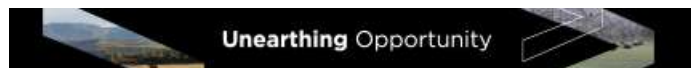




**Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)**  
**Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 1.30 p.m.**



**Attendance**

**Chairperson**

Dr. Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair

**Community Representatives**

Brian Atfield

Community Representative

Di Gee

Community Representative

Todd Mills

Community Representative

Neville Hodgkinson

Community Representative

Janelle Wenham

Community Representative

Michael Wellard

Community Representative

Jeanie Hayes

Community Representative

**Singleton Council Representative**

Cr. Sue George

Singleton Council

**Company Representatives**

Andrew Speechly

Manager Environment & Community

Ben De Somer

Manager Environment & Community

Peter Bowman

Environment & Community Officer

Nic McLaughlin

Environment & Community Officer

Beth Maher

Environment & Community Graduate

Jason Martin

Approvals Manager

**Apologies**

Dave Foster

General Manager

**Minutes**

Sarah Purser

**1. Welcome**

Col opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Andrew ran through housekeeping and emergency procedures. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners;** *"We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we meet today and pay respect to Elders, past, present and future".*

**2. Apologies;** Advised and recorded.

**3. Declaration of pecuniary interests/conflicts of interest**

*Standing;* Col and Sarah are engaged by HVO to provide the respective roles of Independent Chairperson and meeting minute taking.

**4. Correspondence**

13/11/2024	Sarah; Finalised / Accepted minutes from August Meeting received
16/12/2024	Nic; Christmas hours and well wishes email
27/12/2024	Andrew; Notification to CCC members of resignation from HVO
20/12/2024	Nic; Draft minutes sent for CCC member comment
29/01/2025	Nic; Invitation to CCC members, including agenda and business papers for today's meeting
29/01/2025;	Nic; Invitation to CCC members to attend the 2025 HVO Family Day

## 5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held 13 November 2025 and the CCC confirmed their acceptance. The CCC Meeting Minutes are available on HVO's public website and can be accessed on-line via [Documents Hunter Valley Operations \(hvo.com.au\)](https://hvo.com.au/Documents/HunterValleyOperations)

## 6. Matters Arising

### HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP) Update

- ✓ At today's Meeting by Jason Martin.

### HVO European Heritage Management Plan Update

- ✓ At today's meeting by Peter Bowman.

**HVO to outline the North Void Tailings Storage Facility Barrier Wall design when progressed;** HVO continue their design investigations via drilling and geotech work. It was anticipated that there would be a 6 to 8 month period to have that data collected and analysed. This will assist HVO to select the most appropriate mitigation.

### HVO to advertise for Expressions of Interest from Community and Stakeholders to join this CCC

Col advised that one application had been received and later withdrawn.

The CCC agreed to pause seeking new members given the strong attendance at today's meeting.

## 7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

### Operations Update

Andrew identified the location of mining operations via mapping. HVO were in the process of commissioning an upgrade to their Coal Handling Preparation Plant (CHPP) and plan to install a ROM Hopper that will feed coal into the CHPP. This will simplify a lot of conveyor work in that area and assist with dust management.

**West Pit;** Andrew confirmed that the majority of equipment was working alongside Lemington Road. Operations were going well with excavators reaching their performance rates.

**South Pit - Cheshunt;** The majority of activities were in the south-western part of this pit and in the most part moving in a westerly direction. All overburden dumping is below the natural topography in the pit.

### Environment

### Complaints

HVO provided a monthly complaints summary for the period January to December 2024. There had been no complaints year to date 2025.

### Comparative Rainfall: 2013 to 2024 and 2022 to 2024

The annual average rainfall for the period 2013 to 2024 was 650 mm. Andrew noted that rain had come in sporadically over 2024, therefore whilst it felt there had been more rain days, the rainfall volume ended up being around this same annual average.

