Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee

Business Papers – February 2023

Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on 7 February 2023

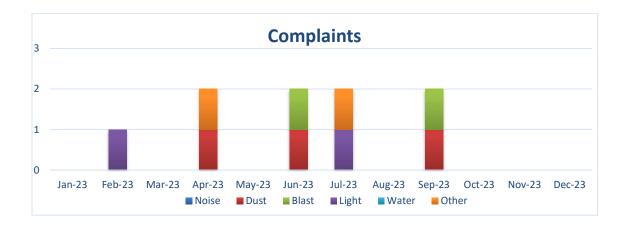
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1.0 Complaints

No complaints have been received since September 2023. A summary of all nine (9) complaints received during the 2023 calendar year is provided below.



Date	Time	Туре	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
1 February 2023	12:06am	Lighting	Community Hotline	N/A	 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 2023	7:11am	Traffic	Community Hotline	N/A	 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 2023	1:40pm	Blast dust	Community Hotline	HVO South Long Point	 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	Туре	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 > 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 filter paper from the monitor is yet to be analysed.
1 June 2023	11:28pm	Blast fume	Community Hotline	Not specified	 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 fumy 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 2023	1:09pm	Blast dust	Community Hotline	Gliding Club	 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,

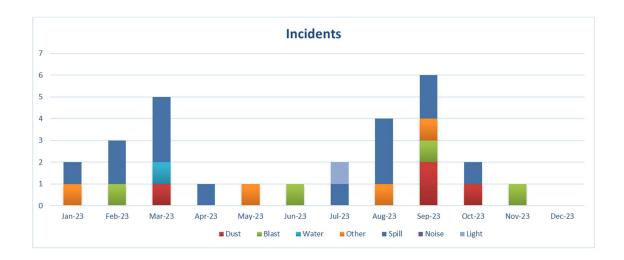
Date	Time	Туре	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
					and blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and
					direction.
					A resident of Long Point called the Community Complaints Hotline at 9:34pm regarding a light shining directly into their house.
					The lighting plant identified as causing the disturbance was tilted downwards and
10 luly			Community		checked via a phone call by OCE with the complainant, but light was still visible
10 July 2023	9:34pm	Lighting	Hotline	N/A	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.
					 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
27 July 2023	5 – 6pm	Traffic	Community Hotline	N/A	once as well as attempted to overtake on one occasion. When the vehicle
2023			riotilie		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.
					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
9 September	4:08pm	Blast	Community	N/A	 management process at HVO. The Senior Mine Supervisor contacted the resident immediately following the
2023		fume	Hotline	13/73	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

Date	Time	Туре	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
					prior to firing and as a result the blast was only fired in a wind direction that would dissipate plume across HVO land.
					 A resident of Mt Thorley called the Community Complaints Hotline stating that "yesterday there was dust all day" in the vicinity of their residence.
10 September 2023	9:06am	Blast dust	Community Hotline	No	 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-eight (28) environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking or above were recorded during the 2023 calendar year. A summary of 2023 incident details are provided below. Spills of hydrocarbon (oil, diesel) continue to be the predominant cause of incidents, all of which occurred within active mining areas and cleaned up.

No environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking or above have been recorded since 1 January 2024.



Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
10/01/2023	Loader 612 oil leak 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.	The Supervisor attended the incident and ensured the oil leak was contained. The contaminated soil was removed and placed within the bioremediation area	Hydrocarbon
31/01/2023	Ground disturbance without an approved ground disturbance permit 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.	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	Other
11/02/2023	Dozer 541 diesel leak 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	Dozer 570 hydraulic oil leak 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	Blast fume – Level 3B 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	Acetic acid spill in AECI manufacturing facility 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	North Park-up oil spill 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	Howick workshop service bay oil spill 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 overfilling 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.	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	Mine water pipeline spill 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.	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	Truck 479 Steer Pump Hose Failure 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.	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	Slashing outside of approved Ground Disturbance Permit 427 area 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.	Disturbance related to slashing of grass within the regulatory approved mine disturbance footprint with no potential for more significant impact	Other
01/06/2023	Blast in West Pit North - Category 3 Fume Blast fume (category 3A) observed following detonation of the WN47LLD02/03A shot in West Pit North. 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.	External specialist engaged to investigate cause of the fume, investigation report under review	Blast
10/07/2023	Lighting complaint See complaint details	N/A	N/A

