

Hunter Valley Operations

Community Consultative Committee

**Business Papers – August 2023**

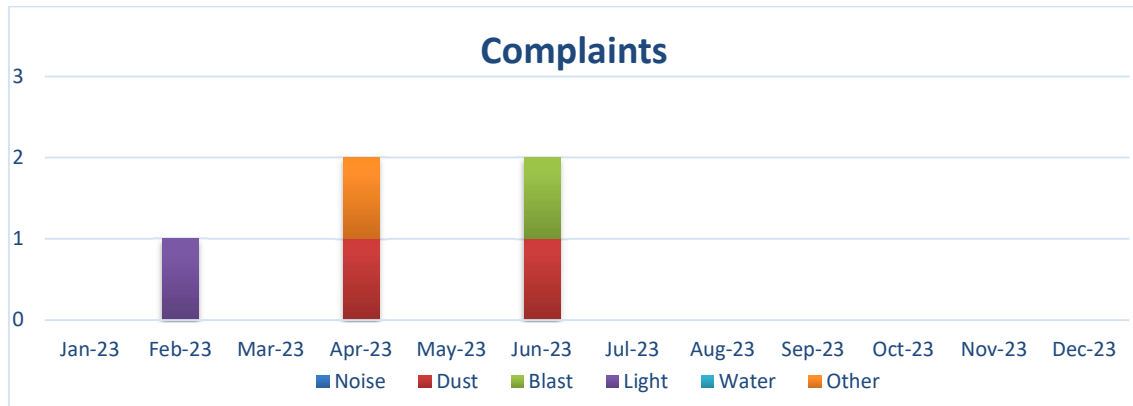
Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **9 August 2023**

## Contents page

<b>1.0 Complaints</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 Incidents</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4.0 Environmental Monitoring</b>	<b>13</b>
March 2023	13
April 2023	13
<b>5.0 Environmental Documents</b>	<b>14</b>

## 1.0 Complaints

Five complaints have been received year to date in 2023, complaint details are provided below.



Date	Time	Type	Location	Complaint details	Method Received	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance ?
1 February	12:06am	Lighting	Long Point	<p>A resident of Long Point called the Community Complaints Hotline at 12.06am regarding a lighting complaint, commenting that "light from HVO was shining directly into their house keeping their family awake".</p> <p>The OCE contacted the complainant at 12:27am and shutdown the lighting plant identified to be causing the disturbance. This was verified by the complainant.</p> <p>An internal investigation conducted following the complaint found that the light from the lighting plant was likely to be visible from the complainant's location. Process changes have been made as a result of the complaint to close the identified gap in operational practices.</p>	Phone call to Community Hotline	N/A

Date	Time	Type	Location	Complaint details	Method Received	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance ?
11 April	7:11am	Traffic	Golden Highway, HVO South entrance	<p>A member of the public was driving east along Golden Highway near the entrance to HVO South when a train of four cars pulled out in front of them.</p> <p>The driver reported that the last car to pull out failed to give way which forced them to flash the headlights, sound the horn and take evasive action and brake heavily causing his car's ABS system to engage to slow down and prevent a collision.</p> <p>An internal investigation identified the driver of the vehicle. The employees supervisor raised the concern with them and the importance of safe driving practices when travelling to and from site. A communication was also issued to all employees.</p>	Phone call to Community Hotline	N/A