## **Rehabilitation - Year To Date (YTD)**

HVO reached their rehabilitation target of 69 hectares during December 2024. Andrew identified rehabilitation areas via mapping. Andrew advised that HVO had re-worked and completed the East Tailings Storage Facility rehabilitation area. An additional 88.5 hectares of previously rehabilitated land i.e. growth medium development (GMD) was also seeded with final land use species in Carrington. The WOOP Dump remediation works are complete, this included a large drop structure and 2,700 square meters of turf for stabilisation. HVO will install fencing to enable the LLS to return cattle back to that area.

## **Biodiversity Offsets**

Activities have focussed on; Environmental Monitoring for HVO's Annual Report, fire reduction and boundary fire breaks, and Prickly Pear control at Mitchel Hill offset area.

Monitoring for the Glencore Biodiversity Report Card had commenced with the intention to provide a consistent monitoring program and performance assessment across biodiversity offset areas for all Glencore sites.

## **Operational Weed Management**

Activities have focussed on; managing the increased vegetation growth within planted areas to prevent overshadowing planted tube stock, reducing weed coverage and pig habitat within riparian areas (Hunter River and Wollombi Brook), reduce weed proliferation within and adjacent to priority areas. HVO's weed targets include; castor oil, balloon vine, green cestrum, galenia and inkweed. HVO will forward information to CCC members which was provided by Di at the November Meeting in relation to the CSIRO African Boxthorn Bio-control Agent project.

## **Feral Pest Management**

### **2024 Activities**

Andrew provided an overview of HVO's 2024 Pig and Kangaroo control programs. Andrew noted that overall vertebrate pest control had been higher in 2024 YTD when compared to 2023 YTD.

### **2025 Proposed Program of Activities**

Andrew detailed HVO's program of activities for summer, autumn and spring in relation to their proposed Wild Dog Control and 'Hoggone' Pig Baiting Programs. These synchronised baiting and trapping programmes are co-ordinated with other sites and Hunter Local Land Services (LLS). Peter noted an increase in pig sightings and that there had been some mobs of pigs in newly completed rehabilitation. HVO do respond to those changes and adjust and act by linking seasonal programs. Di agreed that the pigs were always around, especially through the lucerne flats, and agreed that was a good strategy for HVO to have in place.

## **Heritage**

### **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

The Mitchell Pit South Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) #5350 was approved on 23 December 2024, this enabled community surface salvage and monitoring excavation works to be completed for artefacts. Di queried what type of artefacts had been found and Peter responded there had been some well formed axe heads, the remnants of tool making activities which is described as "Debitage", and flaked hand implements.

Peter noted that there had been a high level of vegetation in the collection area, therefore the grass cover was defoliated to improve visibility and assist with recovery. HVO will prepare a report on the Mitchell Pit South artefact salvage and there will be continued liaison with the community on the outcomes.

As part of the annual Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, HVO will conduct compliance inspections. Peter explained there are good processes in place to identify sites and mesh fencing has proven effective to keep artefacts in situ and ensure cattle and native animals cannot access those areas.

### **Historic Homestead Project**

The Wandewoi Homestead parapet repair works tender have been awarded to Structal. Peter advised that the parapet will be taken down, new fittings and wall will be installed, and the surrounding drainage will be repaired which was the primary reason for the collapse. Peter provided an overview of the experienced Team that will be involved in this project. The Archerfield Conservation Management Plan has been forwarded to Singleton Council. Yard maintenance works and termite interception system inspections at LEP listed properties is ongoing.

### **Historic Heritage Management Plan**

This is a voluntary Management Plan providing for identification and overarching management of HVO's non-indigenous heritage places and sites including both listed and non-listed. Management is in accordance with relevant legislation and company standards. The plan identifies conservation management strategies for specific sites and general management strategies for less significant sites. Peter noted that whilst some sites are non-listed HVO still see them as being significant and therefore important to be conserved.

Di asked if members could be provided with the Historic Heritage Management Plan and HVO confirmed that is currently being finalised and could be shared.

