

Hunter Valley Operations

Community Consultative Committee

Business Papers – November 2023

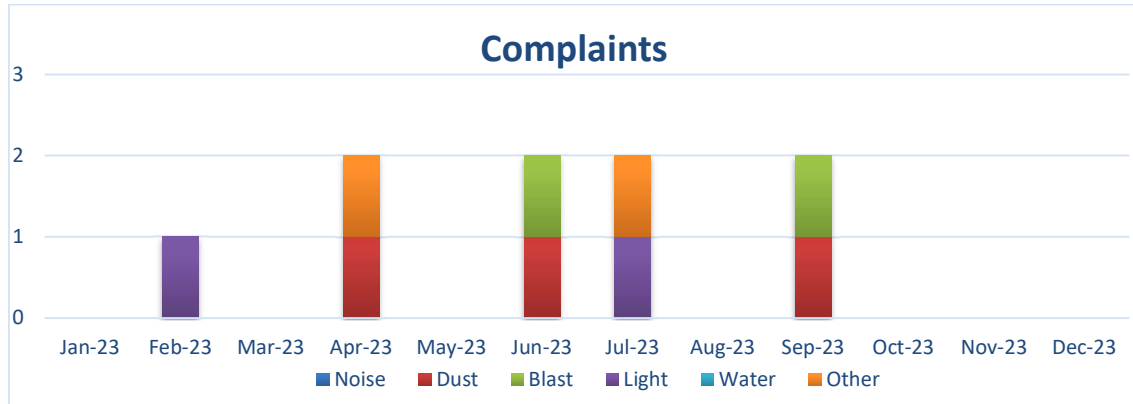
Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **8 November 2023**

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1.0 Complaints

Nine (9) complaints have been received since 1 January 2023. Complaint details are provided below.



Date	Time	Type	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
1 February	12:06am	Lighting	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complainant 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". 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. 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.
11 April	7:11am	Traffic	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 him. The complainant reported that the last car to pull out failed to give way to him which forced him to flash his 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. An internal investigation conducted following the complaint identified the driver of the vehicle. The employees supervisor notified them of the complaint and the importance of safe driving practices when travelling to and from site.
29 April	1:40pm	Blast dust	Community Hotline	HVO South Long Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complainant of Long Point called the Community Complaints Hotline at 1:40pm on 29/4/2023. The OCE contacted the complainant who asked what was going on to create the dust he saw, the OCE advised that a blast had just taken place. 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. 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. The nearest real-time PM10 monitor (Maison Dieu) located downwind of the