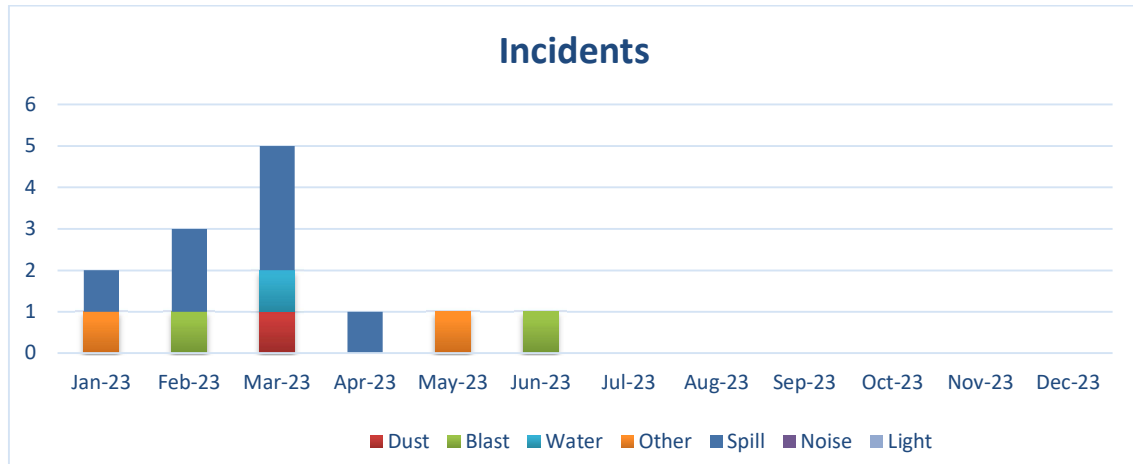
Date	Time	Type	Location	Complaint details	Method Received	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance ?
29 April	1:40pm	Blast dust	HVO South Long Point	<p>A resident of Long Point called the Community Complaints Hotline at 1:40pm on 29/4/2023.</p> <p>The OCE contacted the resident who asked what was going on to create the dust he saw, the OCE advised that a blast had just taken place.</p> <p>The blast was fired in accordance with HVO blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 2.7m/s and 268 degrees. The resident's property is located 8 kilometres from the blast location at a bearing of 295 degrees.</p> <p>A review of camera footage of the blast fired at approximately 1:30pm confirmed that a dust plume was produced but was not abnormal in its colour or volume. Low winds will have slowed the dissipation of the dust plume.</p> <p>The nearest real-time PM10 monitor (Maison Dieu) located downwind of the blast, but north of the resident, issued a level 1 dust trigger (PM10 10-minute average &gt; 150u/gm3) at 2:10pm, the daily average was 27ug/m3 and below the criteria. A High-Volume Air Sampler is located within 150m of their residence and was monitoring particulates during the blast. The laboratory analysed filter paper from the monitor reported a result of 24.6ug/m<sup>3</sup>, which is below the 24-hour criteria of 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.</p>	Phone call to Community Hotline	No

Date	Time	Type	Location	Complaint details	Method Received	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance ?
1 June	11:28pm	Blast fume	Not specified	<p>An anonymous complaint was received at 11.28 pm on the 1st of June 2023 following a blast fired at 1.18pm earlier that day in West Pit. The caller described the blast as 'disgraceful' and also voiced their concern about roads being closed off and the impacts associated with blast fume.</p> <p>Wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.6m/s and 264 degrees. Blast fume ranked as category 3A travelled from the blast across HVO's conveyor road and towards Ravensworth Open Cut where it dissipated. The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. Ravensworth were notified of the blast fume.</p>	Phone call to Community Hotline	No

Date	Time	Type	Location	Complaint details	Method Received	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance ?
10 June	1:09pm	Blast dust	Gliding Club	<p>A dust complaint was received from a member of the Hunter Valley Gliding Club following a blast in Cheshunt Pit at 12:56 pm on June 10, 2023. Caller was annoyed that dust from the blast had blown towards them. Gliding Club was in operation at the time and video footage indicates that the dust plume did travel in the direction of Gliding Club land, no fume was observed from the blast.</p> <p>The dust plume was not excessive, however it was observed to travel lower to the ground before dispersing. The nearest real-time air quality monitor (Warkworth) recorded a maximum of 21 ug/m3 in the hour following the blast against a criteria of 50 ug/m3. At 12:55pm wind speed was 4.3 m/s and wind direction was 314°.</p> <p>Pre-blast environmental assessment ranked the fume and dust risk as unlikely, and the blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction.</p> <p>Feasibility of further restriction of blasting permissions are being assessed for this receptor. In the interim any blasts with potential for dust to travel towards the Gliding Club land are postponed if the club is in operation.</p>	Phone call to Community Hotline	No

## 2.0 Incidents

Thirteen incidents have occurred to date in 2023, complaint details are provided below.



Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
10/01/2023	<p><b>Loader 612 oil leak</b> While operating loader 612 the operator noticed smoke at the back of the machine with the loader losing power shortly after. The operator shut the machine down and called an emergency. The operator identified an oil spill of approximately 80L on the ground.</p>	<p>The Supervisor attended the incident and ensured the oil leak was contained. The contaminated soil was removed and placed within the bioremediation area.</p>	Hydrocarbon
31/01/2023	<p><b>Ground disturbance without an approved ground disturbance permit</b> The Environment &amp; Community Officer noticed ground disturbance work (slashing and tree removal) had been conducted on the HC1 New England Highway overpass tunnel repair project without an approved Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) being issued.</p>	<p>The Environment &amp; Community Officer stopped the work and inspected the work site. A GDP was ready to be issued under a limited authority to authorise slashing of the GDP area however it had not been signed off prior to work commencing.</p>	Other



11/02/2023	<b>Dozer 541 diesel leak</b> Rubber tyred dozer 541 sustained damage to the underside of the fuel tank due to a rock contacting the tank and breaking off the fuel pick-up fitting, spilling approximately 60L. The incident occurred when the dozer was cleaning up the shovel face.	When the operator noticed the fuel leaking from the machine it was immediately parked up in a safe location and the OCE and Maintenance department were contacted. The spill was cleaned up and contaminated soil placed within the bioremediation area.	Hydrocarbon
12/02/2023	<b>Dozer 570 hydraulic oil leak</b> While operating Dozer 570 the operator noticed a trail of oil. The hydraulic oil spill was a result of the power train compartment sustaining damage whilst climbing a bench.	The operator stopped the machine and contacted the supervisor and Maintenance department. Approximately 416L of oil was lost from the machine but unable to be recovered as it was spread in a trail on a working bench over a period of time.	Hydrocarbon
20/02/2023	<b>Blast fume – Level 3B</b> A level 3B fume was recorded following the blasting of P21006003A pattern at Cheshunt Pit 2.	The shotfirers held sentries in position until the fume dispersed. Wind was from the east at the time and the fume dispersed within the pit.	Blast
5/03/2023	<b>Acetic acid spill in AECI manufacturing facility</b> While filling Tank 2 with an Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) of acetic acid solution the IBC was repositioned to assist in draining all the solution. In the process of moving the IBC the drainage valve was damaged. Approximately 120 Litres of solution was spilled across the hardstand and soil adjoining the hardstand	The spill was cleaned up and contaminated soil material disposed of by a waste contractor.	Hydrocarbon
11/03/2023	<b>North Park-up oil spill</b> An operator noticed an oil leak when refuelling Service Cart 983 at the HVO north fuel bay. The operator contacted maintenance on the two-way radio and was instructed to put the machine on the North go-line. A maintenance fitter inspected SV983 and found a hose leaking from 15/40 hose-in product module and isolated the tank to stop the leak. The machine was moved into the workshop for repair.	Production was contacted and contaminated soil was removed to the remediation area. It is estimated 100L of oil had leaked.	Hydrocarbon