	Hydraulic oil leak		
	Whilst loading Truck 427 on the River ROM excavation area, it		
	was identified that an excavator (EXC 313) had an oil leak coming	The spill area was contained, and contaminated soil	
26/07/2023	from a hydraulic hose close to the stick cylinder. This oil sprayed	removed to the bio-remediation area. It was	Hydrocarbon
	from the excavator spanning across a wide area. The excavator	estimated the oil leak was 20L	
	operator stopped their task immediately, shut down the machine		
	and notified their supervisor.		
	Oil leak from dozer	The area was bunded to prevent further spread and	
	Oil was identified to be leaking from the rear of a dozer on the	the contaminated soil was then removed,	
22/08/2023	North Workshop park up/maintenance go-line area. The machine	transported and placed in the designated bio-	Hydrocarbon
	was estimated to have leaked approximately 180L of oil onto the	remediation area. The source of the oil leak was	
	ground.	identified and the machine repaired	
		In response, another drain tray was utilised and the	
	Fuel spill from service cart under maintenance	machine was started so the electrical shut off	
	Service cart SV988 was parked in the spoon drain adjacent to	solenoid could be activated to stop the fuel from	
25/08/2023	North Workshop bay N6. During maintenance works to reseal a	spilling. Approximately 80L of fuel overflowed from	Lludrocarbon
25/08/2023	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,	the drain trays and spilled into the concrete spoon drain. Once fuel stopped flowing, the high-volume	Hydrocarbon
	fuel overflowed from the drain tray and spilled onto the ground and	fuel gun was refitted successfully. Contents from a	
	into the spoon drain.	hydrocarbon spill kit was used to contain and soak	
	into the spoon drain.	up the fuel and clean affected areas	
	River sediment stockpiled on rehabilitation area	·	
	Excavated sediment from the Wollombi Brook creek crossing, was	Following the incident, the area was inspected by	
00/00/0000	stockpiled on a recently rehabilitated area estimated to be	HVO Environment and Community representatives	Otto (:1)
29/08/2023	approximately 0.2ha. GDP 430 was issued for this area in late	and deemed a low risk due to the inert nature of the	Other (soil)
	2022, which at the time referenced this area as a topsoil stockpile	soil. The soil will be relocated to a nearby topsoil stockpile	
	location. The area had since been rehabilitated.	Stockpile	
	Oil leak from oil pod		
	Oil stains were identified on the ground near an un-bunded oil pod.	The oil pod and container were later decanted by a	
2.1/2.2/2.2	This pod had been used for a pump service and small tub was	service truck and relocated to the South workshop.	
31/08/2023	used to capture oil and not been returned to the South workshop.	Contaminated soil (approximately 1T) was	Hydrocarbon
	As a result, rainwater has filled the container and caused it to	excavated and transported to the Howick bio-	
	overflow contents to ground. It was estimated to be approximately	remediation area	
	20L of oil spilled.		

2/09/2023	Emulsion spill at AECI West Reload Facility 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.	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	Hydrocarbon
4/09/2023	Cheshunt Pit 1 Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) technical breach (internal) 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.	There was no potential for disturbance of cultural heritage or protected flora and fauna.	Other (administrative)
9/09/2023	Blast fume (Level 4B) 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.	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	Blast

19/09/2023	Oil leak from train load point bin 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. Approximately 50L of oil was spilled on the floor of the trail load bin and the fall section that runs into a nearby sump.	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	Hydrocarbon
20/09/2023	PM ₁₀ dust exceedance – Cheshunt East Monitoring results received in October indicated that on 20 September 2023, the Cheshunt East High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) recorded a total result of 86.4μg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM ₁₀ , exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. Todoroski Air Sciences (TAS) undertook an investigation to determine HVO's contribution to the exceedance. TAS calculated HVO North's estimated maximum PM ₁₀ contribution to be less than or equal to 44.9μg/m³, or 52% of the recorded measurement. While this indicates HVO was not the primary source, the criteria is based on dust from HVO and all other sources.	Notified the DPE of this exceedance on 12 October and submitted an incident report, demonstrating HVO complied with its Air Quality Management Plan. No further action.	Air
26/09/2023	PM ₁₀ dust exceedance – Cheshunt East Monitoring results received in October indicated that on 26 September 2023, the Cheshunt East HVAS recorded a total result of 50.3μg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM ₁₀ , exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. TAS undertook an investigation to determine HVO's contribution to the exceedance. TAS calculated HVO North's estimated maximum PM ₁₀ contribution to be less than or equal to 15.5μg/m³, or 31% of the recorded measurement. While this indicates HVO was not the primary source, the criteria is based on dust from HVO and all other sources.	Notified the DPE of this exceedance on 12 October and submitted an incident report, demonstrating HVO complied with its Air Quality Management Plan. No further action.	Air

