

## 1 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) is an opencut coal mine comprising HVO North and HVO South operations. It is located in Lemington, NSW, approximately 20km northwest of Singleton. HVO's Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is a forum for open discussions and information sharing between HVO and the community.

The HVO CCC operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development Projects.

During the reporting period, the committee has performed its functions well and in accordance with the DPE CCC Guideline. It provides an effective communication forum between community representatives, local Council and HVO.

## 2 | HVO CCC ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

**Table 1** provides a summary of the HVO CCC annual report.

*Table 1 – HVO CCC Annual Report Overview*

Aspect	Detail
<b>Project Name</b>	Hunter Valley Operations
<b>Project Location</b>	Lemington, NSW
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1 January – 31 December 2023
<b>Independent Chairperson</b>	Dr. Colin Gellatly
<b>Proponent Contact</b>	Andrew Speechly – HVO Manager Environment and Community

## 3 | ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

### 3.1 | MEETINGS

Four face-to-face, quarterly meetings were held on:

- 8 February 2023
- 10 May 2023
- 9 August 2023
- 8 November 2023

Meetings were held onsite at HVO on a Wednesday between 1:30 – 3:30pm.

### 3.2 | COMMITTEE

The committee consisted of:

- An independent Chairperson
- An independent minute taker
- A Singleton Local Council councillor
- Three (3) HVO (company) representatives (with additional subject matter experts as required)
- Six (6) community representatives
- One (1) stakeholder group representative (Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group)

Attendees at HVO CCC meetings are summarised in **Table 2**.

**Table 2 – 2023 HVO CCC Attendees**

<b>Administration</b>	
Chairperson (independent)	Dr. Colin Gellatly
Minute Taker (independent)	Sarah Purser
<b>Community</b>	
Brian Atfield	Community Representative
Jeanie Hayes	Community Representative
Michael Wellard	Community Representative
Todd Mills	Community Representative
Di Gee	Community Representative
Janelle Wenham	Community Representative
Dr. Neville Hodgkinson	Community Representative (SSHEG)
<b>Local Council</b>	
CR. Sue George	Singleton Council
<b>HVO (company)</b>	
David Foster	General Manager
Andrew Speechly	Manager Environment and Community
Peter Bowman	Environment and Community Officer
Dean Woods	Environment and Community Officer
Nic McLaughlin	Environment and Community Officer
Jason Martin	Approvals Manager – HVO Continuation Project

Additional representation / activities –

**Meeting 10 May 2023** included a Historical Homestead Site Tour to Wandewoi Homestead, Carrington Homestead and Archerfield Homestead and outbuildings presented in person by HVO environment and community officer Peter Bowman.

**Meeting 8 November 2023** included an Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue update presented in person by Cate Sims and Craig Milton.

## 4 | PUBLICATIONS

Prior to, and following, each quarterly meeting, HVO provides the below to members via email and/or publication to the HVO website ([www.hvo.com.au](http://www.hvo.com.au)):

- Agenda
- Business papers
- Meeting presentation slides
- Minutes

Agenda items / presentation at each meeting generally consisted of updated information regarding:

- Welcome, apologies, correspondence, administration, etc – delivered by Chairperson
- Operations update – delivered by HVO General Manager / Manager Environment and Community
- Environment (complaints, rehabilitation, pest / weed / land management, biodiversity off-sets) – delivered by HVO Manager Environment and Community
- Heritage (aboriginal and historic) – delivered by HVO Environment and Community Officer / Manager Environment and Community
- Reporting, exceedances and inspections – delivered by HVO Manager Environment and Community
- Exploration works - delivered by HVO Manager Environment and Community
- HVO Continuation Project – delivered by HVO Approvals Manager
- Community contribution (grants, funding, events, media) – delivered by HVO Environment and Community Officer
- Community feedback – delivered by individual community representatives
- General business – delivered by Chairperson
- HVO contact details (website, complaints and blasting hotline telephone number and SMS blasting notification system) – delivered by HVO Manager Environment and Community

Business papers consist of inter meeting information regarding:

- Community complaints
- Environmental incidents
- Community contribution (e.g. grants, events, media, etc)
- Environmental monitoring reports
- Environmental / community related documents

HVO CCC meeting agendas, business papers, presentation and minutes are available on HVO's public website and can be accessed on-line via [hvo.com.au](http://hvo.com.au) and/or [hvo.com.au/documents](http://hvo.com.au/documents).

## 5 | KEY ISSUES AND MEMBER FEEDBACK

CCC Feedback	Action/s Taken	Follow up
<b>Meeting 8 February 2023</b>		
Dust issue as a result of winds blowing from the west when HVO's operations were on the top of Cheshunt dump	HVO confirmed they were building a bund to work within in order to complete the dumping in that location	HVO advised 2023 will be the last time that operations are visible from that location
Not enough length of time for community to provide submissions in response to modifications	HVO confirmed they provide awareness notifications about modifications to those considered to be the primary stakeholders along with the CCC	HVO will take this feedback on board as part of any future modifications
Importance of road closure notifications.	HVO shared traffic control details	No further action required
<b>Meeting 10 May 2023</b>		
HVO were commended on their updates on the continuation project	Nil required	Nil required
Members were appreciative of the tour of historical homesteads	Nil required	HVO to offer members a site tour on an annual basis to visit areas of interest to the CCC
<b>Meeting 9 August 2023</b>		
Unsafe driving issues in the area - not specific to HVO but right across the local region	HVO delivered site wide education to their workforce on safe driving. HVO confirmed they encourage their workforce to report any illegal or aggressive driving to both their supervisors and police. Singleton Council confirmed they will raise reckless/intimidating driving behaviour with the local police traffic command	Future reports (internal and community) of unsafe driving to be followed by site wide education slides HVO workforce at pre-start meetings
Enquiry if HVO manage African Boxthorn as part of their weed management	HVO confirmed this is an annual targeted species	Maintain annual management strategy
How do HVO manage their property in respect to fire management given the forthcoming bushfire season	HVO confirmed that all properties get a regular fuel load assessment, HVO then determine respective management strategies which may include boundary fire breaks and/or cattle grazing	Maintain annual management strategy
<b>Meeting 8 November 2023</b>		
Dust seen from HVO's haul road from a members residence	Feedback acknowledged by HVO	Nil required
A member experienced noise from HVO – pit noise	Feedback acknowledged by HVO. HVO were not aware of any operational changes that would have increased noise at that time	Nil required
CCC representative advised that a member of the community had asked about cleaning solar panels and enquired if HVO could assist	HVO confirmed they would contact this community member	Cleaning of solar panels organised and undertaken

## **6 | CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Annual Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest Forms were circulated to members, signed off by all individual members and returned to the Chairperson.

## **7 | PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has performed its functions well and in accordance with the DPE CCC Guideline. It provides an effective communication forum between community representatives, local Council and HVO (the company).

There are currently no matters affecting the performance and effectiveness of the committee.

## **8 | TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The HVO CCC Terms of Reference will be developed during 2024 in consultation with HVO and all CCC members. This proposed document will formalise previously scheduled dates, times, locations, activities, etc undertaken by HVO CCC.

The first CCC meeting for 2024 is scheduled for 7 February 2024.

## **9 | FOCUS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS**

- HVO CCC Terms of Reference
- Quarterly CCC meetings to provide continual updates as they occur
- Continue to maintain and foster social performance
- HVO Continuation Project

Chairperson: Dr. Colin Gellatly

Date: 28 February 2025