**ACTION 1: HVO to provide their Historic Heritage Management Plan to the CCC when finalised, anticipated to be available at the next meeting to be held 7 May 2025.**

Peter identified the locations of Historic Heritage Sites, including; Chain of Ponds Inn, Remnant Foundations, Wandewoi Homestead, the Great Lodge (sometimes referred to as the Grand Lodge), Carrington Homestead, Archerfield Homestead and Outbuildings, Hobden Timber Bridge, Dog Leg Fence, Warkworth WWII Airstrip, Clifford Homestead archaeological site, Dight Family Grave, Stafford Homestead, Greenleek Homestead, Former Warkworth Public School, Former Queen Victoria Inn Ruins, St Philip's Anglican Church and Springwood Homestead.

Neville felt Heritage had been well covered, he reflected on the old Jerrys Plains area in relation to the old road that was called Government Road and the original Cemetery, Peter noted that the cemetery would be quite remote from HVO. Neville noted the Hobden's House that was named the Great Lodge has been discussed, he queried if there were any plans for this from a Heritage point of view. Andrew confirmed that the Great Lodge is featured in HVO's Continuation Project and Peter added that the Lodge had been picked up in the EIS Study and there is a recommendation to do a Conservation Management Plan for it.

Neville's main point was looking into the future i.e. around 50 years time, and to consider what will be left for the community to look at. Neville felt that Heritage is important to the community as that is where they come from, noting there are still some descendants in the area. Neville was interested in what people identify as being the Historic Heritage that should be preserved.

HVO confirmed the Grand Lodge has been identified and there are works and studies in the planning that are being discussed internally. HVO explained that as part of their voluntary Historic Heritage Management Plan the company will work out where best to put their resources, rather than focus on one property.

Peter added that documenting the properties is a good start, as from there the development of strategies and works are the real commitment. HVO has committed significant funds for Heritage Homestead restoration, the immediate strategy is to ensure properties continue to be habitable and have a valuable use, as is the case for Wandewoi. Peter noted that HVO commit these funds voluntarily and share Neville's aspirations that these properties will last.

Di said that she was looking forward to receiving HVO's Historic Heritage Management Plan. From the point of view of the town's family history Di understood there were about half a dozen descendents of the Hobden family. Di felt it would be good to be able to give these people something and be able to say this is what HVO are doing in relation to property upkeep. It was noted that over the last five years there has been a lot more interest in historical matters and people wanting to know their ancestry.

Neville felt that some time ago Stafford had been in a reasonable condition. Peter confirmed that HVO conduct grounds maintenance around Stafford but the problem relates to its foundations as it is on a sand dune, therefore there is movement of the building and that makes restoration challenging.

Neville felt a good process would be to first identify the properties and then have the community make the overall judgement to preserve or conserve. Col noted that HVO will release the Historic Heritage Management Plan in the near future and had acknowledged Neville's feedback.

**Reporting, Exceedances and Inspections;** Andrew provided details of investigations and actions undertaken in relation to a post blast fume event on 22 November. Neville asked if there had been any complaints regarding the blast fume and Andrew confirmed HVO did not receive any. Andrew advised of an exceedance at the Jerrys Plains PM10 (24 hour) monitor on 14 December and Cheshunt East PM10 (24 hour) monitor on 6 January 2024. Andrew detailed HVO's investigations and undertakings in response. HVO provided an update on the Dam 17N discharge event noting that HVO had implemented field signage, procedures, as well as sump pump upgrades to prevent any potential reoccurrence.

**Annual EPBC Compliance Report;** Andrew provided an overview of the suite of compliance tables and reports that HVO submit and report on.

**Exploration Works 2024;** No surface exploration has been undertaken in EL's during 2025. Surface exploration planned within EL 5417 and EL 5606 will be undertaken in 2025.

### **Community Grants Program**

2024 saw HVO's largest ever community contribution that covered the JPPS Ready4School Program, one-off grants, in-kind donations and Christmas giving. Nic provided an overview of the recipients that had received contributions from HVO to the value of \$121,721.00. In addition, Nic noted there were the painted truck trays supporting five charities in the order of \$30,000.00, raising the in total community contributions to the order of \$150,000.00.

