

Hunter Valley Operations

Community Consultative Committee

Business Papers – February 2026

Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **Wednesday 18 February 2026**

Contents Page

1.0 Complaints	3
2.0 Incidents	7
3.0 Rainfall	12
4.0 Community Sponsorship and Events	14
5.0 Environmental Monitoring Documents	17
6.0 Environmental and Related Documents	18

1.0 Complaints

Eight (8) community complaints were received during 2025. A summary of all complaints received during 2025 are provided in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.

No community complaints have been received to date during 2026.

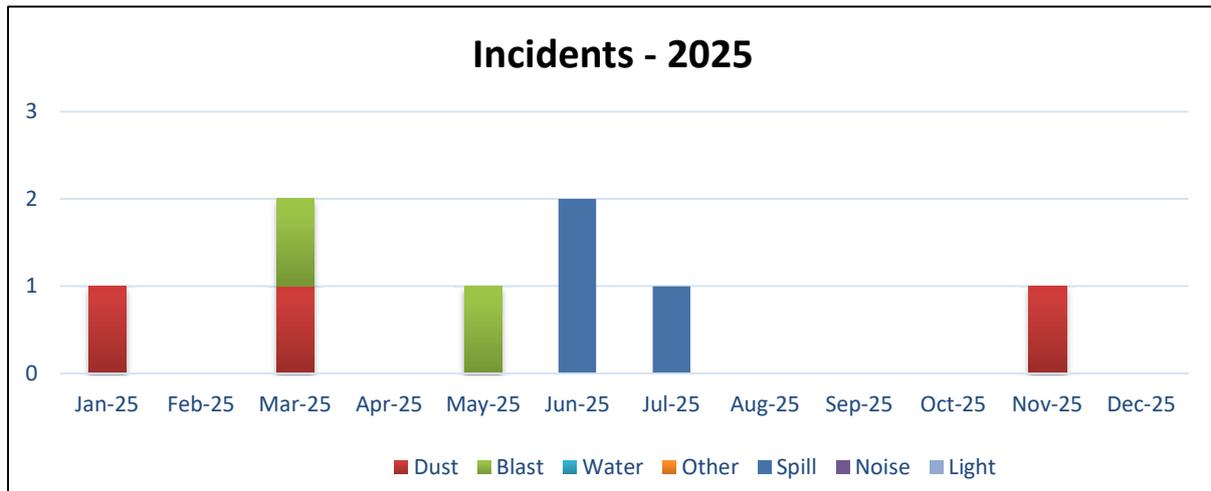


Figure 1: Summary of 2025 Community Complaints by Type

Table 1: Summary of 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"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 3:40pm regarding observed blast fume and concerns for health impacts. • 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. • 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.
No community complaints received during April					
6 May	8:20pm	Noise	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 8:20pm regarding noise • Noise results as well as meteorological data were checked prior to calling the resident • HVO West Pit OCE communicated with the resident via telephone whereby the resident provided further feedback, including that the noise had since subsided • Noise monitoring results from the closest monitoring unit (Jerrys Plains ENC) prior to and at the time of the complaint were below the compliance limits
No community complaints were received during June					
No community complaints were received during July					
21 August	1:58pm	Blast	Community	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 1:58pm

Date	Time	Nature of Complaint	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
			Hotline		<p>regarding blast noise and vibration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Mitchell Pit at 1:22pm. The team member provided feedback and information regarding the blast including results from the Moses Crossing blast monitor (closest to the resident's house) which were below the relevant compliance limits for blast overpressure and vibration A subsequent email was received from NSW EPA at 3:40pm on 21 August 2025 regarding a complaint they received from a community member regarding the same blast. HVO provided requested information on 29 August 2025.
15 September	6:20pm	Blast	Community Hotline	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 6.20pm regarding blast noise and vibration experienced at 5:12pm HVO West Pit OCE contacted the resident at 6:51pm and discussed the nature of the complaint, confirming HVO had blasted in Mitchell Pit at that time. A member of the environment and community team contacted the resident the following day and discussed the results, noting they were within compliance limits Monitoring data from the Jerrys Plains Village blast monitor (closest to the resident's house) was emailed to the resident
19 September	10:20am	Dust	via EPA Environment Line	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW EPA received an Environment Line report relating to the alleged emission of dust from HVO around 10:20am. The report alleged that a passerby observed dust blowing from haulage trucks as they drove past on Lemington Road HVO investigated the event and supplied a report to the EPA, noting compliance with air quality criterion at the time of the event
No community complaints were received during October					
15	10:22am	Air Quality	Community	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident of Putty Road, Mt Thorley contacted the HVO community complaints