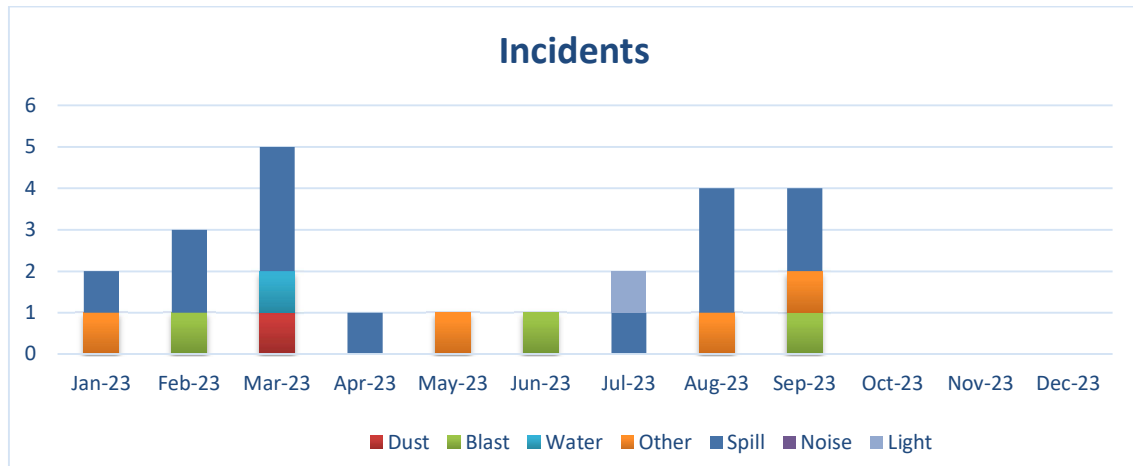
Date	Time	Type	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
					blast, but north of the resident, issued a level 1 dust trigger (PM10 10-minute average > 150ug/m ³) at 2:10pm, the daily average was 27ug/m ³ and below the criteria. A High-Volume Air Sampler is located within 150m of their residence and was monitoring particulates during the blast. The filter paper from the monitor is yet to be analysed.
1 June	11:28pm	Blast fume	Community Hotline	Not specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A blast fume complaint was received by a complainant who wished to remain anonymous at 11:28pm on 1/6/2023 following a blast fired at 1.18pm earlier that day in West Pit. The complainant described the blast as “disgraceful” and also voiced their concern about roads being closed off and the impacts associated with blast fume. A review of the camera footage confirmed a fummy blast which was reviewed and investigated by the Drill & Blast team. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.6m/s and 264 degrees. Blast fume travelled from WN47LLD02/03A post ignition across HC1 conveyor road and towards Ravensworth Open Cut where it dissipated. Pre-blast environmental assessment ranked the fume and dust risk as possible, and the blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction.
10 June	1:09pm	Blast dust	Community Hotline	Gliding Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complainant called the HVO Hotline at 1:09pm on 10/6/2023 following a blast in Cheshunt Pit at 12:56pm. The complainant was annoyed that dust from the blast had blown towards them. A review of camera footage of the blast fired confirmed that a dust plume did travel in the direction of the complainant, no fume was observed. 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 criterion of 50 ug/m³. The wind direction and wind speed at 12:55pm was 4.3m/s and 314 degrees. Pre-blast environmental assessment ranked the fume and dust risk as unlikely,

Date	Time	Type	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
					and blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction.
10 July	9:34pm	Lighting	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident of Long Point called the Community Complaints Hotline at 9:34pm regarding a light shining directly into their house. The lighting plant identified as causing the disturbance was tilted downwards and checked via a phone call by OCE with the complainant, but light was still visible by the complainant. The same lighting plant was then turned off. The disturbance experienced by the complainant was again checked by OCE via a phone call, which verified the disturbance to the complainant had ceased. An internal investigation conducted following the complaint found that lighting tower operational practices should be reviewed and updated.
27 July	5 – 6pm	Traffic	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public reported that whilst driving west along the Golden Highway between 5 and 6 pm, another vehicle – a twin-cab utility – began to tailgate their vehicle (< half a car length). Between the eastern entry to HVO South and Comleroi Road (HVO Souths western entry) the offending vehicle sounded their horn more than once, flashed their high beam lights more than once as well as attempted to overtake on one occasion. When the vehicle attempted to overtake, oncoming traffic forced it to resume its original position. The member of the public reported that the offending vehicle turned off in to Comleroi Road. They reported the incident to Singleton Police. An internal investigation resulted in a site-wide presentation about the importance of road safety whilst travelling to and from site being undertaken at daily HCOMs.
9 September	4:08pm	Blast fume	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident of Jerry's Plains Road said they noticed "yellow stuff in the air", and although not impacted wanted further information regarding the blast ranking and management process at HVO. The Senior Mine Supervisor contacted the resident immediately following the complaint. The Environment and Community Manager also spoke with the resident the following day to explain the blast ranking and management process at HVO. The blast fume was ranked as Category 4. The blast was risk assessed

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					prior to firing and as a result the blast was only fired in a wind direction that would dissipate plume across HVO land.
11 September	9:06am	Blast dust	Community Hotline	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Mt Thorley called the Community Complaints Hotline stating that “yesterday there was dust all day” in the vicinity of their residence. • Previous data from the nearest real-time PM10 monitors (Knodlers Lane and Maison Dieu) were investigated. The average daily 24hr results from the two monitors were both within compliance limits. This was communicated to the resident via a phone conversation. • The resident did not state where the dust was originating from, nor could they confirm it was coming from HVO when asked, but said the levels were bad due to a morning inversion event. No further action was taken.

2.0 Incidents

Twenty-three (23) environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking or above have been recorded since 1 January 2023. Incident details are provided below.



Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
10/01/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Loader 612 oil leak</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">Ground disturbance without an approved ground disturbance permit</p> <p>The Environment & 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 & 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	<p style="text-align: center;">Dozer 541 diesel leak</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	Hydrocarbon
12/02/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Dozer 570 hydraulic oil leak</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	Hydrocarbon

20/02/2023	<p align="center">Blast fume – Level 3B</p> <p>A level 3B fume was recorded following the blasting of P21006003A pattern at Cheshunt Pit 2.</p>	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	<p align="center">Acetic acid spill in AECI manufacturing facility</p> <p>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</p>	The spill was cleaned up and contaminated soil material disposed of by a waste contractor	Hydrocarbon
11/03/2023	<p align="center">North Park-up oil spill</p> <p>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.</p>	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 align="center">Howick workshop service bay oil spill</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>	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	Hydrocarbon
31/03/2023	<p align="center">Mine water pipeline spill</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>	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	Water

24/4/2023	<p>Truck 479 Steer Pump Hose Failure</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>	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	Hydrocarbon
23/5/2023	<p>Slashing outside of approved Ground Disturbance Permit 427 area</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>	Disturbance related to slashing of grass within the regulatory approved mine disturbance footprint with no potential for more significant impact	Other
01/06/2023	<p>Blast in West Pit North - Category 3 Fume</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
10/07/2023	<p>Lighting complaint</p> <p>See complaint details</p>	N/A	N/A

26/07/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Hydraulic oil leak</p> <p>Whilst loading Truck 427 on the River ROM excavation area, it was identified that an excavator (EXC 313) had an oil leak coming from a hydraulic hose close to the stick cylinder. This oil sprayed from the excavator spanning across a wide area. The excavator operator stopped their task immediately, shut down the machine and notified their supervisor.</p>	The spill area was contained, and contaminated soil removed to the bio-remediation area. It was estimated the oil leak was 20L	Hydrocarbon
22/08/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Oil leak from dozer</p> <p>Oil was identified to be leaking from the rear of a dozer on the North Workshop park up/maintenance go-line area. The machine was estimated to have leaked approximately 180L of oil onto the ground.</p>	The area was bunded to prevent further spread and the contaminated soil was then removed, transported and placed in the designated bio-remediation area. The source of the oil leak was identified and the machine repaired	Hydrocarbon
25/08/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Fuel spill from service cart under maintenance</p> <p>Service cart SV988 was parked in the spoon drain adjacent to North Workshop bay N6. During maintenance works to reseal a leaking high volume fuel gun, fuel was being directed from the hose into a 20L drain tray. As the fitter attempted to repair the gun, fuel overflowed from the drain tray and spilled onto the ground and into the spoon drain.</p>	In response, another drain tray was utilised and the machine was started so the electrical shut off solenoid could be activated to stop the fuel from spilling. Approximately 80L of fuel overflowed from the drain trays and spilled into the concrete spoon drain. Once fuel stopped flowing, the high-volume fuel gun was refitted successfully. Contents from a hydrocarbon spill kit was used to contain and soak up the fuel and clean affected areas	Hydrocarbon
29/08/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">River sediment stockpiled on rehabilitation area</p> <p>Excavated sediment from the Wollombi Brook creek crossing, was stockpiled on a recently rehabilitated area estimated to be approximately 0.2ha. GDP 430 was issued for this area in late 2022, which at the time referenced this area as a topsoil stockpile location. The area had since been rehabilitated.</p>	Following the incident, the area was inspected by HVO Environment and Community representatives and deemed a low risk due to the inert nature of the soil. The soil will be relocated to a nearby topsoil stockpile	Other (soil)
31/08/2023	<p style="text-align: center;">Oil leak from oil pod</p> <p>Oil stains were identified on the ground near an un-bunded oil pod. This pod had been used for a pump service and small tub was used to capture oil and not been returned to the South workshop. As a result, rainwater has filled the container and caused it to overflow contents to ground. It was estimated to be approximately 20L of oil spilled.</p>	The oil pod and container were later decanted by a service truck and relocated to the South workshop. Contaminated soil (approximately 1T) was excavated and transported to the Howick bio-remediation area	Hydrocarbon

