

Hunter Valley Operations

Community Consultative Committee

**Business Papers – May 2024**

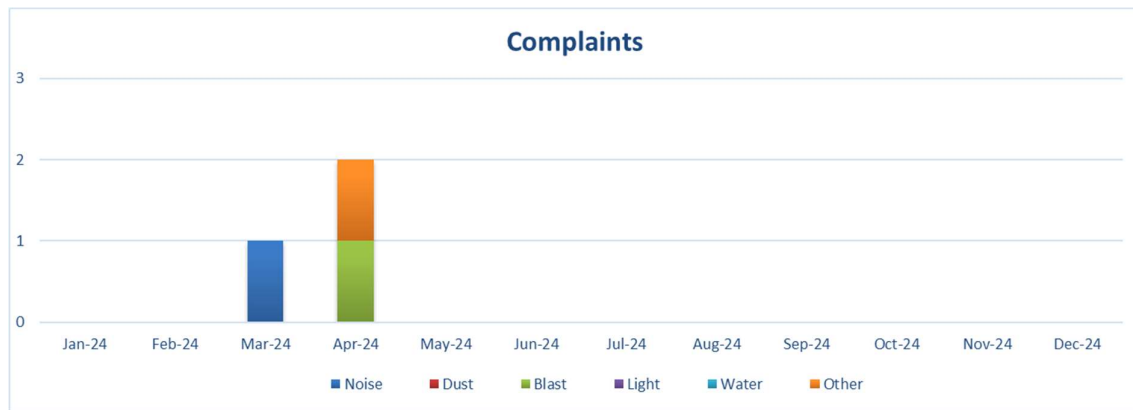
Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **8 May 2024**

## Contents Page

<b>1.0 Complaints</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 Incidents</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4.0 Environmental Monitoring</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5.0 Environmental Documents</b>	<b>12</b>

## 1.0 Complaints

Three (3) complaints have been received since February 2024. A summary of all complaints received during 2024 is provided in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.



**Figure 1: 2024 Community Complaints by Type**

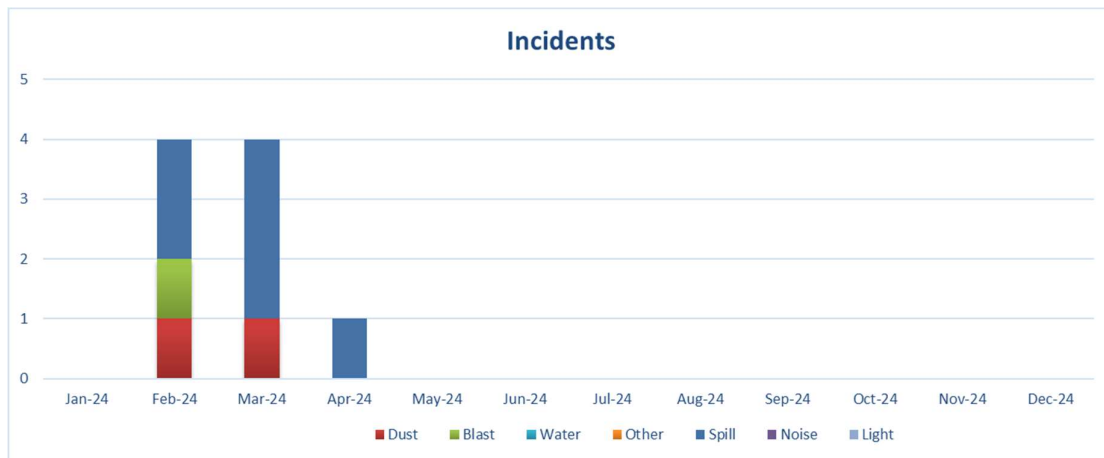
**Table 1: 2024 Community Complaints Detail 2024**

Date	Time	Nature of Complaint	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
12 March	8:59pm	Noise	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 8:59pm regarding noise, commenting that “noise is pretty loud tonight” as well as equipment horns could be heard.</li> <li>The OCE on duty in South Pit contacted the resident at 9:02pm and horn use and dumping practices – thought to be the causes of the disturbance – were altered and/or stopped.</li> <li>No noise alarms had triggered within one hour of the complaint. Horn noise was audible from noise recordings at the Jerrys Plains noise monitor.</li> </ul>
2 April	1:31pm	Blast	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resident of Jerrys Plains called the United Wambo Joint Venture (UWJV) Community Complaints Hotline at 1:31pm regarding noise and vibration from a blast. This was relayed to HVO given they did not have a blast at that time.</li> <li>A member of the HVO Environment and Community team contacted the resident to advise a blast had been fired in the Mitchell Pit at 1:29pm.</li> <li>The closest monitor to the resident recorded overpressure of 105.5 dBL against a criteria of 120 dBL and ground vibration of 0.11mm/s against a criteria of 10mm/s.</li> </ul>
4 April	12:30pm	Traffic	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 12:30pm regarding traffic incidents at HVO North entry off Lemington Road.</li> <li>The resident reported that a vehicle exiting HVO North on the afternoon of 3 April failed to stop at the stop sign and almost collided with his wife’s vehicle. They have witnessed other vehicles failing to stop at the same location within the past two months.</li> <li>A presentation about the importance of road safety whilst travelling to and from HVO was delivered to relevant roles. Vegetation maintenance was performed to increase visibility at the intersection.</li> </ul>



## 2.0 Incidents

Nine (9) environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking or above have been recorded so far during 2024. A summary of incident details are provided in **Figure 2** and **Table 2**.



