Hunter Valley Operations (HVO)
Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting
Thursday 3 September 2026 at 9.30 a.m.



Attendance

Chairperson	
Dr. Colin Gellatly	Independent Chair
Community Representatives	
Brian Atfield	Community Representative
Di Gee	Community Representative
Neville Hodkinson	Community Representative
Todd Mills	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
Jason Martin	Approvals Manager
Alex Grant	Graduate
Apologies	
Dave Foster	General Manager
Jeanie Hayes	Community Representative
Janelle Wenham	Community Representative
Michael Wellard	Community Representative
Minutes	Sarah Purser

1. **Welcome | Housekeeping | Emergency Procedures;** Col opened the meeting and welcomed members. Alex was introduced as being on HVO's Graduate Program working within the Environment Team. Nic 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. Col asked if there were any member declarations to be updated, nil were put forward.

4. **Email correspondence to members;**

21/05/2026	HVO's Heritage Homestead upgrade works photos to Sue George, Di Gee and Neville Hodkinson.
6/07/2026	Draft May Meeting Minutes for member review. No changes requested.
25/08/2026	Invitation to CCC members, including Agenda and Business Papers, to attend this meeting.

5. Confirmation of the previous Meeting's Minutes

Col called for formal approval of the Minutes for the Meeting held 21 May 2026. 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)

6. Matters Arising

HVO to continue to provide the CCC with updates on the HVO Continuation Project.

✓ At today's meeting by Jason Martin.

HVO to provide continued updates on the progress of the North Void Tailings Storage Facility Barrier Wall.

✓ At today's meeting by Ben De Somer.

Ben advised that geotechnical work is in progress to firm up the final design. Ben anticipated that construction would commence around October/November 2026 with works continuing through to Q1 2027. Once the barrier wall is in place, HVO intend to build a levy above to provide 1 in 1,000-year flood protection. Ben described the levy placement and Peter felt it was important that this structure does not back water up from the Hunter River in flood conditions. Ben confirmed that all flood modelling had been completed and Jason offered to provide reports to Peter. Peter responded that he was comfortable if water can get away in flood conditions. Di expressed an interest in receiving hard copy reports around flood modelling studies.

7. Company Reports | Update on Hunter Valley Operations

Operations Update

West Pit (North)

The terrace sequence had continued to progress in a south-westerly direction that is designed to tie in with the Wilton Pit in coming years. In response to a query from Peter, Ben explained mining progression does not remove Wandewoi Ridge.

Mitchell Pit (North)

Mining had been advancing in a south-westerly direction with generally two production units operating.

Cheshunt (South)

Coaling out was nearing completion in Pit 2, with the majority of fleet in Pit 1. Mining progression will see a change of direction returning to the old Riverview area.

Environment

Comparative Rainfall: 2024 to July 2026

HVO presented monthly and cumulative rainfall as a comparison for 2024, 2025, and January to July 2026.

Comparative Rainfall: 2013 to July 2026

Annual rainfall for 2019 indicated that this had been a particularly dry year, YTD 2026 has also been drier in comparison to the previous few years.

Monthly Rainfall January to 23 August 2026

Monthly total rainfall recorded for this period was 253.4mm at Cheshunt and 275.0 at HVO Corporate.

Rehabilitation

HVO has a target of 11.9 hectares of new rehabilitation in 2026, Ben identified these areas via mapping, noting rehab had been progressing well. The lower target for new rehabilitation compared to previous years was due to the ebb and flow of land available for rehabilitation in relation to mining progression. HVO are taking the opportunity to focus on other rehabilitation maintenance tasks.

In response to a query from Peter, Ben anticipated that rehabilitation targets will increase and estimated these in the order of ~25 hectares in 2027, ~50 hectares in 2028, and then remain steady at around ~60 to ~70 hectares in both mining areas going forward. YTD HVO had completed 6.4 hectares in the south at Cheshunt Pit.

Whilst not in HVO's rehab area, Peter raised concern about St John's Wort, describing where it had been appearing along the road side, as he felt this weed will progress. Ben confirmed that HVO would investigate Peter's concern.

