

HVO NEWS

ISSUE THREE | AUGUST 2019



Welcome from Tony Galvin, General Manager Hunter Valley Operations



Welcome to Issue Three of HVO News, our second newsletter for 2019 which contains a number of topics of interest to our community members including rehabilitation, the near neighbour amenity resource, community grants

and feral pest management.

If there is particular information you would like to see included in this newsletter, please let us know as we welcome and value feedback

Rehabilitation

Our planned rehabilitation target for 2019 is 86 hectares and we are currently on track to achieve this with 21 hectares rehabilitated to date. Bulk shaping and topsoiling of specified areas across site commenced in January.

Feral Pest Management

Our feral pest management program continues to show good results with pests being controlled through shooting, trapping and baiting across our landholdings.

Results of the 2019 program so far include:

- 10 feral pigs culled
- 300 kangaroos culled
- 1080 baiting summer/autumn program targeting wild dogs and foxes –119

Additional pig trapping and wild dog/fox control programs are planned for Spring 2019.

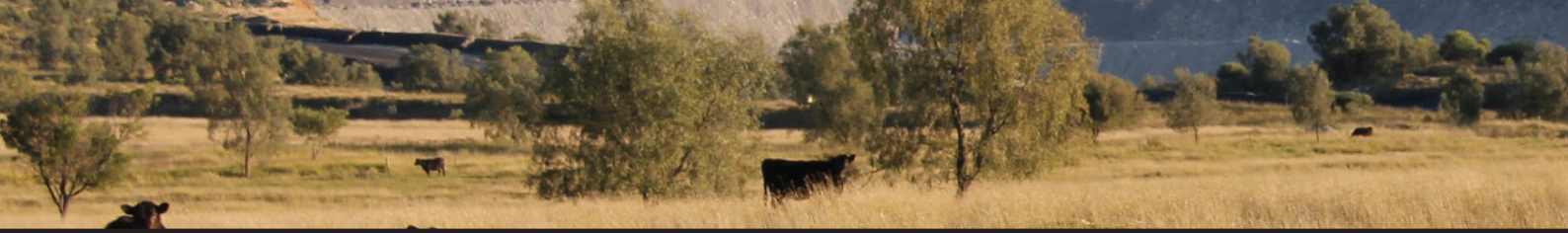
Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The HVO CCC meets regularly with the previous CCC meeting held on 21 August. The forum provides for open discussion between the community, Singleton Council and HVO. Topics of discussion include mine operations, environmental performance and community relations.

Our community members on the HVO CCC include; Brian Atfield, Di Gee, David Love, Dr Neville Hodgkinson, Janelle Wenham, Todd Mills, Jeannie Hayes, Michael Wellard and Councillor Hollee Jenkins. The CCC is independently chaired by Dr Colin Gellatly AO.

If you would like a copy of the CCC business papers, presentations and minutes from previous meetings, these are available via InSite, which can be accessed on <https://insite.hvo.com.au/>. Alternatively, if you would prefer a hard copy, please contact us.





Local School Site Tour

In conjunction with the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, HVO welcomed The Australian Christian College to site on 24 May for a tour of operational areas and rehabilitation. Students enjoyed their time on site and were able to learn more about the mining process and view our operations in action. I encourage other school groups to visit the site to learn more about HVO and the mining industry.

Community Information Sessions

Community Information Sessions were held on 16 May in Jerrys Plains and 25 May in Maison Dieu and were run as an informal community engagement activity with information provided on HVO operations. Key matters raised by attendees included feral animals, noise, blasting and the Cheshunt dump progress. I met and spoke with a number of our near neighbours at the information sessions and would like to



thank all of those who took the time to attend, it's very much appreciated. Additional sessions are planned for the end of 2019 where we hope to meet more of our neighbours

Water Tank Testing

HVO recently conducted water tank testing at a cross section of water tanks at properties in Jerrys Plains, Maison Dieu and Long Point. The samples were analysed for a range of substances including electrical conductivity, pH, suspended solids, metals and microbiological parameters. The results met the criteria of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines apart from three elevated readings for e-coli and one elevated reading for turbidity as shown in the table.

