

# **Hunter Valley Operations**

Community Consultative Committee

## **Business Papers – May 2025**

Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **7 May 2025**

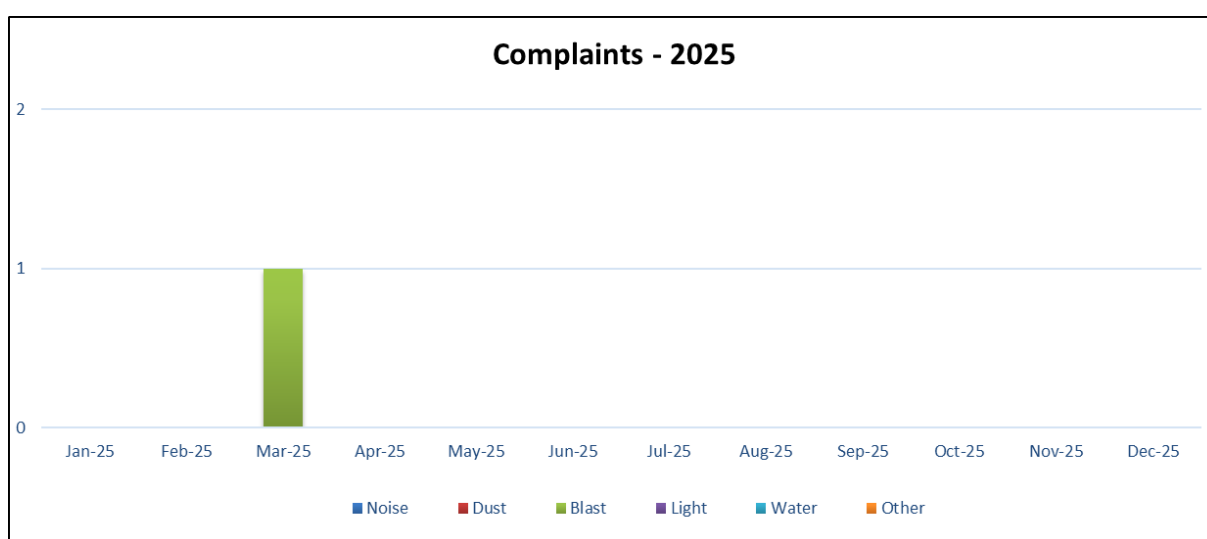
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## 1.0 Complaints

One (1) community complaint regarding post-blast fume has been received to date during 2025.

A summary of all complaints received during 2025 are provided in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.



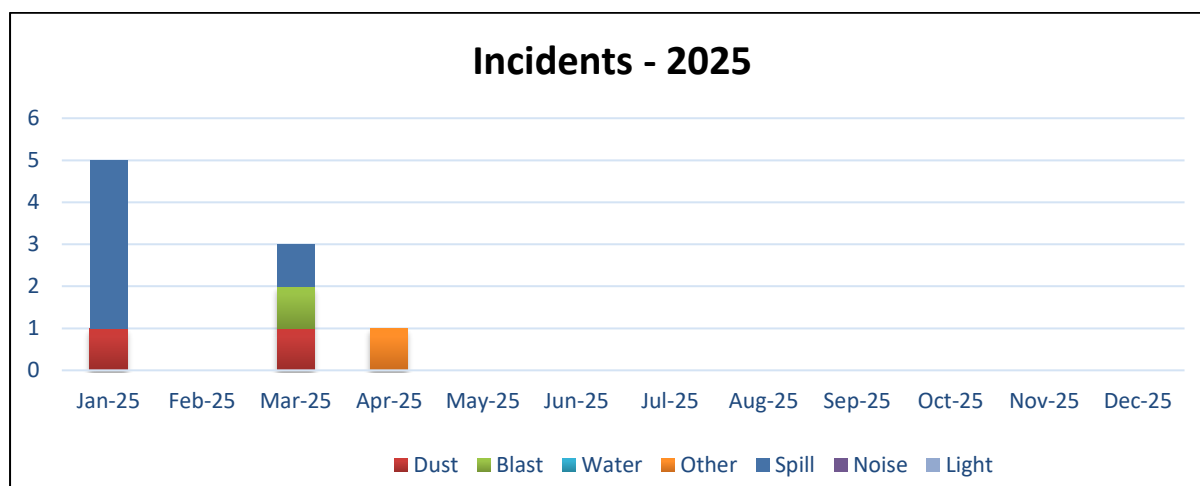
**Figure 1: 2024 Community Complaints by Type**

**Table 1: 2024 / 2025 Community Complaints**

Date	Time	Nature of Complaint	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
No community complaints received during January					
No community complaints received during February					
25 March	3:40pm	Air quality	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 3:40pm regarding observed blast fume and concerns for health impacts.</li> <li>A member of the HVO environment and community team communicated with the resident via telephone confirming that a blast had been fired in the HVO Cheshunt Pit at 3:31pm. The team member provided feedback and information regarding the blast including mitigation measures and confirmation that the visible plume did not leave site boundaries.</li> <li>A subsequent phone call was received from NSW EPA at 9.17am 26 March 2025 regarding a complaint they received from a community member regarding the same blast. The EPA requested further information which HVO provided.</li> </ul>
No community complaints received up to 29 April					

## 2.0 Incidents

Nine (9) environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking have been reported to date during 2025. A summary of incident details are provided in **Figure 2** and **Table 2**.



