



Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting
Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 9.30 a.m.



Attendance

Chairperson

Dr. Colin Gellatly

Independent Chair

Community Representatives

Brian Atfield

Community Representative

Todd Mills

Community Representative

Neville Hodgkinson

Community Representative

Jeanie Hayes

Community Representative

Peter Nichols

Community Representative

Singleton Council Representative

Cr. Sue George

Singleton Council

Company Representatives

Ben De Somer

Manager Environment & Community

Nic McLaughlin

Environment & Community Officer

Beth Maher

Environment & Community Graduate

Jason Martin

Approvals Manager

Apologies

Di Gee

Community Representative

Janelle Wenham

Community Representative

Michael Wellard

Community Representative

Dave Foster

General Manager

Minutes

Sarah Purser

1. Welcome

Col opened the meeting, greeting all in attendance. Peter Nichols was welcomed and introduced as a new Community Representative joining the HVO CCC. Ben 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. Peter advised that he leases some land from HVO. Nic confirmed he would provide Peter with the NSW DPHI CCC Governance forms for completion and return.

4. Correspondence

- 12/2/25; Information to CCC Members advising of the 2025 HVO CCC Meeting dates, including detail on Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue key issues and priorities.
- 14/3/25 Draft February Meeting Minutes sent to CCC for comment.
- 30/4/25; Invitation to today's CCC Meeting, including Agenda and Business Papers.
- 2/5/25; Notification to CCC of HVO's Autumn Vertebrae Pest Management Program.

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held 5 February 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://www.hvo.com.au/Documents/HunterValleyOperations)

6. Matters Arising

HVO to provide their Historic Heritage Management Plan to the CCC when finalised.

Nic to ascertain if this can be circulated out of session.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

Operations Update

West Pit; Standard operations continue with mining progressing in a south westerly direction towards the Mitchell Pit area. Ben provided an overview of the sequence of mining that is anticipated to continue for the majority of 2025. The Horwick Prep Plan had been re-commissioned and running well this year.

South Pit - Cheshunt; Operations continue in the same progression as reported at the Q1 CCC Meeting, with Pit 1 advancing across towards Pit 2. Ben anticipated that the shovel would return to work during the week commencing 5 May 2025 after being on a shut down.

Brian queried if production was on track and Ben provided detail on overburden movement and coal, confirming HVO were on target to reach their goals by end 2025.

Environment

Comparative Rainfall 2023 to 2025; HVO provided annual rainfall data by month for 2023 and 2024 with a YTD comparison for 2025. Rainfall in March 2025 had been in the realm of levels recorded in April 2024.

Comparative Rainfall 2013 to 2025; HVO presented the annual rainfall data for this period that indicated the average total was 600mm.

Monthly Rainfall 2025; For the period January to April 2025 the total rainfall recorded at Cheshunt was 299.4mm and HVO Corporate was 275.2 mm.

Rehabilitation

HVO's rehabilitation target for 2025 is 54.6 hectares of new rehabilitation and 10.8 hectares of Growth Medium Development (GMD). All GMD have had an initial weed spray with a follow up spray and seeding to be completed in Spring. Ben explained GMD are areas that have been previously planted with cover crops to build the soil profile and HVO then treat any weed issues prior to establishing the final planned vegetation in those footprints.

There was a general discussion around weeds that can become problematic i.e. Galenia, Coolatai Grass and Acacia Saligna (Golden Wreath Wattle). Ben detailed the control methods used to treat Galenia and Peter commended HVO for their efforts in managing this weed, as it tends to grow anywhere and take over. Jeanie noted that Galenia really needs to be kept on top of and Peter agreed that it requires consistent work to control it. Ben confirmed that HVO have crews constantly working on weed control.

All rehabilitation had been released and HVO has commenced shaping, with 21 hectares completed to date. Ben identified HVO's planned rehabilitation for 2025, noting a large proportion of this is located below the Carrington Pit area.

Biodiversity Offsets

Activities have focussed on tree planting of Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest & Woodland and River Red Gum. Ben identified the various parcels of land where this tree planting was being undertaken.

Monitoring for the Glencore Biodiversity Report Card had commenced with the intention to provide a consistent monitoring programme and performance assessment across biodiversity offset areas for all Glencore-managed sites. The Report Card will be an annual process and provide consistency in the way performance is measured in both the rehabilitation and restoration spaces.