2/09/2023	<p align="center">Emulsion spill at AECI West Reload Facility</p> <p>Whilst transferring emulsion from a road tanker to Emulsion Tank 2 at the AECI West Reload Facility, it was observed that the tank was overflowing with emulsion. The transfer pump was stopped immediately, but not before approximately 100L of emulsion spilled to the ground.</p>	<p>The spilled emulsion was cleaned up, removed and used on an upcoming blast. The cause of the spill was investigated and found to be a malfunctioning level sensor on Tank 2. The sensor was subsequently repaired</p>	Hydrocarbon
4/09/2023	<p align="center">Cheshunt Pit 1 Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) technical breach</p> <p>Whilst undertaking preparatory earthworks, disturbance has occurred outside the approved GDP limit. The cause of the incident is due to windrowed topsoil and spoil being pushed outside of the limited authority area of the GDP during mining activities. The area was surveyed and delineated by survey pegs and topsoil was stripped up to this boundary. However, the limited authority area was not adequately marked on the design provided to mining. A small area of disturbance occurred outside of the limited authority area (0.1ha) within the approved mine disturbance footprint and proposed GDP area.</p>	<p>There was no potential for disturbance of cultural heritage or protected flora and fauna</p>	Other (administrative)
9/09/2023	<p align="center">Blast fume (Level 4B)</p> <p>HVO initiated blast M1T511001A in the Mitchell Pit at 3:57pm on Saturday 9 September 2023. Post initiation, fume was observed and ranked Level 4B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 4.1m/s and 299 degrees. Blast fume travelled from the initiation point post ignition in a south-easterly direction across HVO land and dispersed at height prior to reaching Lemington Road. The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction.</p>	<p>An internal investigation to mitigate a re-occurrence found the cause of the event was likely due to increased powder factor as a result of product change from ANFO to heavy ANFO and Emulsion. The incident was reported to the DPE and EPA. DPE determined that there was no non-compliance with conditions of consent or implementation of management plans with no further recommendations provided. The EPA is yet to respond</p>	Blast

<p>19/09/2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oil leak from train load point bin</p> <p>Whilst train loading was being undertaken at Hunter Valley Load Point, an oil leak was observed on the hydraulics of the train loading bin. The oil was leaking due to a deteriorated O-ring and loose bolt. Loading was ceased whilst replacement parts were sourced and successfully installed.</p> <p>Approximately 50L of oil was spilled on the floor of the trail load bin and the fall section that runs into a nearby sump.</p>	<p>The floor was cleaned up manually once train loading ceased and the sump capturing the spilled oil was pumped out and disposed of by a licenced contractor</p>	<p>Hydrocarbon</p>
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3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Round Two of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2023 was open for applications between 1 and 30 September. Eight (8) applications were received, of which six (6) were successful. The local organisations successful in obtaining funding for their projects were as follows:

Title	Organisation	Focus Area	Amount Granted
Upgrade to household appliances	Carrie's Place DV and Homelessness	Local / regional need and capacity building	6,200
Colour Run Fundraiser	Denman Public School	Capacity building and local need	1,746.20
Replace kitchen flooring	Whittingham Public Hall	Capacity building and local need	5,000
Replace stage curtains	Jerrys Plains School of Arts	Capacity building and Local need	5,000
Native Bee Hives/colonies	Hunter Australian Native Bee Ass	Environment	5,000
Colour Run Fundraiser	Muswellbrook South Public School	Capacity building and local need	2,000
TOTAL			\$24,946

Round One of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2024 is scheduled to open for applications in April 2024. An online application link will be provided closer to the opening date.

4.0 Environmental Monitoring

Monthly summaries of environmental monitoring are attached:

Appendix A – June 2023

Appendix B – July 2023

Appendix C – August 2023

5.0 Environmental Documents

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

4/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – January 2023
15/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - January 2023
15/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - March 2023
15/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - June 2023
21/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - February 2023
21/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - May 2023
21/8/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – May 2023
1/9/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – April 2023
21/9/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – June 2023
28/9/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – July 2023
28/9/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – July 2023
15/10/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – August 2023
15/10/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – August 2023