Date	Time	Nature of Complaint	Mode of Complaint	Monitoring Indicates Exceedance	Brief Description and Response
November			Hotline		<p>hotline regarding poor air quality on 14 and 15 November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVO South Mining Supervisors completed inspections and review of camera footage following the complaint and as the resident requested. Mining Supervisors confirmed that operations were temporarily ceased or altered in accordance with the TARP as conditions required • It is noted that regional air quality was visually poor on 14 November, particularly during the afternoon and evening with a white haze present that possibly included smoke • Calculated HVO 24hr PM10 contribution was below compliance criterion
No community complaints were received during December					

2.0 Incidents

Thirteen (13) environmental incidents requiring external reporting under approvals licences and/or reporting in the HVO Annual Environmental Review were reported during 2025. A summary of those incident details are provided in **Figure 2** and **Table 2**.

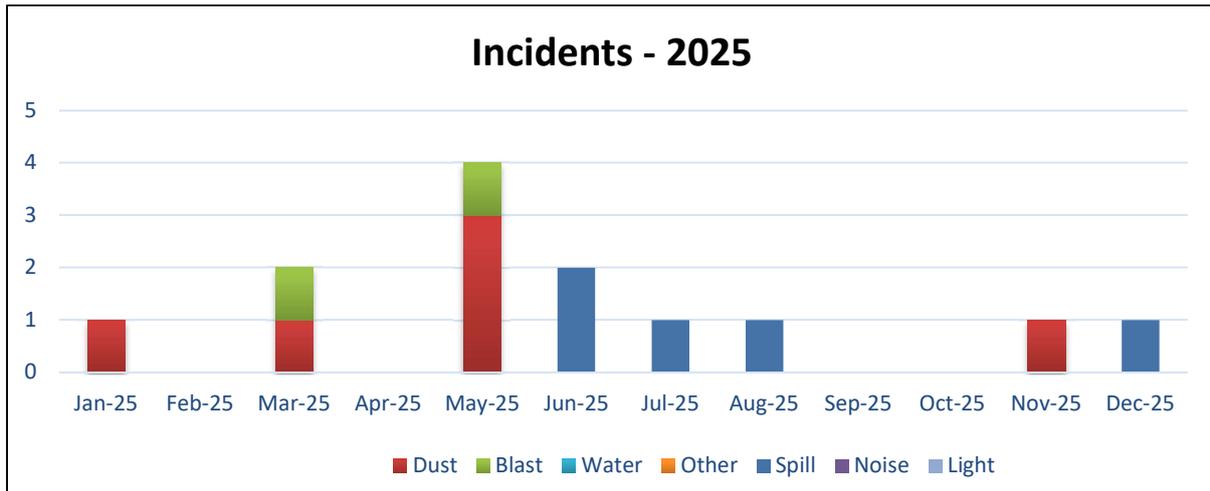


Figure 2: Summary of 2025 Environmental Incidents by Type

Table 2: Summary of 2025 Environmental Incident Details

Date	Details	Key Actions	Aspect
6/01/2025	<p>HVAS PM10 dust exceedance – Cheshunt East Monitoring results indicate that on 6 January 2025, the Cheshunt East HVAS recorded a total result of 56.1µg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM10, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. An air specialist consultant was engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO’s maximum possible contribution to be 22.8ug/m³</p>	<p>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 (DPHI) 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</p>	Air Quality
1/03/2025	<p>Kilburnie South HVAS PM10 exceedance Monitoring results indicate that on 1 March 2025, the Kilburnie South PM10 High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) recorded a total result of 50.8µg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. 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/m³ (HVO South) and 0.0ug/m³ (HVO North)</p>	<p>HVO implemented operational controls on 1 March to comply with the HVO Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The 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</p>	Air Quality

