



## **Hera Resources Pty Ltd Community Consultative Committee Minutes**

The meeting was held on 1 March 2022 at Nymagee Community Centre, Austral Street, Nymagee.

Meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

### **Present at the Meeting:**

Garry West (Independent Chair)  
Jo Bates (Community Representative)  
Des (David) Hill (Community Representative)  
Dolly Betts (Community Representative)  
Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)  
Cr Peter Maxwell (Cobar Shire Council Representative)  
Robert Walker (Aurelia Metals Ltd, General Manager, Hera Mine Project)  
Brooke Topp (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Advisor, Hera Mine Project)

### **1 Apologies**

Don Cameron (Community Representative)  
Donna Cutting (Community Representative)  
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine Project)  
Jonathon Thompson (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Group Manager, Environment)

### **2 Pecuniary and other interests**

NIL

### **3 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 28 October 2021 had been distributed via email and were accepted as a correct record.

### **4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

Provision of an iPad for the Nymagee Library has not occurred. BT reported that this request is still outstanding. Endeavour to fulfill before Federation EIS goes on Public Exhibition. Carried forward

### **5 Correspondence**

Chair advised Cobar Shire had appointed Cr Peter Maxwell as their representative to the Hera CCC.

### **6 Company Report**

The CCC presentation was presented and included an Acknowledgement of Country recognising the Ngiyampaa Nation as the traditional custodians.

General Manager Robert Walker provided highlights of the Aurelia Metals Group.

#### Performance

Group TRIFR has reduced from 8.6 to 7.6 across Q2 2021 and the protocols adopted to manage the risk of Omicron remain successful as all sites continued to operate, albeit with reduced workforce availability (approximately 20% across the group) and modest throughput and production impacts. Group gold production remained consistent and group gold equivalent was assisted by higher prices and production with higher gold grade at Peak offsetting lower throughput at Peak and Hera.

#### Strong Footing

Gold production is expected to be at the lower end of the FY22 group guidance of 112-123koz. FY22 group guidance for copper remains unchanged and lead and zinc production at the upper end of guidance. FY22 AISC guidance improved to A\$1,350-1,550/oz (previously A\$1,500 – 1,700/oz).

#### Growth

Best set of high-grade gold and base metal intercepts to date extend Federation. Stage 1 of the Hera camp expansion has completed serving site activities associated with Federation. The Federation Feasibility Study is on track for completion in Mid CY22. The phase 2 drilling program at the Dargues Mine has resumed. Completion of Great Cobar preliminary feasibility study and maiden Great Cobar Ore Reserve supports recommencement of the exploration access decline.

#### Operating Snapshot

Group gold production (26.9 koz) is consistent with the previous quarter, while lower quarterly lead and zinc metal production was partly offset by higher copper outputs. Production at Peak was constrained by underground mine ore delivery due to labour shortages. Processing rates at Hera were constrained by very high base metal feed grades, delivering higher base metal production.

Redpath Australia\* has been successfully mobilized to Hera and commenced underground mining services on 1 January. This will see the phasing out of Pybar on the Hera site. Development of Hera's Upper Hays deposit commenced with ore production to contribute additional mill feed and extend time of Hera to cover gap until start of Federation. Dargues met production expectation and delivered improvements in gold recovery and concentrate grade. Overall operations were impacted by COVID related travel restrictions compounded by furlough of workers from December 21.

\*Link to Redpath Australia: <https://www.redpathmining.com/regions/australia/>

#### Work, Health and Safety – Jul 21 to Dec 21

Lead Indicator Activity by departments for the period was at full compliance. By the end of the period, 70% of those involved had completed a quality improvement program. Critical Control Verification (CCV) program compliance was achieved for FY21. Random and scheduled alcohol and drug testing continued in the period with over 248 tests undertaken and 2 non-negative results obtained. Blood lead level collection was carried out during July and November. Training was provided in Working at Heights and Entry of Confined Space and Gas Testing. 5 Emergency Response Trained (ERT) members attended the Nymagee NSW RFS brigade working bee and AGM during October and a further 6 students completed their Certificate III in Emergency Response & Rescue in November. Hera is planning to be 1<sup>st</sup> Responders to road accidents in the area together with the Nymagee RFS.

Continued strengthening of COVID-19 risk control measures and controls have continued across the site. During August, additional measures were implemented including, electronic submission of pre-entry declarations, a Bluetooth based contact tracing system, procurement of rapid antigen test kits as well as the resourcing of testing capability. A positive COVID case mock scenario was undertaken to test the Positive COVID Case Plan. A COVID administration person was appointed to assist with pre-entry declarations and management of vaccine status. Hera hosted a vaccination clinic in October as a joint venture between NSW Health and the ADF. All controls for site entry remained in place.