15/03/2023	<p><b>Howick workshop service bay oil spill</b></p> <p>An oil tap was left in bypass at the Howick service bay salad bar. The tap was left unattended and when the external pump was turned on the inside hose spilled out oil overflowing the catchment tray. The oil spill ran down the workshop floor and outside toward the storm water drain that leads to an oil water separator and internal mine water dam.</p>	<p>The ESO team responded and utilised a spill trailer to contain and clean-up the spill. It is estimated 200 Litres of oil had leaked.</p>	Hydrocarbon
31/03/2023	<p><b>Mine water pipeline spill</b></p> <p>HVO contractors were using a dozer to clear silt build-up in a road drainage line in preparation for construction of a sump. Whilst operating the dozer it struck and damaged a water pipeline (the pipeline was only approximately 100MM below the invert of the drain) causing an estimated 1000L spill of mine water contained on HVO land.</p>	<p>The work was stopped, the machine was parked up and the supervisor notified. The water pipeline was not pressurised at the time of the incident. The pipeline has been repaired and is back in service.</p>	Water
24/4/2023	<p><b>Truck 479 Steer Pump Hose Failure</b></p> <p>Haul truck 479 was travelling unloaded down the N2 ramp when the operator noticed their steering had tightened up which was later determined to be due to a loss of oil from the steer pump hydraulic reservoir. Approximately 700 L of oil is estimated to have leaked, assuming the maximum volume of the tank at the time of failure. The loss of oil would have occurred on the haul circuit over a large distance and was not identifiable or recoverable. The cause of the failure was a fatigued hydraulic hose.</p>	<p>Corrective actions include creating a critical hose register and scheduled inspection for 830E fleets and an initial audit of this fleet for steer hose defects.</p>	Hydrocarbon
23/5/2023	<p><b>Slashing outside of approved Ground Disturbance Permit 427 area</b></p> <p>During an environmental inspection of Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) 427 the Environment and Community coordinator identified that slashing had occurred outside of the boundary pegs. This was later confirmed by survey to be disturbance outside of the approved GDP.</p>	<p>Disturbance related to slashing of grass within the regulatory approved mine disturbance footprint with no potential for more significant impact.</p>	Other

01/06/2023	<p><b>Blast in West Pit North - Category 3 Fume</b></p> <p>Blast fume (category 3A) observed following detonation of the WN47LLD02/03A shot in West Pit North.</p> <p>Wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.6m/s and 264 degrees. Blast fume travelled from the blast across HVO's conveyor road and towards Ravensworth Open Cut where it dissipated. The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. Ravensworth were notified of the blast fume.</p>	External specialist engaged to investigate cause of the fume, investigation report under review.	Blast
------------	--	--	-------

### 3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Round One of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2023 was open for applications between 1 and 30 April. Nine applications were received, of which all were successful. The local organisations successful in obtaining funding for their projects were as follows:

- Aberdeen Pre-School (social area improvement): **\$4,433**
- Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Inc (food programme): **\$5,000**
- Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League (upgrade of safety and training equipment): **\$5,000**
- Muswellbrook Netball Association (netball uniforms): **\$3,000**
- Novaskill (mental health first aid training for the Singleton local community): **\$4,800**
- Singleton Mountain Bike Club (mountain bike race timing equipment): **\$5,699.30**
- Witmore (community and housing recycling crew): **\$1,800**
- Singleton Heights Pre-School (improving physical development outcomes for children): **\$2,100**
- **TOTAL: \$31,429.30**

As part of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2023, three sponsorship requests were received, all of which were successful. The local organisations successful in obtaining sponsorship for their events were as follows:

- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc (The Great Cattle Dog Muster): **\$12,000**
- Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter Incorporated (The Singleton Art Prize): **\$2,500**
- Business Singleton: **\$2,500** (Singleton Business Awards 2023): **\$2,500**
- **TOTAL: \$17,000**

Round Two of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2023 is scheduled to open for applications in September. An online application link will be provided closer to the opening date.

## 4.0 Environmental Monitoring

Monthly summaries of environmental monitoring; March 2023 and April 2023

### **March 2023**

Attached as **Appendix A**

### **April 2023**

Attached as **Appendix B**

## 5.0 Environmental Documents

Environmental documents uploaded to the HVO website since the last meeting (<https://www.hvo.com.au/documents>)

10/5/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Presentation May 2023
5/7/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report March 2023
6/6/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report April 2023
18/7/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report February 2023
19/7/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data April 2023