25/03/2025	<p>Post Blast Fume Event (Level 3B) – South Pit 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. 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 as predicted by pre-blast plume modelling and meteorological assessment</p>	<p>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.</p>	Blast 3B Fume
03/05/2025	<p>Post Blast Fume Event (Level 3B) – South Pit Blasts P10203601B and P1024401 were initiated on Saturday 3 May at 17:11pm. Blast hole conditions were wet and loaded with S33012 product at the end of April. Due to wet weather conditions, the shot was postponed. After firing the blast, post blast fume was observed across the blast surface</p>	<p>The blast was ranked Level 3B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. Fume and dust from the blast travelled in a north westerly direction and dispersed over the mining lease area. No community complaints were received relating to the blast</p>	Blast 3B Fume
24/05/2025	<p>Data Mis-Capture at Golden Highway TEOM TEOM recorded erroneous data on Friday 23 May. The TEOM was offline for a total of 95.20 hours between 24/05/2025 and 27/05/2025 until the site was in a dry and safe condition for a field technician to attend and replace the cables. As a result of the down time, the unit recorded capture rates below the daily requirement of 75% meaningful data required by Environment Protection Licence 640 for approximately 4 days</p>	<p>Heavy rainfall occurring the week prior had submerged the 240volt cables connecting to the TEOM, generating erroneous data and required the TEOM to be switched off. The results of this mis-capture will be reported in the EPL Annual Return</p>	Air Quality Failure to monitor
26/05/2025	<p>Data Mis-Capture at Jerrys Plains TEOM TEOM mis-captured data on Saturday 24/05/2025 with the unit only capturing 74.3% of the required 75% data capture</p>	<p>An investigation identified that a site-wide power outage had occurred from external power issues with Ausgrid as a result of the heavy rainfall that occurred during the week prior. The results of this mis-capture will be reported in the Annual Return</p>	Air Quality Failure to monitor

27/05/2025	<p>Data Mis-Capture at Wandewoi TSP and Kilburnie South TSP + PM10 HVAS</p> <p>All three units failed to operate for their full 24-hour periods resulting in runtimes of 74%, 6% & 6% respectively</p>	<p>An investigation by an electrician established that a site-wide power outage occurred on 24 May due to an external supply issue from Ausgrid.</p> <p>At Kilburnie South, the electrician found that the Residual Current Device (RCD) on the circuit powering both the TSP and PM₁₀ HVAS units had tripped, preventing power restoration. The RCD was subsequently reset, restoring power</p> <p>The results of this mis-capture will be reported in the Annual Return</p>	Failure to monitor
01/06/2025	<p>Coupling Dislodged on EX310 causing Hydraulic Oil Leak in West Pit</p> <p>In the process of washing excavator EX310 hydraulic oil was observed leaking onto the ground. It was identified that the Victaulic coupling for the hydraulic cooler return piping had dislodged and drained approximately 1,900L of hydraulic oil on the ground</p>	<p>The maintainer isolated the hydraulic tank valves and closed the hydraulic return gate valves.</p> <p>The spill area was bunded and cleaned up using a nearby loader.</p> <p>Contaminated soil was transferred to the Bioremediation Area in the Carrington Pit</p>	Hydrocarbon spill
10/06/2025	<p>Damaged Bung on Fuel Tank of EX330 Released Diesel in West Pit</p> <p>Operator of excavator EX330 noticed a diesel smell in the cab which triggered them to investigate. They found a damaged bung under the front left corner of the machine, causing approximately 7,000L of diesel to leak from the fuel tank</p>	<p>The operator immediately moved EX330 to the floor of the pit to allow for a bund to be installed.</p> <p>IBCs were positioned beneath the leak to capture leaking fuel.</p> <p>Contaminated soil material was collected and transported to the Howick Bioremediation Area.</p> <p>EX330 was repaired in-situ and returned to work</p>	Hydrocarbon spill
30/07/2025	<p>Hydraulic Sub Tank Bung Failure on EX317 causing Hydraulic Oil Leak in West Pit</p> <p>Operator noticed hydraulic oil leaking from Excavator 317. Upon inspection it appears that the cap and valve from the hydraulic sub tank had fallen off and drained approximately 3,000L of hydraulic oil on the ground</p>	<p>Operator placed excavator on dig floor and contained oil with bunding, notified supervisor and maintenance.</p> <p>The contaminated soil was picked up and transported to the onsite bioremediation area</p>	Hydrocarbon spill