A reportable incident occurred in September when a fall of ground took place while a Jumbo was

performing Re-Entry Rehabilitation works. A recordable injury occurred in October when a contract fitter picking up a pump impeller received a 1cm laceration to the webbing between the thumb and forefinger of his gloved left hand. Two sutures were required. A reportable incident occurred in November when an underground operator received a partial amputation of the left middle finger when installing mesh brattice to a vent wall doorway. Three respirable crystalline exceedances were reported in December after results were received from samples taken in November.

At the end of December, the combined Hera Mine Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) remained steady with the 12 month rolling average at 17.1, the 6 month average at 11.7 and the 3 month average at 21.7.

#### Sustainable Foundation

51% of employees are trained in “The Aurelia Way”, Aurelia’s governance framework encompassing the company’s Vision and Values, Code of Conduct and corporate policies and standards. 92% of employees are double vaccinated against COVID and no COVID infections were recorded on site due to effective protocols. A review of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) has commenced, and a climate change risk assessment has been completed.

#### Social Licence to Operate

Scholarship payments were provided for local students. Labour was provided for 3 clean-ups in the Nymagee township and contributions were made towards the housing of local doctors. Donations were made to the Hermidale Public School for signage and the Hermidale CWA for their trivia night. A contribution was made to the Annual Nymagee Christmas Tree event and the Nymagee CWA for their flower show and the Nymagee Cricket Club to support the Paula Potter memorial Cup. Hera organized for a venomous animal expert to deliver a safety information session in the Nymagee Hall for the local community.

Drilling of a new production water Bore was completed on the Mining Lease. Flow testing was conducted and yields were positive. A desktop review was completed into the current groundwater status and future plans and assessment began into what opportunities are available to Hera in terms of the Nymagee mine water.

#### Environmental Incidents & Complaints – Jul 21 to Dec 21

On 3 December, the water level in a process water settling pond was found to be at a lower level than expected. Samples were taken of the remaining pond water and the water in the pipe installed under the HDPE lining to monitor for leaks. The remaining water was pumped to another suitable pond and investigations commenced to determine if the HDPE lining had been compromised and the EPA were notified. No complaints were received during the period.

#### Environmental Initiatives – Jul21 to Dec 21

Real-time air quality stations were set up around the site. Calibration and validation was completed in October. The Management Plan and MOP updates required for MOD 6 continued and went out for consultation in September. The Annual review was submitted to the regulator and posted to the company website. The National Pollutant Inventory report for FY21 has been submitted. The Blast monitors have been replaced. A Nymagee Mine Rehabilitation Cost Estimate review has commenced and a new standard for cultural heritage management was implemented onsite. An environmental brief confirming correct procedure for bringing chemicals onto the site was communicated along with an increased emphasis on the weed spraying program.

## Environmental Monitoring – Jul 21 to Dec 21

Blasting levels are well below limits. Improved ground cover continues helping in regard to air quality. The standing water limits remained static. Concentrate truck movements remain within the limits of approval under MOD 6.

## Hera Camp Expansion

As previously advised an additional 160 rooms are proposed to be built over the next few years. The Stage 1 of an additional 40 rooms on the eastern side of the existing village is being constructed and is expected to be ready for occupation in December 2021. Stage 2 of an additional 120 rooms to the west of the current village has also been approved Cobar Shire Council and are expected to be constructed by June 2022.

## Federation Project

Exploration drilling is continuing. All identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are marked with steel posts and signage. The disturbance boundary for the box cut, site facilities, magazine, water management structures, waste rock emplacements and roads have been marked by the Hera survey team. Potential habitat trees within the approved clearance zone were identified and mapped. These trees include potential habitat hollows and will be removed under supervision of an ecologist prior to the land clearing commencing. These trees will be stored for use in the site rehabilitation. Clearance and civil works will be carried out by Neill Earthmoving, Nyngan, with the box cut and exploration decline developed by Redpath.

It is expected the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project will be placed on public exhibition late March 2022. Once the public exhibition commences, the EIS will be available on the NSW Planning Major Projects Portal and submissions can be made for a period of 28 days. A hard copy of the EIS will be available for viewing at the Nymagee and Cobar Libraries. CCC members will be advised when the exhibition period commences. Submissions can be made via the NSW Planning Portal or by post.

\*<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/federation-project>

## **7 Matters which the Community Representatives wish to raise with the Mine Operator**

Nil

## **8 Community Engagement Opportunities**

Nil

## **9 General Business**

Des advised he was aware of a recent application for funding by a local committee and requested Hera clarify what the guidelines and criteria for funding of local projects not covered by the VPA. [ACTION]

It was requested that a copy of the approved VPA with Cobar Shire Council be circulated to CCC members. [ACTION]

## **10 Next Meeting**

Proposed 2022 meeting schedule: 7 June 2022; 6 September 2022; & 6 December 2022 commencing at 10.00am