### **2025 HVO Community Grants Program**

Applications for this grant program will be accepted between 1 and 30 April 2025. Nic will send an email reminder to the CCC closer to that date.

## 2026 GCAA Graduate Program

Applications are now open for the GCAA Graduate Programme 2026. The CCC were encouraged to point anyone they know that may be interested in joining the HVO Graduate Program to the Glencore careers website:

[glencore.com/careers](https://glencore.com/careers)

Applications close: 28 April 2025

## Approvals

### HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP)

NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) "Request for Information" (RFI) asked HVO to consider implications of avoiding coal mining from the area referred to as gas Domain 1. HVO were considering the RFI including undertaking additional modelling and mine planning to provide this information.

**Federal Approval Update;** The Project requires Federal EPBC Act Approval. Revised EPBC Act referrals were being prepared in consideration of the broader HVOCP with submission anticipated for Q1 2025.

### Time Extension Modification

The Modification Report was submitted in November 2024. The Public Exhibition Period ran from 27 November to 10 December 2024. There were 105 submissions received with 78% being in support of the Modification. Jason provided an overview of the key themes in relation to support and objection. The Submissions Report was submitted on 24 January 2025 with assessment and determination anticipated for March/April 2025.

## 8. Community Representative Feedback

Janelle asked HVO to follow up maintenance of air-conditioning units for residents as these need to be scheduled every three months. Nic confirmed that he would investigate that matter for Janelle.

Di asked if it would suit the CCC to have the meetings of a morning, all members agreed to commence meetings at 9.30 a.m. going forward.

## 9. General Business

Andrew acknowledged that he had been involved with the HVO CCC for many years, he thanked members for how well they conduct themselves in these meetings, noting the feedback is very frank but also very reasonable. Andrew said the membership of this CCC works well, members bring matters into this forum that are important and show an interest in the operation. Andrew thanked everyone for the time they put into these meetings stating he had gained a great deal from feedback provided by all of the individuals involved.

On behalf of the CCC Col thanked Andrew for his contribution, Col noted that Andrew had always been positive, listened to what people have raised and provided feedback in response.

Andrew advised that Peter was retiring at the end of February 2025, he noted that Peter has also had a long involvement with this CCC, particularly on the Heritage side. Ben will be taking over Andrew's role and for the interim, Nic will cover Cultural Heritage and Buffer Land, as well as continuing his role in Community.

The CCC were provided with a hand out in relation to CSIRO's African Boxthorn Bio-control Agent program with details on how to participate. Cr. Sue George confirmed that she will take that information back to Singleton Council's Weeds Committee.

Nic confirmed that the HVO Family Day is scheduled for 17 May 2025 and the CCC had been invited to attend.

#### **10.Next Meeting Dates commencing at 9.30 a.m.**

Col closed the meeting, thanking all for their attendance and confirmed the meeting schedule for 2025.

7 May 2025

27 August 2025

5 November 2025

#### **Actions Arising from this Meeting**

**ACTION 1: HVO to provide their Historic Heritage Management Plan to the CCC when finalised, anticipated to be available at the next meeting to be held 7 May 2025.**

#### **Updates for 2025**

HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP); Jason Martin

HVO Time Extension Modification to DA 450-10-2003; Jason Martin

HVO to outline the North Void Tailings Storage Facility Barrier Wall design when progressed

#### **HVO CONTACTS**

Website <https://hvo.com.au/>

Continuation Project via [hvo.com.au/continuation](https://hvo.com.au/continuation)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086443440525>

Meeting Minutes - [Documents Hunter Valley Operations \(hvo.com.au\)](https://hvo.com.au/documents/hunter-valley-operations)

HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline: 1800 888 733 (free call)

SMS Blasting Notification System- Send an SMS to 0447 448 982 with word "subscribe" included in text