07/09/2025	<p>Diesel Spill at Lemington Fuel Farm Fuel tanker MFH028 was unloading fuel into HVO South fuel transfer tank 9 when diesel was seen overflowing from tank 17. The truck driver activated the E-Stop, however the system failed. As a result of a mechanical failure in the fuel farm unloading system and E-Stop system, the tanker continued to unload fuel into the transfer tank, resulting in a spill of approximately 5,000L of diesel into the concrete bunded area</p>	An electrician was called to override the electrical system and shutdown the power. The contained diesel was removed and cleaned up using an industrial vacuum truck	Hydrocarbon spill
26/11/2025	<p>Data Mis-capture at Knodlers Lane and Long Point HVAS HVO was notified on 1 December by the monitoring contractor that the Knodlers Lane TSP and Long Point TSP & PM10 HVAS units failed to run for their required run period of 75% on 26 November 2025. The recorded run times for the units were 828 minutes (~57%), 826 mins (~57%), 825 mins (~57%) respectively. It was noted that a passing storm on the afternoon of the 26 November caused area wide mains power outages that affected areas such as Long Point and Knodlers Lane</p>	The mis-capture was reported to DPHI with no further comment provided	Air Quality Failure to monitor
8/12/2025	<p>Hydraulic Oil Spill at West Pit Excavator EX330 was operating on the West Pit Terrace 12 bench when the operator of the machine noticed reduced boom and stick movement. Shortly after, oil was noticed coming from the machine. It was later discovered that two hydraulic hose flange mounting bolts on the steel hard pipe on PP1 working pump 5 had broken off resulting in an oil spill of approximately 2,900L</p>	OCE contacted. Dozer operator pushed up an earthen bund to contain the spill which was later cleaned up and disposed of at the Carrington Bioremediation Area	Hydrocarbon spill

3.0 Rainfall

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

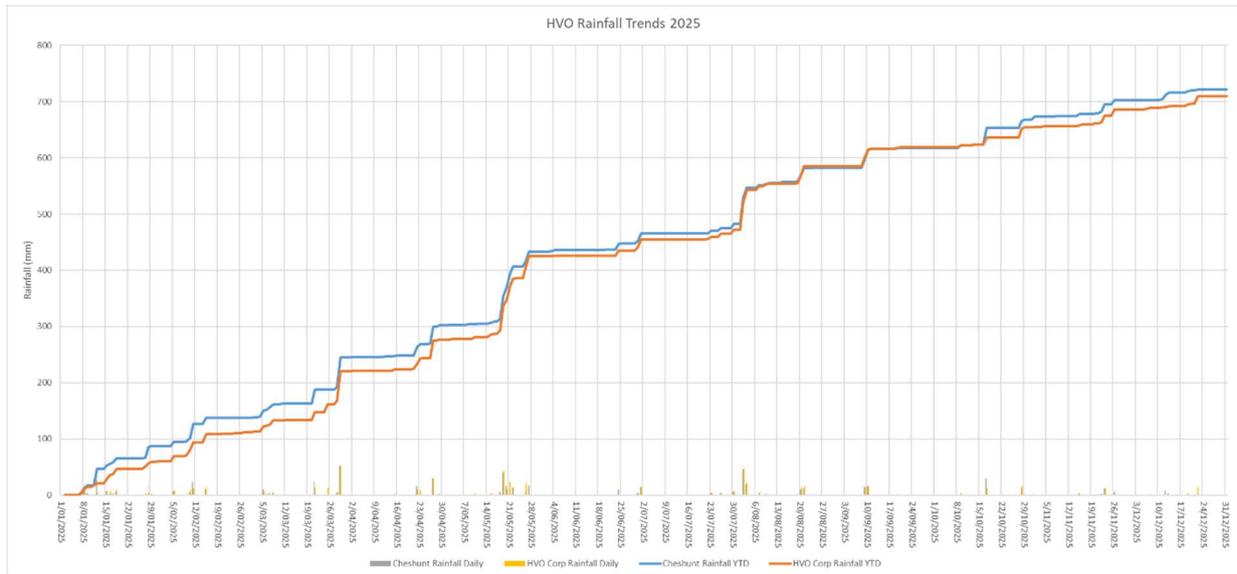


Figure 3: Summary of 2025 HVO Rainfall Data

Table 3: Summary of 2025 HVO Rainfall Data (1 January – 31 December)

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	57.2	56.2
May-25	131.4	148.0
Jun-25	17.8	15.4
Jul-25	30.8	32.2
Aug-25	99.8	113.2
Sep-25	36.0	32.8
Oct-25	50.2	35.8
Nov-25	33.8	32.0
Dec-25	19.2	23.8
Total	721.0	709.8

A summary of rainfall data recorded at HVO weather stations during 2026 is provided in **Figure 4** and **Table 4**.