**Figure 2: 2024 Environmental Incidents by Type**

**Table 2: 2024 Environmental Incidents Detail**

Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
5/02/2024	<p><b>PM<sub>10</sub> dust exceedance – Cheshunt East</b> Monitoring results indicate that on 5 February 2023, the Cheshunt East High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) recorded a total result of 69.1µg/m<sup>3</sup> for the 24-hour averaging period for PM<sub>10</sub>, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Todoroski Air Sciences were engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO’s maximum possible contribution to be 24.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. HVO North was not a significant contributor of this exceedance based on elevated regional dust levels and the monitor being upwind for half of the day.</p>	Implementation of operational controls to comply with the approved Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Department of Planning Housing and Investment were advised of this exceedance on 28 February and an incident report has been submitted.	Air
9/02/2024	<p><b>Drill 213 oil spill</b> A hydraulic oil leak occurred on Drill 213 whilst drilling holes on a drill pattern in Cheshunt Pit. Upon investigation, the drill operator found hydraulic oil leaking from the pump and subsequently found that a filter housing had failed. It is estimate that approximately 100 litres of oil spilled to ground.</p>	Repair of the filter was undertaken to prevent further oil leaking to the ground surface. Contaminated soils were scraped to a depth that staining was no longer visible and removed to the Carrington bioremediation area.	Hydrocarbon
18/02/2024	<p><b>Diesel spill at AECl manufacturing facility</b> While conducting refuelling on thermal heater tanks, an operator has opened a diesel valve then has left the area to assist at another task leaving the refuelling operation running. The thermal heater tank overflowed resulting in approximately 3,500 litres of diesel spilling to ground within the AECl compound. The spill was contained by the stormwater system designed for the AECl compound. There was no potential for an offsite spill.</p>	Immediate corrective actions included closing of the diesel valve and containing the spill using designated absorbent materials and constructing earthen bunds. Post event cleanup included vacuum truck removal of liquid materials and excavation and disposal of contaminated soils to the Carrington Bioremediation area. Valves have been changed to spring-loaded, which only operate when in attendance.	Hydrocarbon

20/02/2024	<p><b>Post blast fume event (Level 3B)</b> Following initiation of a blast at 1:13pm in Cheshunt Pit 1, post blast fume was observed coming out of the face rows as well as towards the back section of the blast. The blast was ranked as Level 3B in accordance with the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group (AEISG) rating scale. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.4 m/s and 171 degrees. Blast fume travelled in a north-westerly direction and dispersed across HVO North.</p>	The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction.	Blast
13/03/2024	<p><b>Excavator oil spill</b> Excavator 325 was undertaking drill preparation works in West Pit on a bench. As the excavator trammed backwards, it ran over a large rock which caused the travel motor guard to flex and travel motor oil filters to be damaged at the elbow connectors to the filters. This resulted in approximately 100L of oil spilling to ground.</p>	The damaged connector elbow and filters were repaired in the field. The spilled oil in-pit was not recoverable.	Hydrocarbon
13/03/2024	<p><b>PM<sub>10</sub> dust exceedance – Jerrys Plains</b> Monitoring results indicate that on 13 March 2024, the Jerrys Plains TEOM recorded a result of 51.2µg/m<sup>3</sup> for the 24-hour averaging period for PM<sub>10</sub>, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup>. A specialist air quality consultant was engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO's maximum possible contribution to be 13.3ug/m<sup>3</sup>. HVO's contribution towards this event was minimal and likely to have been overestimated as only the southern portion of HVO North could have potentially contributed to dust levels at Jerrys Plains and this part of the mine has no active mining occurring.</p>	The Department of Planning Housing and Investment were advised of the exceedance and an incident report has been submitted.	Air
21/03/2024	<p><b>Oil spill adjacent to Parnell's Dam</b> Whilst undertaking poly welding works at the former shutdown pad adjacent to Parnell's Dam, the hydraulic oil filter on the poly welding machine became dislodged. This resulted in approximately 20L of oil spilling to ground beneath the machine.</p>	Dirt bunds were formed to contain the oil spill as well as absorbent material applied to soak up the oil. The contaminated soil materials were picked up using an excavator and relocated to the Carrington bioremediation area.	Hydrocarbon



23/03/2024	<p><b>Haul truck oil spill</b>          Whilst haul truck RD407 was attempting to tip at WS145 dump, an oil spill was identified beneath the truck. An inspection was conducted and it was identified that the right-hand hoist ram had failed. This resulted in approximately 50L spilling to ground.</p>	The damaged hoist ram was repaired in field. The contaminated material was unrecoverable	Hydrocarbon
12/04/2024	<p><b>Lemington fuel facility oil spill</b>          An oil spill within the Lemington re-fuelling facility was detected by a truck driver entering the facility. The cause of the leak was an oil hose reel dispenser valve being left open. Upon further investigation, it was noted that the valve had no handle fitted, which had been broken off prior to the leak. The spill was approximately 400L.</p>	Spill kit matting and drysorb materials were applied to prevent it from flowing into downgradient drains. The area of the spill was contained to the hardstand area of the facility floor. Waste contractor disposed of contaminated materials.	Hydrocarbon

### 3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Local organisations successful in obtaining funding during 2024 were as follows:

Title	Organisation	Focus Area	Amount Granted	Comment
Singleton Business Awards	Business Singleton	Local need / capacity building	5,000	n/a
Mezzanine floor construction	Maitland Steam and Antique machinery Association	Capacity building and local / regional need	11,210.28	n/a
TV, Movie and Nostalgia Festival – Exhibit	Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce	Local need	5,000	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$21,210.28</b>	

Round One of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2024 is currently open and closes on 30 April.

## 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:

December 2023 Monthly Environmental Monitoring and EPL Monitoring Reports

January 2024 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:

- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data - December 2023
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - January 2024