| Sample Location | Jerrys Plains | Jerrys Plains | Jerrys Plains | Long Point | Maison Dieu | Maison Dieu | Branxton - Control Site | Aust Drinking Water Guidelines | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | Health | Aesthetic |
| pH | 6.52 | 8.1 | 7.22 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 8.37 | 7.6 | c | 6.5-8.5 |
| EC | 38 | 495 | 87 | 59 | 66 | 255 | 48 | - | - |
| TDS | 27 | 252 | 21 | 39 | 56 | 119 | 13 | not necessary | 600 |
| TSS | 6 | <5 | <5 | 10 | <5 | <5 | <5 | - | - |
| Turbidity | 2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 2.2 | 0.6 | c | 5 NTU |
| Total Coliforms | 1730 | 26 | 866 | 1120 | 548 | 38 | 46 | - | - |
| Faecal Coliforms | 3 | <1 | 18 | <1 | 8 | <1 | <1 | 0 | 0 |
| Escherichia coli | 2 | <1 | 18 | <1 | 5 | <1 | <1 | 0 | 0 |
| Aluminium | 0.06 | <0.01 | 0.01 | 0.13 | 0.18 | 0.08 | 0.13 | c | 0.2 |
| Arsenic | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.007 | nd |
| Boron | <0.05 | <0.05 | 0.08 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | 4 | nd |
| Cadmium | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | 0.0005 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | nd | 0.002 |
| Copper | 0.004 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.002 | 2 | 1 |
| Manganese | 0.001 | <0.001 | 0.03 | 0.002 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.001 | 3 | 0.1 |
| Nickel | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.002 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.02 | nd |
| Lead | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.01 | nd |
| Selenium | <0.01 | <0.01 | <0.01 | <0.01 | <0.01 | <0.01 | <0.01 | 0.01 | nd |
| Zinc | 0.242 | 0.147 | 0.138 | 0.371 | 0.021 | 0.023 | 0.017 | c | 3 |
| Iron | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | <0.05 | c | 0.3 |
| Mercury | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | <0.0001 | 0.001 | nd |
| Pseudomonas aeruginosa (MF) | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 8 | <1 | <1 | - | - |



Community Grants Program

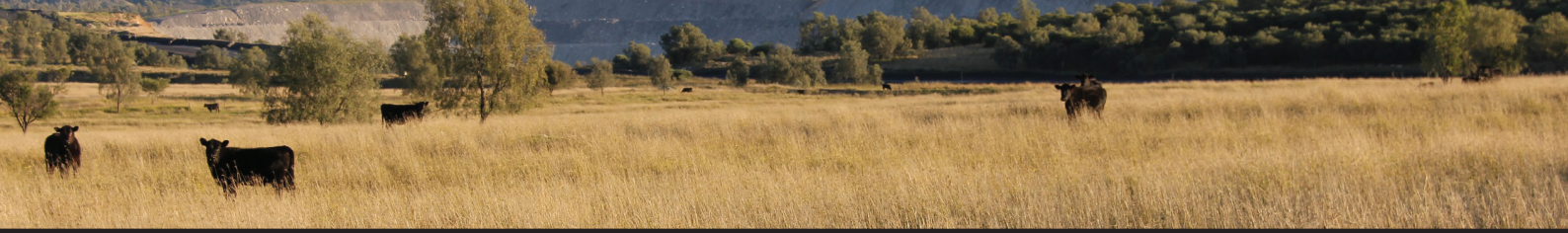
Round one of our Community Grants Program closed in May with 12 applications received. A number of local organisations were successful in obtaining funds totalling almost \$30 000 and the organisations included are:

- Camp Quality
- Singleton Theatrical Society
- Singleton PCYC
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- Singleton Bowling Club Co-operative Limited
- Singleton Pony Club

- Singleton Heights Pre-School
- Singleton Council

Thanks to all of the community groups who applied for grants for Round One. HVO is proud to support our local community groups and please remember that our Second Round for Community Grants for 2019 will be opening on Monday 2 September and closing on Friday 27 September. Please go to <https://hvo.smartygrants.com.au/2019RoundTwo> to apply.





Near Neighbour Amenity Resource

At HVO we focus on a proactive, open and honest approach when communicating with neighbours about issues relating to environmental amenity (dust, noise, light, blasting) in regards to HVO's operation. In 2018, under sink water filter kits and water tank cleaning were offered to a number of near neighbours. After speaking with our CCC members we have decided to extend this offer to HVO near neighbours in 2019. If you are interested in taking up this offer, please contact Merri Bartlett (merri.bartlett@hvo.com.au or 0455 782 292) to register your interest for this initiative.

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:

Contact details

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HVO General Manager

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Aerial Seeding

Aerial seeding was recently undertaken on site on the 25th and 26th July with 405 hectares completed providing for temporary cover on active waste dumps to reduce the area exposed to wind generated dust.



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

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

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