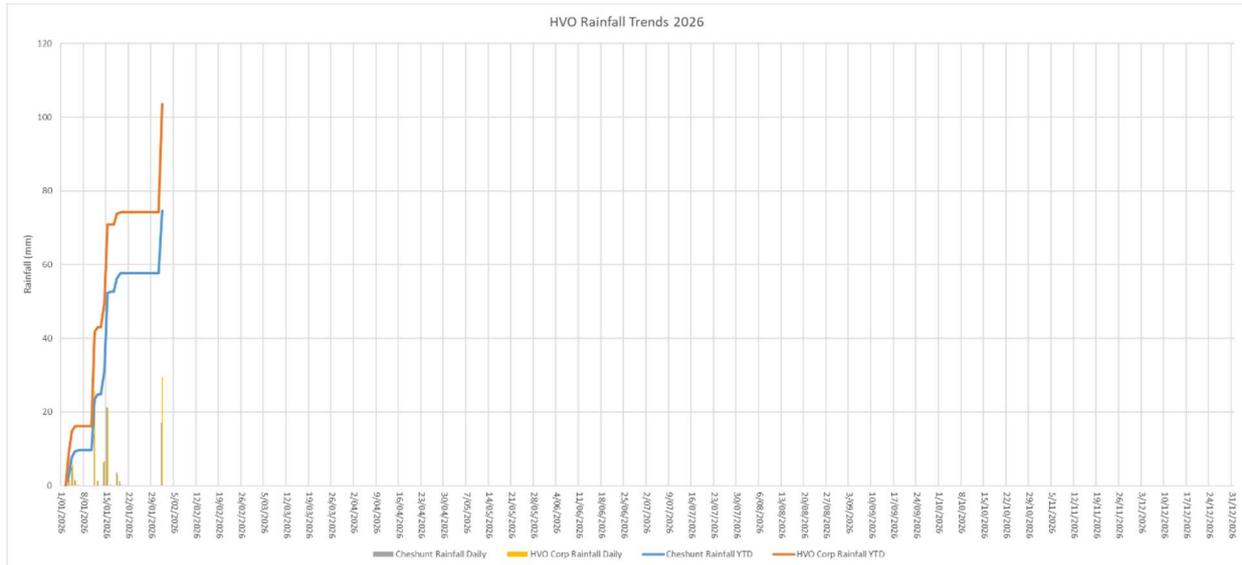


Figure 4: Summary of 2026 HVO Rainfall Data

Table 4: Summary of 2026 HVO Rainfall Data (1 – 31 January)

Month	Monthly Total Rainfall (mm)	
	Cheshunt	HVO Corporate
Jan-25	57.6	74.2
Feb-25		
Mar-25		
Apr-25		
May-25		
Jun-25		
Jul-25		
Aug-25		
Sep-25		
Oct-25		
Nov-25		
Dec-25		
Total	57.6	74.2

4.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Community consultation and engagement activities undertaken during 2025 included:

- Financial investment:
 - Community grants programme – applications opened for the months of April and September (see below)
 - Donations to Singleton Family Support, Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance, Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation, Type 1 Foundation (diabetes) and Hunter Westpac Helicopter Service via a pay-per-load process
 - Support of Jerrys Plains Primary School – full-time teachers aid
 - Support of men's health issues via Movember
- Apprentice community working bee at Singelton Neighbourhood Centre for goods donated by Big W Singleton
- HVO Technical Services department working bee at Singleton Community Gardens, including weeding, mulching and tidying up
- Christmas giving via non-perishable goods and vouchers provided to St Vincent de Pauls Singleton and Singleton Family Support
- The HVO Community Consultative Committee
- Supply of amenity resources – water filters, tank, solar panel and gutter cleans
- Resident notifications of air quality exceedances (where applicable)
- Continuation of air quality and noise mitigation agreements with near neighbours directly affected by such impacts
- Continuation of payment and correspondence with landholders with HVO monitoring equipment on their land
- Mine presentation and tour for local high school students – Rutherford technology High School (Rutherford)
- Community information sessions:
 - Sessions were held at Jerrys Pains (22 February and 16 September) and Maison Dieu (12 April and 13 September) to provide information to near neighbours on current operations and the HVO Continuation Project.

HVO continued to encourage the community to contact the company in a way that suits the individual community members, including a 24-hour community information hotline advertised in the local Singleton Argus (online and hardcopy newspaper).

