

HVO NEWS

ISSUE NINE | SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome from Tony Morris, General Manager Hunter Valley Operations



The past months have been a challenging time for all of us with major flooding impacting many areas in the Hunter region. Our thoughts go out to those personally affected by these events.

With over 650mm of rain received so far this year (equivalent to annual average rainfall) our staff have done a great job adapting to operating in consistently wet conditions. We've had to delay access to planned mining areas and identify alternate locations not inundated by water. We've invested in pumping infrastructure and pipelines to dewater working terraces and pit floor areas and then store this water. The Department of Planning has approved storage of surplus mine water in the old Lemington Underground Workings.

We plan to start using this storage within the next 12 months.

In June we commissioned dam level and pipeline burst detection monitoring and completed a sediment dam in our West Pit. These projects are part of our investment to improve water management across our operations.

We continue to progress the Environmental Impact Statement for our Continuation Project and will be consulting with the community as studies are completed. There's more detail in this newsletter.

Finally, congratulations to all the 2022 Singleton Business Awards nominees. We have so many great local businesses and talented business people supporting our community. HVO was proud to be a gold sponsor of the event to help recognise high calibre businesses in the local community.

Warm regards

Tony Morris

Big Wet Hampers Rehabilitation but Helps Aerial Seeding

The wet conditions have delayed delivery of spoil material to planned rehabilitation areas but we have still managed to shape 20 hectares and seed eight hectares this year. We're using a native woodland seed mix of locally sourced plant species plus a pasture and light woodland mix which is suitable for grazing.

The rain has provided a major boost to our annual aerial seeding programme. High seed germination means there is a lovely green tinge on the 350ha of spoil piles we seeded and fertilized in May. This reduces windblown dust from piles that aren't ready for rehabilitation.





Preserving Heritage - Archerfield Stables

HVO have commenced maintenance works on the Archerfield Stables. The stables are part of an assemblage of buildings including the Archerfield Homestead, Hayshed and the original sandstock brick building where the Bowman family made fortified wines and brandy on the property in the 19th century. The Stables is a vertical slab construction stable/workshop/barn structure with a corrugated iron roof. Works so far have included removing Silky Oaks that had self-seeded on the edge of the building followed up with structural repair and preservation work to the front and back verandahs. Careful re-assembly of original timbers was required and, where timbers were replaced, utilising locally sourced iron bark timber selected to match the building's original structure. Heritage property maintenance is ongoing and will ensure the future preservation of these and other buildings on HVO land.



Pest and Weed Management

We continue to manage pests, weeds and kangaroo populations. Results to date of the 2022 Vertebrate Pest control program include:

- 1080 baiting of wild dogs and foxes – 121
- Pigs - 107
- Kangaroos - 60

Successful pest control programs rely on co-ordination with other mine sites and landholders. Hunter Local

Land Services took the lead on ensuring synchronised baiting and trapping in February and May, the next program is planned for October. Two additional commercial kangaroo harvesters will boost control of kangaroo numbers and feral animals.

The rain has increased weed infestations. HVO has three weed management contractors servicing its rehabilitation and buffer properties this year to manage the increase in weeds.



Grants Support 8 Community Projects

Eight local business and community groups have shared in almost \$32,000 for their projects from Round One of our Community Grants Programme.

- Eastern Branch ASHS Championships and Performance Weekend - Australian Stock Horse Society Eastern Branch
- Singleton Business Awards – Business Singleton
- Fun Factory – Early Links Inclusion Support Services Inc
- Jerrys Plains Bicentennial Celebrations - Friends of St James Church Jerrys Plains
- Jerrys Plains Bicentennial Celebrations - Jerrys Plains Public School P and C
- Mental Health First Aid Course - Jerrys Plains School of Arts Hall
- TrioBike Taxi for Residents - Mercy Services
- Replacement Archery Targets - Glen Gallic Shooting Club Inc

Round Two of the 2022 programme will open in September and we encourage community groups to apply.

<https://hvo.smartygrants.com.au/RoundTwo2022>



Please contact Merri Bartlett on 0455 782 292 to discuss your project or need help with applications.



FREE Neighbour Water Filter or Water Tank Clean

HVO continues to offer either an under sink water filter kit or water tank cleaning to our near neighbours, free of charge.

Please contact Merri Bartlett (merri.bartlett@hvo.com.au or 0455 782 292) to register your interest for this initiative.



Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The HVO CCC have met three times this year in February, May and August. The independently chaired forum provides for open discussion between our community members, Singleton Council and HVO.

Topics of discussion in 2022 have included mine operations, environmental performance, approvals updates and community relations.

Thanks to our chair Dr Colin Gellatly AO, Councillor Hollee Jenkins and to our community representatives for their time and input. Current CCC representatives are Brian Atfield, Di Gee, Dr Neville Hodgkinson, Janelle Wenham, Todd Mills, Jeannie Hayes and Michael Wellard.

For more information including meeting minutes visit www.Insite.hvo.com.au Alternatively, if you would prefer a hard copy, please contact us.

If there is particular information you would like to see included in this newsletter, please let us know.

Contact details

Tony Morris

HVO General Manager

T: 02 6570 0300

E: tony.morris@hvo.com.au

Andrew Speechly

HVO Environment & Community Manager

T: 02 6570 0497

E: andrew.speechly@hvo.com.au

HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline

1800 888 733 (freecall)

- This number can be used for making a complaint about HVO's operations or for finding out road closure times for blasting
- Attended 24 hours a day / seven days a week

HVO SMS Blast Notification System

The system is designed to provide SMS alerts relating to HVO blasting plans and road closures. Community members can subscribe to the service to receive a SMS alert at no cost.