**Figure 2:** 2025 Environmental Incidents by Type

**Table 2: 2025 Environmental Incidents Detail**

Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
6/01/2025	<b>Oil leak at Newdell</b> Whilst coal hauling truck KH1026 was tipping coal at the Newdell dump hopper, the operator noticed oil leaking from the rear trailer. After investigation, a faulty hydraulic oil line on the trailer tilt ram was determined to be the cause. This resulted in approximately 30L of oil leaking to the sealed concrete surface beneath the truck	The trailer was lowered, leak sealed and hose replaced. The truck was moved in order to clean up the oil leak. All contaminated materials were placed in designated oily rags bins and removed from site by the licenced waste contractor	Hydrocarbon
6/01/2025	<b>HVAS PM10 dust exceedance – Cheshunt East</b> Monitoring results indicate that on 6 January 2025, the Cheshunt East HVAS recorded a total result of 56.1µg/m <sup>3</sup> for the 24-hour averaging period for PM10, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m <sup>3</sup> . An air specialist consultant was engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO's maximum possible contribution to be 22.8ug/m <sup>3</sup>	HVO implemented operational controls on 6 January to comply with the HVO Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Department of Planning Housing and Investment were advised of the exceedance on 18 November with an incident report submitted on 29 January. HVO notified affected residents as per requirements in HVO North Development Consent	Dust

21/01/2025	<b>Oil spill at North workshop</b> After a maintainer had stopped transporting an oil pod from the oil pod storage / laydown facility to Bay N2 of the workshop, it was observed that the built-in oil pod bund was full of oil. After an investigation, it was found that oil had spilled from the bund during transport. Approximately 80L of oil spilled to both sealed and unsealed surfaces.	Contaminated soil materials were removed using a bobcat and transported to the Carrington bio-remediation area	Hydrocarbon
28/01/2025	<b>Oil leak at Newdell Train Load Out</b> An alarm alerted operators of a low oil level on the Newdell train power pack during the loading of a train. After investigation, it was identified that a loose fitting on the northern discharge gate of the TLO was leaking oil. This resulted in approximately 100L of oil leaking onto the mezzanine level as well as the ground surface below	Train loading was stopped, and the power pack was isolated, and accumulators bled prior to repair of the fitting. Contaminated materials were removed by the licensed waste contractor using a vacuum truck and spill kits were replenished	Hydrocarbon
31/01/2025	<b>Oil leak along Pikes Gully Road</b> An oil leak from a coal truck occurred on Pikes Gully Road between Newdell product stockpile and Howick CHPP. The leak of approximately 20L was detected by a truck operator in toe who notified the lead driver. The truck operator stopped the vehicle on the hard stand area and investigated the cause. The cause was found to be a failed hydraulic hose which was subsequently replaced.	The oil spill on the unsealed surfaces was removed using a scraper with contaminated materials transported and placed at Howick bio-remediation area. The spilled oil along Pikes Gully Road was cleaned using absorbent material and a street sweeper	Hydrocarbon