Community Grants

HVO supports local not for profit organisations applications for support that have a clear community benefit in terms of capacity building, health, environment and/or local need via its

community grants programme. A total financial contribution of \$119,931 was provided to community organisations via the HVO community grants programme during 2025.

Local organisations successful in obtaining funding via the HVO community grants programme during 2025 included:

- Jerrys Plains Public School – teacher aid
- Singleton Strikers Football Club - SSFC Junior/Youth Coaching Development Programme
- Singleton PCYC - 2025 Book Fair to raise funds for youth activities at the centre
- Zoe's Place - Grief and loss program for women suffering pregnancy loss
- Network for Educational Work Placements - Young Business Mind Awards
- Singleton RSL Subbranch - ANZAC Day lunch/events to commemorate WW1 service personnel
- Business Singleton - Singleton Business Awards
- Dyson Family Foundation - Backpack Pal Programme providing lunches for school students in need
- Singleton Library - Parenting teens workshop for parents to gain the tools needed to support their teenagers' mental health
- Northern Agricultural Association - The main attraction on Saturday night at the Singleton Show
- Rotary Club Singleton - Singleton Art Prize
- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry - 2025 Great Cattle Dog Muster Festival
- Singleton Clay Target Club - Purchase of two notebook computers to run the clubs electronic scoring screens used for competitive events, and managing all club attendances and administration
- Witmore - Funding six employment positions for people with disabilities at Inclusive Eats Catering Service
- RFS Hunter Valley - Improving driver safety and promoting health and hygiene by equipping a prime mover appliance with a dash camera and a portable fridge
- Piranhas Cricket Club – Purchase of bowling machine as well as Apple ipad to live stream games
- Singleton Theatrical Society – 2026 production of The Boy from Oz
- Netball Singleton – Education and development of umpires and purchase of two marquees
- Samaritans Foundation Diocese of Newcastle – Christmas lunch in Singleton for the underprivileged
- Mount View High School (Cessnock) – Purchase of awards and gifts to honour students at end-of-year presentation

- Hunter Valley Group 21 Rugby League Referees Association – Education and other opportunities for coaches and purchase of training uniforms and equipment
- Maitland Junior Rugby Union Club – Purchase of playing uniforms
- talk2mebro – Knees in the Breeze charity motorcycle ride to raise awareness of the importance of suicide prevention
- Marrung-ta Aboriginal Corporation – Cultural wellbeing camps at Minimbah Teaching Place
- Singleton Fire Brigade Social Club – 2025 Santa Lolly Run on vintage Bedford fire truck around Singleton
- Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation – Literacy and numeracy classes for community and families
- Singleton Community Garden – Purchase and repair of tools and plants
- WRHS annual Joe Slupik golf day – Fundraiser for Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (Northern NSW)
- Variety – 2025 Postie Dash charity motorcycle ride to raise funds for children who are sick, disadvantaged, or living with disability

In addition to the HVO community grants programme, five HVO haul trucks continued their partnerships with local/regional charities during 2025. The trays of the trucks have been painted in the colours of Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance, Type 1 Foundation, Singleton Family Support and Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation. The charities receive an agreed donation for every load the trucks haul, plus other fundraising support throughout the year. These charities received a combined \$35,000 for the 2025 calendar year. Each of the five charities also took part in the HVO Family Day during May where sales of merchandise and raffles formed part of fundraising for each charity.

Multiple HVO employees donated back their Christmas gift vouchers, of which HVO matched that giving and delivered \$2,600 in gift vouchers to Singleton Family Support (\$1,300) and the Singleton Salvation Army (\$1,300) in time for Christmas. HVO also provided St Vincent de Paul with nine trolleys full of non-perishable food items collected as part of HVOs staff Christmas giving project.

Food and beverage remaining after the HVO Family Day on 17 May 2025 was donated and transported to the Singleton Neighbourhood centre.

HVO employees working in the Warehouse Department raised \$1,060 during November 2025 by growing moustaches for men's health issues as part of Movember.

The HVO apprentice programme conducted a working bee for the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre on 28 May, whereby goods donated by Big W Singleton were loaded on a truck at Big W and then unloaded and packed at Singleton Neighbourhood Centre. This process was repeated several times. These works completed by four HVO apprentices under the supervision of HVO Maintenance Learning and Development Co-ordinator Paul Watters.

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 – August 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – September 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – October 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – September 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report – October 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 – up till January 2026
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Minutes – August 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Agenda – November 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Business Papers – November 2025
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Presentation – November 2025