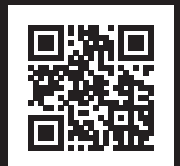
Please send an SMS to 0447 448 982 to register your details for the service making sure that the word subscribe is included in the text.

HVO and Insite Websites

Up to date information about HVO and our environmental monitoring performance is available on our websites.

To view this information, go to:

- HVO website
<https://hvo.com.au>
- HVO Insite
(environmental monitoring performance)
<https://Insite.hvo.com.au/>



HVO Continuation Project Update

The HVO Continuation Project will support Hunter jobs, the local economy and community by extending the life of Hunter Valley Operations up to 2050.

Thanks for your feedback to date

Thankyou for your input as we continue to work with local community members, businesses and agencies to finalise the Project EIS.

Recently we undertook a series of consultation sessions, including;

- Community information sessions at Jerrys Plains and Maison Dieu;
- Meetings with Singleton and Muswellbrook councils and local elected members;
- Presentations to Singleton and Muswellbrook local business chambers; and
- Meetings with the HVO Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

We appreciate the feedback and look forward to ongoing discussions throughout this process.



Above: Jerrys Plains Community Information Session

Future information sessions will be advertised via <https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/hvo>, HVO newsletters, local newspapers and on social media.

Social Impact Assessment

Hunter-based consultant EMM is conducting an independent Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of the EIS.

The study will look at social and economic data to better understand the impacts and benefits of the Project.

EMM will be interviewing those people already registered from early September 2022.

If you'd like to be involved in the SIA interviews, please call EMM on (02) 4907 4800 or email hvo@emmconsulting.com.au

EIS preparation and approvals

The Project will be assessed for approval by both the NSW and Federal governments.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will assess the EIS, with the Project likely to go before the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determination.

The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will also determine if the project needs to be assessed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

We aim to have the EIS completed by October, with a public exhibition period to follow its submission to the DPE.

We appreciate that an EIS is a large and highly technical document and we're working to help people understand the content.

We'll be producing an EIS summary booklet and also organising further community information sessions during the exhibition period to provide feedback on any area of interest that's raised.

Tree screening along Lemington Road Realignment

Maison Dieu residents have raised concerns regarding lighting and noise associated with the proposed realignment of Lemington Road. In response to this feedback we have reviewed the local typography along the proposed Lemington Road realignment and are now planning tree screening in relevant positions to help mitigate views of the road.

Find out more

For more information about the HVO Continuation Project or to contact the Project team, please scan the QR code or visit the Project website

<https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/hvo>





Resource and economic assessment

Representatives from the Department of Regional NSW - Mining Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) visited the site in June 2022 as part of its assessment of the Project.

As the coal we mine is ultimately owned by the State of NSW, MEG representatives act on behalf of the NSW Government to ensure HVO's plans are the most efficient way to recover the coal.

Left: MEG representatives conducting a site inspection

Improved Hunter River crossing

The Project brings an opportunity to improve accessibility and reliability of Lemington Road, an important access point between the Golden and New England highways. Our proposed Lemington Road realignment includes a new bridge over the Hunter River.

The existing Moses Crossing low level bridge is often closed during heavy rain. It has been underwater for a combined total of more than 7 months since 2010.

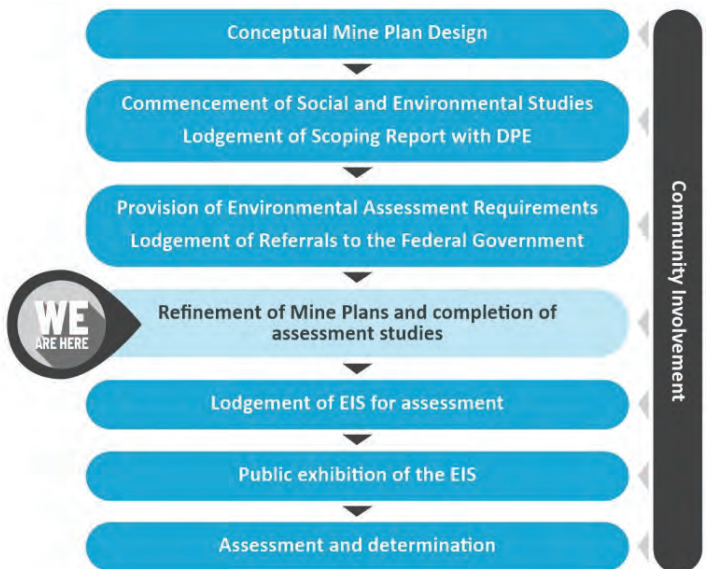
The proposed new bridge would have kept Lemington Road clear of flooding since 2007, including during the recent extreme rainfall events.

During consultation, some residents expressed concerns about increased travel time from Jerrys Plains to the New England Highway. Our traffic impact assessment shows increased travel time of around 2 minutes. By preventing flooding, the new bridge will actually reduce travel times that residents currently experience during wet weather.



Above: Lemington Road / Moses Crossing in flood

Project timeline



Did you know? Key facts

- The Project proposes to extend the life of HVO to 2050 for HVO North and 2045 for HVO South.
- This is not a new mine. We're getting more coal out of previously mined areas by mining deeper seams.
- We're not increasing the scale or intensity of mining – there'll be no increase in the current approved maximum annual production rate.
- The Project provides an opportunity to improve final site rehabilitation. Previous consent conditions do not reflect contemporary landform design.
- The Project will continue to provide approximately 1500 local jobs plus 600 temporary jobs required to upgrade mine infrastructure.
- The high quality coal we mine is in high demand by other countries to meet their energy needs.
- Mining at HVO has been occurring for over 70 years.