crows and the like. Andrew confirmed the reporting identifies how many baits were taken i.e. that were missing or chewed on, not the number of carcasses. Andrew advised that HVO's wildlife cameras also identify what animals are travelling past.

HERITAGE

Activities undertaken in previous quarter:

- ✓ Reinstatement of security boarding at Chain of Ponds Inn has been completed.

Andrew noted that there had been visitors to the Chain of Ponds the previous week that had been arranged via Liddell Coal and that these people had known the last residents. Andrew said that it had been interesting to have discussions with them about life in the 1970's.

Proposed activities:

- ✓ Planning for temporary onsite storage of Archerfield agricultural heritage items while repair / preservation works at the Archerfield Stables progress in the forthcoming year.
 - ✓ Archerfield Stables structural works.
 - ✓ Yard maintenance works at LEP listed properties ongoing.
 - ✓ Termite Interception System inspections at LEP listed properties ongoing.
- Andrew acknowledged that community have expressed interest to view Archerfield.

Reporting, Exceedances and Inspections

- ✚ The EPA undertook an inspection on 21 January 2021 and the overall feedback was positive. Three areas requiring action included:
 - 1) Pumping out the bulk fuel tank refuelling catch bund at the Orica explosive reload facility
 - 2) Removing minor amount of ammonium nitrate spillage
 - 3) Wheel generated dust from the coal stockpile

It was noted that all actions from the inspection had been addressed.

- ✚ Combined and revised Mining Operations Plan (MOP) for North and South was submitted to the Resource Regulator in December 2020 for assessment.

ACTION 2: When the combined and revised Mining Operations Plan submitted to the Resource Regulator in December 2020 for assessment is returned, HVO are to share this MOP with the CCC.

Community Information Sessions

Community Information Sessions were held in November and December 2020 at Jerrys Plains, Maison Dieu and Long Point. There had been lower numbers at Jerry's Plains and Long Point but a good turnout at Maison Dieu. One of the key reasons for HVO going out to the community is ensure that members of the public have an opportunity to ask any questions, in an additional capacity from the CCC, and to discuss the Continuation Project.

Common feedback was the realignment of Lemington Road that is part of the HVO Continuation Project, particularly if that will increase travel time from Jerry's Plains to Singleton and queries on access to the Hunter River with Moses Crossing. Noise, dust and feral animals made up the balance of discussion points by attendees.

Andrew advised HVO will continue their Community Information Sessions if conditions around Covid-19 remain in a steady state and these will also be held as part of the Continuation Project to gain input around social impacts.

Community Grants

Round One of HVO Community Grants Programme opens in April 2021

ACTION 3: HVO to advise the CCC when Round One of the Community Grants Program opens so they can encourage those with a local community project to apply.

Grants provided by HVO:-

HVO provided A \$6000 donation to Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA)

HVO partnered with DK Heavy Plant Services who painted an HVO Shovel bucket which included the HVO logo and invited HVO to their Field Day Fund Raiser. HVO wanted to support this cause further and provided \$1,000.00 for each cubic metre the bucket would excavate before needing replacement which equated to a \$6,000.00 donation. Andrew acknowledged this provided HVO with an opportunity to raise awareness around ovarian cancer through their business as well.

HVO has made a donation in support of the Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Day

Andrew advised that the life saving work of the Westpac Helicopter Service is the key organisation behind this Charity Rugby League Day and HVO will support this event to be held 20 March 2021.

HVO Contact Details

HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline is 1800 888 733 (free call)

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

SMS Blasting Notification System

Send an SMS to 0447 448 982 with word subscribe included in text

Websites

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

Andrew noted that he had advised members at the November CCC Meeting that HVO will be changing the face of their website to align with Glencore Corporate website. Andrew advised that the same information will remain on the new website and that it is as easy to access data as it has been previously. Andrew asked members if they have any issues with the new website format to advise HVO.

9. Community Representative Feedback

Janelle Wenham

With regard to the proposed Lemington Road realignment Janelle raised that access to farmland is an important consideration. Janelle suggested the new Lemington Road might attract people to use the old Maison Dieu Road causeway. Catherine and Andrew led a general discussion around the Lemington Road realignment, direct routes of travel and potential shortcuts, consideration around additional travel times, and the location of an old causeway that people used to get bogged in or used by trespassers. Janelle queried if HVO could consider how to block access to the causeway from the HVO side without impacting farmers access to pumps.

Dr Neville Hodkinson

Neville raised the overall noise complaints that had come from Jerry's Plains over 2020, he asked if HVO utilise the noise array that was installed and if these are alarmed. Neville then queried if these monitors are picking up the same noise that the community is. Andrew confirmed that HVO have a noise compass at Jerry's Plains which is located on the right hand side when entering the Village. In addition, there is also a noise compass and barn owl at Maison Dieu.

Andrew confirmed that should HVO receive a noise complaint they will compare this against their monitoring, in addition the alarms are in place to provide information back to HVO prior to receiving complaints.

Neville queried if the noise alarms were set too high given that HVO had received noise complaints and Andrew confirmed that the alarms are set consistent with the required criteria and are effective in picking up noise, he noted however that complaints will not always align with criteria.

Neville queried if HVO have community response officers at night watching out for issues around noise and lighting and Andrew responded that they do not have this in place however should there be a spate of issues, for example; lighting at Jerry's Plains Road, in response HVO will have OCE's going out on a routine basis to investigate the complaint if required. Similarly with regard to noise, should it be identified there is an issue in a particular location, HVO will engage their own personnel to go out and conduct a campaign. In addition, HVO have their routine monthly compliance monitoring conducted by an external consultant.

Neville advised he remains strongly focussed on the heritage campaign and noted that as part of the Continuation Project HVO is reviewing Aboriginal Heritage and asked if some detail could be provided to the CCC regarding what is being looked at, as this would provide an understanding around how significant the site may be from an Aboriginal stand point.

ACTION 4: HVO to provide detail about the Aboriginal Heritage Review that is being conducting as part of the Continuation Project.

Neville noted that he had not had time to review the Historic Heritage Register provided by HVO and would come back with some feedback after his review. Neville advised general feedback from the community is that there is an interest to go back to the time that mines actually took over a particular property e.g. Clifford and Stafford and review what condition they were in compared to the present, he felt that this is an ongoing community concern that tends to linger in the background. Neville would also like to review the EIS and compare this to current inventories, given that some items may have been mined, he felt that a reconciliation of the two needs to be looked at.

9. General Business

Col called for general business items and HVO CCC meeting dates for 2021 were confirmed. Members agreed to conjunct a Site Tour with the May 2021 Meeting and Brian asked if this could include a visit to West Pit, he would like to look at the whole set up there as he had concerns that may be the source of some problems at Jerry's Plains. Col thanked all for attending and advised he looked forward to seeing the CCC back again on 12 May 2021.

10. Next Meetings for 2021:

19 May 2021 with Site Tour to include West Pit

18 August 2021

17 November 2021

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 advise if any feral pigs had been sighted or controlled during the kangaroo commercial harvest in January 2021.

ACTION 2: When the combined and revised Mining Operations Plan submitted to the Resource Regulator in December 2020 for assessment is returned, HVO are to share this MOP with the CCC.

ACTION 3: HVO to advise the CCC when Round One of the Community Grants Program opens so they can encourage those with a worthy project to apply.

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