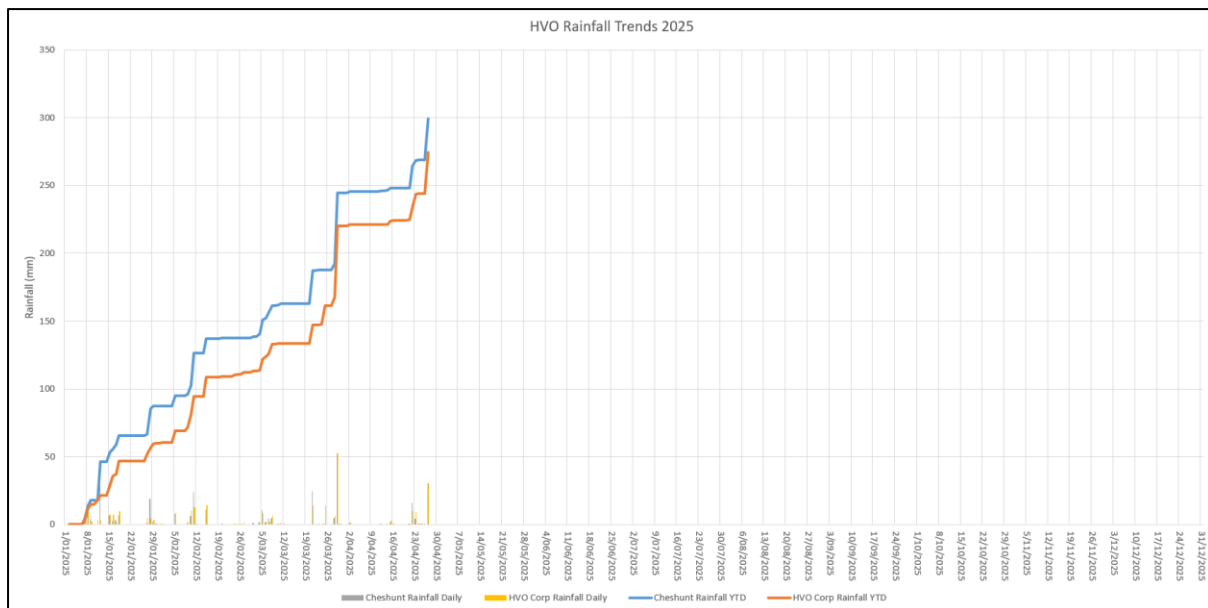
1/03/2025	<b>Kilburnie South HVAS PM10 Exceedance</b> Monitoring results indicate that on 1 March 2025, the Kilburnie South PM10 High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) recorded a total result of 50.8µg/m <sup>3</sup> for the 24-hour averaging period, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m <sup>3</sup> . No complaints were received on this day. An air specialist consultant was engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO's maximum potential contribution to be 9.7ug/m <sup>3</sup> (HVO South) and 0.0ug/m <sup>3</sup> (HVO North)	HVO implemented operational controls on 1 March to comply with the HVO Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Department of Planning Housing and Investment (DPHI) were advised of this exceedance on 17 March and an incident report was submitted on 24 March. No further follow up has been requested from DPHI	Dust
19/03/2025	<b>Oil Spill in Howick Workshop</b> While refuelling oil tanks on the 990 Service Cart Vehicle in the Howick Workshop, the shut off mechanism/valve failed to stop the flow of oil into the tank, causing approximately 30L of oil to overtop the tank and spill to ground	The faulty valve was repaired. Contaminated spill absorbent material was cleaned up and disposed of in nearby oil rag bins	Hydrocarbon
25/03/2025	<b>Post blast fume emissions from P102BWF402 – South Pit Blast</b> HVO initiated blast P102BWF402A in the Cheshunt Pit 1 at 3:21pm on 25 March 2025. Post initiation, fume was observed. Weather conditions throughout the day and immediately leading up to the blast were overcast with showers persisting. The wind speed and wind direction at the time of the blast was 6.4m/s and 115 degrees respectively. Blast fume travelled from the initiation point post ignition in a north westerly direction dispersing over HVO land	Observed fume was ranked Level 3B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. An internal investigation into the cause of the fume found that water contamination from higher than forecast rainfall impacted explosive integrity. There were holes that were visibly impacted by the wet weather so a sucker truck was organised to extract bulk product from the hole to re-establish a competent charge and minimise fume generation. The post blast fume was observed to move slowly across the HVO mining area in a Westerly direction and fully dissipate visibly while over HVO land is indicated pre-blast plume modelling and meteorological assessment.	Blast



17/04/2025	<b>Unapproved Clearance in Newdell</b> An area within Newdwell, West of the Coffeys Dam and Adjacent to Liddell Station Road, was cleared of vegetation that was not approved under a GDP. The area of land cleared had been delineated with pegging, and was identified as GDP 542 Domain 1 Mulching, however had been removed from the permit pending further assessment to be included in future staged GDP approval for 542-1. Despite this, the area was still indicated to be cleared on 2 out of the 3 maps leading to the assumption that clearing was approved. As such, there was a breach of the GDP process.	The Ground Disturbance Procedure is to be updated to require clear staged approval steps are documented in the GDP and mapping reviewed prior to issuing.	Other
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### 3.0 Rainfall

A summary of rainfall data recorded at HVO weather stations during 2025 is provided in **Figure 3** and **Table 3**.



**Figure 2: 2025 HVO Rainfall Data**

**Table 2: 2025 HVO Rainfall Data**

Month	Monthly Total Rainfall (mm)	
	Cheshunt	HVO Corporate
Jan-25	87.6	60.0
Feb-25	50.2	52.4
Mar-25	107.0	108.0
Apr-25	54.6	54.8
May-25		
Jun-25		
Jul-25		
Aug-25		
Sep-25		
Oct-25		
Nov-25		
Dec-25		
<b>Total</b>	<b>299.4</b>	<b>275.2</b>

## 4.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Round One 2025 of the HVO Community Grants Programme closed on 30 April, 2025. As of 29 April, fifteen applications have been received from local organisations.

## 5.0 Environmental Monitoring Documents

Monthly summaries of environmental monitoring 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 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – January 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – February 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - December 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - January 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - February 2025

## 6.0 Environmental and Related Documents

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

- Hunter Valley Operations Community Complaints Register – 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Minutes – November 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Agenda – February 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Business Papers – February 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Presentation – February 2025