

# HVO CONTINUATION PROJECT UPDATE

**HVO has amended its proposal to continue mining until 2050 to further reduce impacts while supporting local jobs, the local economy and community.** We made the amendments after doing additional studies and reviewing the 1,060 submissions made during the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement.

## Responding to community, government and business feedback

We reviewed all 1060 submissions made on our proposal. More than 90% of submissions were supportive of our plans to continue mining.

Sustained employment and ongoing job security, the economic contributions and benefits to the local, regional, and state economies were reasons given for supporting the proposal. The need to provide ongoing energy security while the transition away from coal progresses was also raised.

The main issues raised in the submissions were in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, ecology, water management, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Most of the objections (60%) were from areas more than 100 km from the mine.

### In response to the issues raised in submissions we:

- > completed 12 additional technical studies, assessments and reviews in areas such as Aboriginal cultural heritage, air quality, emissions, water management, traffic, visual amenity, biodiversity and ecology
- > assessed the studies and reviews to inform further improvements or provide information to support plans for minimising impacts
- > undertook further consultation with some submission makers – meetings and site visits

HVO's response to the issues raised in the submissions are detailed in HVO's Submissions Report provided to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

## Proposal amendments and new initiatives

An Amendment Report has been prepared and submitted to the NSW Government to describe and assess the proposed changes we are making. This is in line with the State significant guidelines – preparing an amendment report. The Amendment Report is only for HVO North because this is where the changes are proposed.

### Amendments and other changes include:

- > Alter part of the route for the Lemington Road realignment
- > Bring forward the construction of a low permeability groundwater barrier wall to improve water management
- > Commit to undertake a gas pre-drainage trial if the proposal is approved
- > Develop an Ecological Restoration Plan for two threatened ecological communities
- > Develop a biodiversity offset strategy that appropriately compensates for the unavoidable loss of ecological values
- > Prepare a consolidated HVO North and HVO South Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, in consultation with the RAPs and Heritage NSW, if the proposal is approved. The Plan will guide the mitigation and management of sites.

The amended Lemington Road is approximately 580 metres longer, increasing travel time by 20-25 seconds, compared to the alignment presented in the EIS.

## Amendment outcomes

The updated data analysis and proposal amendments means:

- > almost no direct impact on the environmentally significant Warkworth Sands Woodland (the proposal will now impact 0.3 ha rather than 5.2 ha as originally proposed)
- > further reductions in impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites
- > a 16% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

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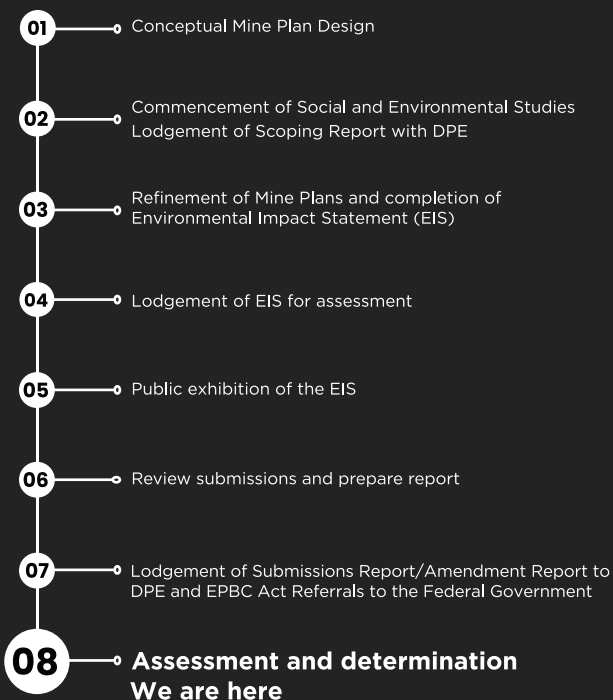


## Benefits of continuing mining

- > Around 1500 ongoing local jobs plus 600 temporary construction jobs
- > Continued support for local businesses, community projects and charities.
- > In 2022, HVO's direct economic contribution was almost \$1.5 billion, which included spending \$744 million with 750 businesses.
- > Continued taxes, royalties and payments to governments to support infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads, as well as pay for teachers, nurses and police
- > A realigned Lemington Road and new bridge over the Hunter River to replace the flood prone Moses Crossing giving road users a more reliable, time saving and safer journey in wet weather
- > Improvements to water management and final site rehabilitation
- > An estimated net benefit of more than \$4 billion in net present value terms.

## Next Steps

The NSW and Australian governments will assess the proposal.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

## Key facts about the proposal

- > If approved, HVO North will continue to 2050 (from 2025) and HVO South to 2045 (from 2030).
- > This is not a new mine. Coal has been mined onsite for more than 70 years.
- > There'll be no increase in approved annual production rates.
- > The proposal is in line with the NSW Government's strategic statement on the use of coal to 2050 and Hunter Regional Plan 2041, which recognise the importance of coal production to NSW and its regional communities.
- > Our proposal delivers in-demand, high quality, coal with relatively little additional disturbance of remnant vegetation or other impacts compared to projects of a similar scale.
- > Our coal will contribute to the energy security of some of Australia's important trading partners during their transition to a low carbon economy.
- > The estimated annual average Scope 1 and 2 emissions for our proposal represent approximately 0.24% of Australia's 2022 emissions.

## Thank you for your feedback and support

Thanks to everyone who made a submission or shared information about our proposal.

More than 90% of submissions were supportive of our plans to continue mining. The overwhelming support for the proposal highlights the many benefits it offers to local people, businesses and the economy.

## Find out more

Visit [hvo.com.au/continuation](https://hvo.com.au/continuation)

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