



Future mining update



Thousands of people have made it very clear in recent weeks that HVO is important to local workers, local families and our local economy. It has been overwhelming to witness so many people taking time to make a submission to the Independent Planning Commission, or sign our Letter of Support for the Continuation Project.

In the past few weeks I attended the pop-up stalls that we set up in Singleton Square, Muswellbrook Marketplace, and Stockland Greenhills. These stalls allowed people to make submissions on the Continuation Project, and the support was nothing short of incredible. People stopped to talk and tell us stories of generations of families who have worked in mining. Many spoke of working in the mines for decades — it was evident that mining has been the backbone of our community for decades and most people don't want that to change.

The community engagement phase of the Independent Planning Commissions approvals process has now concluded with the majority of people who made a submission supporting the project. Thousands more also signed our Letter of Support — so there can be no doubt that this mine matters to our community.

I would really like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to support our Project, and to all of our staff who have gone above and beyond throughout the various stages of the approvals process to give our project the best shot at approval.

The IPC's decision on the future of HVO is expected to be made by early September. We will keep you updated on the decision.

In the meantime, we would like to share some updates on our rehabilitation program, celebrate community organisations supported through our grants program, and highlight local events and initiatives strengthened by HVO's ongoing investment in the region.

Enjoy the read.

Dave Foster, General Manager

Rehab update

We recently completed aerial seeding across 263 hectares of inactive overburden dumps at HVO North and South — an important part of our ongoing environmental management program.

By spreading seed and fertiliser from the air, we help fast-track vegetation growth across large areas that are difficult to access on the ground. Once established, this vegetation cover plays a vital role in reducing dust, minimising erosion and improving long-term stability across our rehabilitation areas.

Aerial seeding is one of the many ways our team is working to reduce dust, improve visual amenity and support positive environmental outcomes across the site. It's a practical, efficient and effective step that helps establish vegetation cover quickly, creating greener, more stable slopes across HVO.



Visit the Continuation Project page by scanning the QR code or head to:

hvo.com.au/continuation





Community spotlight

Hunter Valley Operations has now invested more than \$1 million into community projects across Singleton and surrounds — supporting 191 initiatives since 2018. This milestone reflects the strength of our partnerships and the incredible work of local organisations who turn funding into real, lasting outcomes for families across the Hunter.

Round One of the 2026 HVO Community Grants Program has supported a diverse group of community champions. Here are some of the projects making a difference.

A century of care at Singleton Hospital



The Singleton Hospital Auxiliary has been supporting patients for nearly 100 years, providing essential equipment quickly and without red tape. Their volunteers have purchased electric beds, trauma trolleys, walkers, wheelchairs and more — all funded through community donations and fundraising.

This year, HVO's grant is helping the Auxiliary supply three new cribs for the maternity unit, supporting families from across the Hunter, including Muswellbrook, where babies are no longer delivered.

"We meet with staff every month and ask what's required right now," President Sue Paull said. "If something is needed, we buy it. That's what being an Auxiliary means — we provide the extra help that makes a real difference."

FREE NEIGHBOUR WATER FILTER OR WATER TANK CLEAN

HVO offers a free under-sink water filter kit and/or water tank cleaning to neighbours within 4km of our operational boundary. Call Nic McLaughlin on **0455 782 292** to register your interest.

Reviving a rodeo tradition for young competitors

Twenty years after the last Jerrys Plains Rodeo, a passionate group of locals has brought the tradition back to life. The Jerrys Plains Rodeo Association (JPRA) is preparing for the 2026 Jerrys Plains Junior Rodeo — a dedicated under-18 event expected to attract visitors from across NSW.

"Our aim is to run safe, family-friendly events that encourage young people and bring the community together," President Ashley Clarke said. "We're absolutely stoked to be bringing the rodeo back after so long."

The event will bring welcome activity to Jerrys Plains, supporting local venues like the Robin Hood Bar and Bistro, BP service station and nearby small businesses, while giving young competitors a chance to build confidence, resilience and sportsmanship.

The 2026 Jerrys Plains Junior Rodeo will take place on Saturday 26 September from 9am — a great day out for families and the community.





Supporting referees from game on to final whistle



Rugby league is the heartbeat of many Upper Hunter communities, and this season the region's referee ranks are receiving a major boost thanks to HVO's support.

The Hunter Valley Group 21 Rugby League Referees Association is rolling out a renewed recruitment and development program focused on bringing more young people — especially young women — into officiating. The grant is helping fund uniforms, whistles, flags, radio equipment and mentoring support.

“Creating opportunities for female referees is essential to meet the growing number of females now playing rugby league,” Secretary Darren Whitbourne said. “There’s now a legitimate pathway for girls to progress from grassroots to the elite level, and we want to provide those opportunities here in the Hunter Valley.”

Training attendance has already increased by 25 per cent, and new initiatives are strengthening culture and connection among members.

New playground taking shape at Jerrys Plains Public School

The new playground at Jerrys Plains Public School is one step closer, with final colours selected and construction now underway offsite. Installation is expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Principal Michele Renneberg said the project has created plenty of excitement among students. “It’s all very real now, and the kids can’t wait!” she said.

The playground is being delivered with support from HVO’s Community Grants Program and will provide a modern, safe and engaging space for students to play, learn and connect.



To keep up to date with HVO news, scan the QR code or visit hvo.com.au/news



Ring in the New Year at Singleton Golf Club

Singleton Golf Club (“the Golfy”) is set to deliver an even bigger New Year’s Eve celebration this year, thanks to funding support from HVO. Our grant will help the club double its fireworks display for 2026, ensuring the community continues to enjoy the region’s only local NYE fireworks tradition.

The Golfy’s annual New Year’s Eve event has become a much-loved gathering for families across Singleton, bringing

neighbours together on the fairway to welcome a new year in a safe, relaxed and community-minded setting.

By backing the expanded fireworks display, HVO is proud to help strengthen a local tradition that brings joy to families and supports one of Singleton’s key community venues.



Thank you to everyone who attended the pop-up stalls in Singleton Square, Muswellbrook Marketplace, and Stockland Greenhills



Round Two of the Hunter Valley Operations Community Grants Program for 2026 is open from 1-30 September, with application forms available on the HVO website.

If you have a specific project that you would like to discuss with the HVO Environment and Community team, please contact:

Nic McLaughlin on:
0455 782 292 or nic.mclaughlin@hvo.com.au

Get in touch

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