2/10/2023	PM ₁₀ dust exceedance – Jerrys Plains On 2 October 2023, the Jerry's Plains real-time monitor (TEOM) recorded a total result of 63.6μg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM ₁₀ , exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. TAS undertook an investigation to determine HVO's contribution to the exceedance. TAS calculated HVO North's estimated maximum PM ₁₀ contribution to be less than or equal to 9.0μg/m³, or 15% of the recorded measurement. While this indicates HVO was not a significant source, the criteria is based on dust from HVO and all other sources.	Notified the DPE of this exceedance and submitted an incident report, demonstrating HVO complied with its Air Quality Management Plan. No further action.	Air
8/10/2023	Oil spill at HVLP Train Load Out A hydraulic valve which forms part of the hydraulic system upon the clam gates of the CHPP train loading facility became blocked resulting in a failure of the hose connection. As a consequence, approximately 30L of hydraulic oil leaked to the ground. The cause of the leak is thought to have been a lose fitting connection as a result of maintenance works undertaken as part of a scheduled outage. All oil was contained within the HVLP train loading point sump.	Clean up and disposal of the oil was completed by a pump truck from a licensed waste contractor	Hydrocarbon

	Post Blast Fume (Level 3B)		
10/11/2023	Following a blast in Cheshunt Pit 2, fume was observed and ranked Level 3B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.2m/s and 307 degrees. Blast fume travelled from the initiation point in a south-easterly direction across HVO land and dispersed at height, as recorded by environmental monitoring camera and engineer drone flight images. The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. No community complaints were received regarding the blast and the incident was not reportable to the DPE or EPA.	An investigation into the cause of the fume was undertaken by an external blast specialist which found pattern design and material design were causes of the incident. As a result, the pre-blast checklist has been updated to prevent future repeat events	Blast

3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Local organisations successful in obtaining donation during the October – January period were as follows:

Title	Organisation	Focus Area	Amount Granted	Comment	
Book publication	Ron Stokes – Dairying book	Education / capacity building and local need	2,660	n/a	
Singleton Lolly Run 2023	Singleton Fire and Rescue	Local need	1,000	n/a	
Christmas Eve Lunch	Samaritans Singleton	Local need	2,500	n/a	
Christmas Cheer	Salvation Army Singleton	Local need	1,900	Donated HVO employee vouchers	
Christmas Cheer	Singleton Family Support	Local need	1,900		
Ridin 4 Mates	MHF (Brad Bates, Mining West)	Local need	1,000		
Gee Family Light Show	Starlight Foundation (Brenton Gee, North Wshop)	Local need	1,000	Employee charity support	
Truck Mo Loads and Mining South A Crew fundraising	Movember	Local need	2,500		
Tour d'Horse	KIDS Foundation	Local / regional need	20,000	n/a	
		TOTAL	\$34,460	n/a	

Round One of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2024 is scheduled to open for applications on 1 April 2024. An online application link will be provided closer to the opening date.

4.0 Environmental Monitoring

Monthly summaries of environmental monitoring uploaded to the HVO website since the last meeting (https://www.hvo.com.au/documents) include:

September 2023 Monthly Environmental Monitoring and EPL Monitoring Reports

October 2023 Monthly Environmental Monitoring and EPL Monitoring Reports

November 2023 Monthly Environmental Monitoring and EPL Monitoring Reports

5.0 Environmental Documents

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

23/10/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - August 2023
23/10/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – August 2023
11/12/2023	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - September 2023
15/01/2024	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – October 2023
15/01/2024	Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - November 2023
15/01/2024	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – October 2023
15/01/2024	Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – November 2023