Rehabilitation - Maintenance

Cheshunt drop structure maintenance works had been ongoing. Weed control continued to target priority weeds. Infill planting had commenced in Wilton rehabilitation with 16,000 tube stock to be planted. 50 habitat nestboxes had been installed within rehabilitation. Boom spraying of Alluvial Lands Rehabilitation Area had been undertaken.

As part of rehabilitation maintenance, HVO will rebuild an old drop structure, Ben noted that it had been positive that rock has been sourced on site rather than external sources.

Biodiversity/Weed Management - Onsite

By end Q2 2026 HVO had completed weed control across ~524 hectares. Infill planting of ~300 tube stock at River Red Gum Site 31 was to be completed in October. Fencing works were scheduled for the second half of 2026 across the River Red Gum priority sites.

Biodiversity - Offsets

Offset management had focused on weed management for planned rehabilitation areas at Wandewoi, Hook and Mitchellhill East and West. Prickly Pear had been targeted at the Wandewoi biodiversity offset. An s138 approval had been obtained from Kempsey Council for access track repairs to be conducted at Cresent Head.

Vertebrate Pest Management

HVO provided pest control results in relation to; cats, dogs, foxes and pigs, for both onsite and offsets.

For the remainder of 2026 activities will include; further pig trapping based on sightings, a wild dog and fox program in conjunction with Hunter Local Land Services and surrounding mines in October, and commercial kangaroo harvest. HVO's rural licensee feral pest bounty program remains ongoing. Ben noted the success in pig control numbers had been on the most part been due to HVO's bounty program.

Peter commended HVO for their efforts in relation to vertebrate pest management. Di felt it was good that the wild dog and fox control program is a collective effort being run at the same time by everyone.

Heritage - Aboriginal

HVO were in the process of amalgamating all historic Care & Control Agreements into one, Ben explained this is more efficient and important for the future should artefacts be 'returned back to country'. HVO provided support to the 2026 Singleton NAIDOC Awards. The Biennial Compliance Audit was scheduled for October and the Cultural Heritage Working Group Annual Meeting is to be held this year.

HVO currently utilise a Shed as the Heritage Storage Facility for artefacts. HVO were investigating storing the artefacts in a Container given that HVO's Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP's) had felt this would be more desirable and to provide additional security.

Heritage - Historic

Wandewoi, Archerfield and Carrington Homestead Upgrade Works; 'Year 1' works comprising of external and/or major issues have been completed. 'Phase 2' works will encompass internal works and cover minor issues, the scope of works had been received by HVO with contractors to be appointed.

Ben noted the focus for Wandewoi will be to keep the homestead in a sound condition with an emphasis on the externals of the property. Peter and Ben acknowledged the importance of looking after Wandewoi and to be able to re-evaluate its purpose in the future.

An extra scope of work for Carrington Homestead had been repairs to the water ingress around the chimney. Ben noted the roof in general will need restoration due to the life of the tiles. In 2027 there are plans to attend to the old Carrington Stud timber horse fencing, Ben anticipated that this area would be re-fenced to allow re-use for grazing. Ben detailed structural issues in relation to the two barns at Carrington.

Summary of Monitoring Results – Q2 2026

Air Quality Monitoring

Ben advised that he had wanted to provide the CCC with a greater insight into HVO's monitoring on an annual basis. In relation to air quality monitoring, Ben presented air quality monitoring data in the following formats.

- Daily TEOM PM_{10} YTD recording of Particulate Matter (ug/m^3) in relation to the Daily Impact Assessment Criteria of 50 ug/m^3, for the period January to August 2026.

- The PM_{10} Annual Rolling Average YTD across monitors located at Jerrys Plains, Knodlers Lane, Maison Dieu and Warkworth, with the Particulate Matter (ug/m^3) being measured against HVO South and HVO North Annual Average Criteria.

