

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 as well as the HVO CCC terms of reference. 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
Project Name	Hunter Valley Operations
Project Location	Lemington, NSW
Reporting Period	1 January – 31 December 2024
Independent Chairperson	Dr. Colin Gellatly
Proponent Contact	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:

- 7 February 2024
- 8 May 2024
- 28 August 2024
- 13 November 2024

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 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 – 2024 HVO CCC Attendees

Administration	
Chairperson (independent)	Dr. Colin Gellatly
Minute Taker (independent)	Sarah Purser
Community	
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)
Local Council	
CR. Sue George	Singleton Council
HVO (company)	
Andrew Speechly	Manager Environment and Community
Tim Slater	Financial Controller
Brendon Hubert	Superintendent Environment and Community
Nic McLaughlin	Environment and Community Officer
Peter Bowman	Environment and Community Officer
Jess Blair	Project Coordinator – HVO Continuation Project
Astrid Ruiz	Production Manager – HVO West Pit
Jason Martin	Approvals Manager – HVO Continuation Project
Madison Freeman	Environment and Community Graduate

Beth Maher

Environment and Community Graduate

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):

- 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

In addition, all members have been consulted on the development of, as well as provided with a copy of, the HVO CCC Terms of Reference.

HVO CCC meeting agendas, business papers, presentation and minutes and terms of reference are available on HVO's public website and can be accessed on-line via hvo.com.au and/or hvo.com.au/documents.

Number: HVOOC-748212775-6
Owner: [Owner (Office)]

Status: [Document Status (Office)]
Version: [Document Version (Office)]

Effective: [Effective Date]
Review: [Planned Review Date]

Page 3 of 5

Uncontrolled when printed

5 | KEY ISSUES AND MEMBER FEEDBACK

CCC Feedback	Actions Taken	Follow up
Meeting 7 February 2024		
Feedback in relation to air quality that the regional levels of complaints have come down as a result of a number of years of effective participation from the mining fraternity	Nil required	Nil required
There is an impact on community in relation to heritage and this is seen to be receiving attention again. It was acknowledged that there are a number of people contributing to the heritage space. Member would like everyone, including mining companies, to consider the long-term future of the hunter valley and how heritage might play a significant role	HVO confirmed that Archerfield, Carrington Stud and Wandewoi Homesteads were getting a lot of on-ground management. HVO confirmed each of the other heritage sites are managed, but not to the same degree as HVO had to prioritise properties and spending	HVO offered to present their European Heritage Management Plan in 2025. HVO provide quarterly updates on heritage both in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Historic Homestead Projects
Meeting 8 May 2024		
Feedback that residents were happy with HVO organising tank cleaning around the area and were appreciative of this	Nil required	Nil required
Comment that the level of noise in Jerry's Plains had been a bit more active of an afternoon and evening. Agreement that there had been a bit more noise typically for an hour or two that could be described as a bit of a roar and could be due to an inversion, also sometimes rocks on trays. Member does not phone HVO to complain as this typically does not last	HVO advised that if there is a particular type of noise concern i.e. engine, horn, that specific feedback is very useful for HVO to be able to address those matters	Operations in Mitchell Pit were closer to Jerry's Plains than in the past - HVO confirmed all equipment has been sound attenuated prior to mining in this area
Meeting 28 August 2024		
Singleton Council advised Council Elections were to be held 14 September 2024	Nil required	Singleton Council will confirm council representative for the HVO CCC 2025 meetings when determined
Members congratulated HVO on their successful Family Day and were thankful to have been provided an opportunity to attend as CCC representatives	Nil required	Nil required
Meeting 13 November 2024		
Member expressed an interest in rainfall data for the area, noting the varying amounts of rain that is being recorded	HVO provided the link to monthly rainfall data that is available via their website	Provide continuing quarterly updates
Member queried works on the Chain of Ponds	HVO confirmed that maintenance i.e. inspections and termite control were being undertaken at the Chain of Ponds	Provide continuing updates
Member noted that control of African Boxthorn had been discussed during a previous meeting and provided detail on CSIRO's biological control research to manage this weed	Details of the CSIRO project shared during meeting – presentation slide and handout	Details of the CSIRO project to be shared via meeting minutes

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 as well as the HVO CCC terms of reference. 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 Terms of Reference and current schedule of activities proposed for 2025 will mirror those undertaken during 2024.

The first CCC meeting for 2025 is scheduled for 5 February 2025.

9 | FOCUS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS

- 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