Operational Weed Management

Ben provided detail of the activity focus for HVO's operational weed management in biodiversity offset areas, within riparian areas and on land adjacent to priority areas. Mapping identified HVO's weed control areas for 2024 and 2025.

Feral Pest Management

Current Programmes

Ben provided an overview of HVO's programmes in relation to wild dogs and foxes, the rural licensee feral pest control program and kangaroo control.

Proposed Program of Activities for 2025

Ben detailed HVO's proposed activities for Autumn, Spring and Summer in relation to wild dog and fox control, and the "Hoggone" pig program.

Feral pest management programs are co-ordinated with other mine sites and the Hunter Local Land Services (LLS).

Peter reported an increase in pig numbers and queried if HVO use drones to locate them. Ben responded that it was not a current practice to utilise drones for sighting pigs. Peter queried if HVO had considered putting a tracking collar on a pig and releasing it, he explained when the pig returns to the mob that can identify their location. Jeannie believed that all suggestions should be considered to ramp up efforts in feral pig management, as the current control methods are not as effective as many people would like.

Peter felt there was the need to get rid of the habitat on the river as the pigs hide under that. Member feedback was that pigs were a widespread problem, not just in the near neighbouring areas.

Peter queried feral dog management and asked how HVO determine ground baits had been specifically taken by dogs. Ben confirmed that HVO have the ability to conduct camera monitoring and explained the differentiating characteristics between feral dogs and foxes bait take.

Heritage

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Mitchell Pit South AHIP #5350 surface salvage works had been completed. ACHMP compliance inspections to be undertaken during July.

Historic Homestead Projects

HVO provided a pictorial overview showing the progression of the Wandewoi Homestead works, noting the parapet works had been progressing well with completion anticipated during May 2025. HVO's next focus will be on Archerfield.

Ben confirmed that Peter Bowman had presented detail on HVO's Historic Heritage Management Plan at the Q1 CCC Meeting, noting that this is a five year program whereby HVO will be working on prioritising high risk elements.

Reporting, Exceedances and Inspections;

Ben provided details of investigations and actions undertaken in relation to a post blast fume event on 25 March 2025.

Peter asked if HVO measure and track a blast fume and if that would be part of company reporting. Ben confirmed that HVO utilise a number of methods for tracking; a camera, drones and their people on the ground, HVO are able to provide detail on where a fume has been observed.

Neville noted that a blast fume ranked as Level 3B may not continue at that level as it travels but felt there was still potential for fumes to be present. Neville queried the community complaint associated with this blast and HVO advised the concern raised was that the fume was visible. Neville noted the long history with regard to the Level 3B ranking and concern about nearby neighbours being affected by fumes, as the potential impact does not necessarily relate to the colour. Neville concurred that it is important to know where the drift travels and if that may have an impact on anybody nearby. Ben confirmed that HVO do report that detail and that this fume had remained on HVO's site.

On 1 March 2025 an exceedance was recorded at Kilburne South PM10; this is a 24 hour monitor located near Moses Crossing. Investigations determined that HVO's contribution to the monitored result was 0.0ug/m³. Ben noted that as part of the HVO North Mod 8 time extension, the DPHI's criteria for reporting is now to be on an incremental contribution base, rather than a report on the total impact. The threshold of 50ug/m³ remains the same for HVO North and if that is reached HVO would then investigate if any contribution had potentially been from site.

Exploration Works 2024;

Surface exploration planned within EL 5417 and EL 5606 for 2024 will now be undertaken during 2025. Should further exploration works be required in Exploration Licence areas, HVO will conduct consultation with impacted stakeholders.

Community

Complaints

There had been one complaint received in Q1 2025 in relation to the blast fume in March 2025 reported to the CCC at today's meeting.

Community Contribution Summary

Round one of HVO's Community Grants Program was open during April 2025, Nic advised that HVO were in the process of assessing the 25 applications that had been received.

HVO has entered into a financial partnership with Jerrys Plains Public School for a digital street sign and full-time Learning and Support Officer.

Nic advised the Painted Truck Trays donations to; Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Type 1 Foundation, Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance, Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation and Singleton Family Support had been \$8,000 per organisation in 2024. These five charities have had their partnership agreements extended by a further two years. Peter stated that HVO should be thanked for that support.

Beth provided detail of further community engagement and support that had been provided by HVO.