In relation to air quality monitoring results HVO reviews compliance monitors against the daily impact assessment criteria. Potential exceedances are investigated to determine HVO's compliance. Ben detailed potential exceedances during Q1 and Q2, noting that HVO's contribution had been calculated to be below the daily impact assessment criteria in all instances. There had been no exceedances recorded to date in Q3.

Ben confirmed that HVO continue to react to real time monitoring and should a trigger occur HVO will respond to dust levels by making operational changes. From a compliance perspective, monitoring data is reviewed at the end of each day. Should there be a potential exceedance, HVO will investigate the activities that had been undertaken on that day along with wind direction to ascertain if HVO were a source or not, and if so calculate their contribution.

Brian queried the Warkworth Monitor results, noting they indicated higher PM_{10} Particulate Matter readings than the other three monitors. Ben advised that there are a lot of sources surrounding Warkworth, including a number of mines, there are also local and regional influences. Ben confirmed that HVO own a large amount of land in Warkworth.

Sue queried why HVO South and HVO North have different Annual Average Criteria's in relation to the PM_{10} Annual Rolling Average and Ben explained this was a result of the differing timing that each of these consents were issued.

Ben offered to continue to provide detailed air quality monitoring data at future meetings, members response was positive and that the information had been well received.

Blast & Noise Monitoring

No reportable exceedances had occurred during the reporting period.

Exploration Works 2026;

No surface exploration was planned in Exploration Licences during 2026. Should this change, HVO will conduct consultation with impacted stakeholders. All surface exploration had been contained within Mining Leases.

Community

Complaints; Since the previous meeting, there had been one complaint on 22 June 2026 in relation to air quality at Mt Thorley, this had not been specific to HVO but rather from a number of sources. Total complaints for the period January to June 2026 were five.

Community Grants; Round 1 2026; HVO had selected and announced the successful applicants and were in the process of distributing funding. In response to a query from Peter, Nic advised there had been 14 successful applicants in Round 1.

Community Grants; Round 2 2026; This round was open for the month of September, if members were aware of an organisation or project that would fit HVO's funding criteria, they were encouraged to direct them to Nic.

Actioned Post Meeting; 3/9/26; Nic circulated the details for HVOs Community Grants Round 2 2026, with a link to the application process and detail on what purposes the grants can be applied for.

Jerrys Plains Public School; The playground for Jerrys Plains Public School had progressed with colours and design finalised. The playground was to be semi-constructed prior to being delivered to the school. Installation date was nearing and HVO presented the conceptual design. Di advised the children were very excited about the playground.

Community – Information Days; Nic confirmed that HVO had supported and would have a presence at the Jerrys Plains Rodeo on 26 September 2026 should attendees want to ask any questions or provide feedback to their team. The date for the Maison Dieu Information Day was to be confirmed.

For information, Sue advised that works were to commence in September 2026 at the Jerrys Plains Recreation area, these encompass the relocation of the entrance, some drainage repairs and re-doing the camping area. Members agreed that this was very positive news for Jerrys Plains, noting it has been seen that more people are stopping in and spending time in the township.

Approvals

HVO Continuation Project (HVOCP)

Jason provided a detailed overview in relation to the current status of the NSW Approval and Independent Planning Commission (IPC) progress. Jason noted the high level of support that had been received for the HVOCP from community, regional Councils, MP's and industry bodies. IPC determination on the HVOCP was anticipated for 30 September 2026.

The HVOCP also requires Federal Approval, the next steps being; DCCEEW adequacy review & direction to publish, publication of final PERs, assessment and determination.

Jason detailed the supplementary approvals associated with the HVOCP that are required to enable commencement of construction and continued mining.

8. Community Representative Feedback

Neville reported that for the Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group the focus had been on two components; one being air quality in relation to community health, the second relating to Cultural Heritage. Neville explained that Cultural Heritage is slightly different to Aboriginal and Historic Heritage, being more about a 'sense of place'.

9. General Business

Col closed the meeting thanking all for their attendance.

10. Next Meeting Date

4 November 2026
9.30 a.m.

Updates for 2026

- ✓ HVO Continuation Project
- ✓ North Void Tailings Storage Facility Barrier Wall progress.