- ✓ Maitland Steam and Antique Machinery Association had a mezzanine floor installed in their storage shed / workshop thanks to an \$11,000 grant from HVO in 2024.
- ✓ Singleton Clay Target club were provided with some media coverage for their 'Come n try' day on 27 April 2025.
- ✓ HVO Community information sessions were run on 22 February 2025 - as part of the Jerrys Plains Fair and on 12 April 2025 at Maison Dieu.

2026 GCAA Vacation Employment Programme

Nic provided an overview of this program that will run from 1 December 2025 to 20 February 2026, which provides 12 weeks of paid on-the-job experience during the University vacation period. Nic encouraged members to share detail of this program should it be of interest to their contacts.

Approvals

Time Extension Modification

Jason detailed the steps and timelines leading up to the DPHI's approval of HVO North Mod 8 on 24 April 2025. HVO North will now operate in accordance with the modified consent enabling mining through to 31 December 2026. Jason noted that it had been positive for HVO to receive that assurance for the continuation of operations.

HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP)

Overview; Jason provided a historical overview of the HVOCP and an update on the project's current status.

Proposed Mine Plan Amendment

Jason provided a summary of the key project changes that were proposed as part of an Amendment Report for HVO North and HVO South being; the life of the project reduced to the end of 2045 and end of 2042 at HVO North and HVO South respectively. Jason noted the introduction of a HVO Complex maximum annual ROM coal production rate of up to 26Mtpa coupled with a reduced mining footprint by approximately 220Mt. Jason detailed the reduction in emissions that would result from the proposed changes to the mine plan.

Key Project Changes

Jason detailed the proposed changes, as they relate to the current application, to HVO's annual production, mine life, coal handling and the project area / disturbance. Jason confirmed there would be no change to HVO's mining method.

Jason outlined the next steps for the HVOCP inclusive of; completion of revised technical assessments to support the Amendment Report for HVO North and HVO South and consultation with key stakeholders associated with updated technical assessment findings. Submission of an Amendment Report was anticipated for Q3 2025. Following on would be the NSW DPHI assessment period and NSW Independent Planning Commission Assessment (IPC) and determination.

Federal Approval Update

Overview

Jason advised the HVOCP requires a standalone approval under the EPBC Act including a standalone Federal assessment and reporting requirements. Jason advised the revised EPBC Act referrals had been submitted and at the time were on public display. Jason outlined the processes in relation to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) and the next steps in relation to reporting, assessments and public exhibition.

Peter queried the required workforce levels for the HVOCP. Jason responded that HVO would be seeking approval for approximately 1,500 people which is in line with current numbers.

Jeannie queried what year HVO anticipated that Lemington road may be closed and redirected. Jason advised the earliest timeframe to commence construction would be 2027 following which a 12-18 month construction period would be necessary. Jeannie had been asked about how much disruption that would have, particularly to Jerrys Plains residents and Ben responded that the current Lemington Road would not be closed until the new road is open. Jeannie confirmed that is what she had been expecting.

Peter queried the location of the proposed new Lemington road and asked how the new route would affect travel time when driving from Jerrys Plains to the highway. Jason identified the location of the proposed new Lemington road via mapping and confirmed the difference in travel time was estimated to be approximately two minutes and noted that the Amendment Report wasn't altering the current plans / previous assessment undertaken in respect to impacts on travel time. Jason noted the net distance would be longer with reference to Jerrys Plains resident travelling to north of Singleton but when considering the number of occasions that Moses Crossing has been inaccessible due to water levels, the new Lemington road would provide greater flood protection access between the New England Highway and Golden Highway.

Peter queried the proposed mining footprint and Jason identified the mining areas via mapping. Members queried the location of the proposed Hunter Transmission Line and asked if that project would have an impact on the Glider Club. Jason identified the approximate location where the Transmission Line would travel from his understanding.

8. Community Representative Feedback

Sue asked if HVO sort all of their waste before it goes into the dump i.e. metals, plastics etc. Ben confirmed that HVO have various waste streams in place and Nic added that all skip bins are colour coded and labelled to identify the waste type they are to be used for.

9. General Business

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

10. Next Meeting Dates

Col closed the meeting, thanking all for their attendance and confirmed that the next meeting dates are scheduled for:-

27 August 2025

5 November 2025

Meetings commencing at 9.30 a.m.

Updates for 2025

HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP).

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

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