



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (INCORPORATING NEW COBAR COMPLEX PROJECT CCC)

MINUTES

The meeting was held on 3 September 2020 at the Peak Gold Mines, Hillston Road, Cobar.

Meeting commenced at 4pm.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)
Julie Payne (Community Representative)
Kay Stingemore (Community Representative)
Russell Grant (Community Representative)
Craig Thomas (General Manager, Peak Gold Mines)
Samantha Lloyd (Peak Gold Mines, Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor)
Laura Barnes (Peak Gold Mines, Graduate Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor) as Observer
Garry Ryman (Cobar Shire Council, Director of Planning & Environmental Services) as Observer

1. Apologies

Chris Bruce (Community Representative)

2. Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

3. Minutes of Last Meeting – Minutes of CCC meeting on 4 June 2020 were confirmed and uploaded to the company website.

4. Correspondence

NIL

5. Company Presentation

A presentation was provided detailing the environmental performance of the Peak Mine operations. (A copy will accompany the final minutes and be placed on the company website)

An update on employment statistics was provided.
Peak Gold Mines Employees:

- Total workforce: 136 employees (previous quarter 137 employees)
- Residing in Cobar: 112 employees (previous quarter 112 employees)
- Residing within 300km radius of Cobar: 7 employees (previous quarter 7 employees)

Pybar Employees:

- Total workforce: 192 employees and labour hire (previous quarter 204 employees)
- Residing in Cobar: 75 employees (previous quarter 93 employees)
- Residing within 300km radius of Cobar: 9 employees (previous quarter 10 employees)

Environmental Monitoring

Blast vibrations have been well below the limit for all periods over the last quarter.

Several complaints were received regarding blasting vibration and one notification. Complaints are categorised into notifications and complaints. All blasts were below the licence limit.

Dust monitoring at both the mine and town gauges continue to show the annualised depositional dust results are compliant with licence conditions.

There were 4 recordable injuries in the last quarter. 1 in April; 2 in May and 1 June. Recordable injuries are Medical Treatment, Restricted Duties and Lost Time injuries.

Raw water usage declined during the last quarter 2020. Water usage is under constant review.

Environmental Incident (New Cobar to Young Australia 1 Drain)

- New Cobar complex has a car wash facility for vehicles to utilise prior to leaving the site. Once the car wash is activated, the water reports to a sump, flowing into a drain which flows to Young Australia 1 dam. A low point in the drain was identified where water had breached the drain wall.
- The drain relies on a culvert to continue flow to Young Australia 1. At the time of the incident, the culvert was partially obstructed by silt and vegetation.
- There is a clean water diversion drain adjacent to the dirty water drain which directs 'clean' (runoff from areas outside of the mining complex) rainfall around the dirty water drain. At the time of the incident, this diversion was in a state of disrepair which resulted in clean water intersecting the dirty water drain.
- Photographs of the site were taken and soil samples in the drain flow path were collected.
- Late July a contractor was engaged to repair the dirty water drain, remove excess silt and debris. The clean water diversion drain will also be repaired as part of these works.
- PGM will develop a drain monitoring procedure and review the inspection form to ensure damage to water management structures is identified and rectified.

- PGM will retrain staff responsible for drain inspections including identification of damage and escalation of issues. Focus areas will be on logging, photographing and physical inspections of water management structures.
- Following retraining, PGM will inspect all drains across the site assessing the adequacy of current water management.

New Cobar Complex

As reported at the last meeting the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 12 February 2020.

Technical assessments have progressed including: Field component associated with rehabilitation, visual amenity, hazard and risk assessments. The results are looking positive with all modelling indicating the project will have a negligible impact on all stakeholders.

Community engagement and consultation continues via online and print platforms due to COVID-19.

Consultation of the final stages of the EIS is presenting a unique set of challenges due to restrictions associated with Covid19. PGM sought the views of CCC members on options to overcome the restrictions. Engagement to date via the Project webpage has shown a significantly higher reach than the walk-in information session in 2019.

The general feeling was that as Cobar is not a hot-spot, locals will gain more by face-to-face sessions, but EMM could engage via video-link as several of their team would have to travel from capital cities (i.e. Brisbane & Sydney). It was agreed all possibilities would be explored and considered.

Great Cobar Exploration Decline

Surface exploration drilling is planned in the next few months and noise management will be implemented as required.

Tailings Storage Facility – Life of Mine Approval

Samantha Lloyd provided a refresh of the Life of Mine application that is to be lodged with Cobar Shire Council.

A Round of donations to the Cobar community were advertised on 19 August 2020. PGM has advertised for new Donations Committee Members and the next meeting scheduled for 16 September 2020.

6. Matters which Community Representatives wish to raise with the mine operator

- A question was raised regarding water monitoring at New Cobar? There has been no change.
- A question was raised as to whether sink holes may occur resulting from previous New Cobar workings? Is it possible to obtain a horizontal section of these workings? PGM to investigate. NOTE: Subsequent advice provided is that a geotechnical assessment was completed on all workings associated with the New Cobar Complex (this included historic workings at New Cobar and Great Cobar and also all proposed development). The assessment showed that there was no potential for sink holes.
- Has consultation occurred with the local schools regarding the New Cobar project? PGM advised the COVID-19 restrictions had stopped further progress on this action. The residences and business that are directly adjacent to the proposed development were visited by EMM in Sep 2019 to discuss any concerns about the project.
- An update on the Mining Camp application was sought and the committee was advised that PGM are not affiliated with the application, however it was discussed the application was refused by Cobar Shire Council.

7. General Business

A question was raised whether PGM was considering supporting entry to the local pool by employees for 2020. The meeting was advised this is still under consideration.

A question was raised if PGM were planning to change the 14-day roster? PGM advised that Pybar have a mixture of rosters and are starting the conversation with their employees on possible changes. PGM do not intend to change their rosters.

Information was sought on the closure of the mine by the Mine Inspectors. PGM advised inspectors from the Resources Regulator did recently close operations for 8 hours, with most concerns relating to communication issues. They conducted a return visit and advised they were satisfied communication was trending in the right direction.

Next Meeting

3 December 2020 commencing at 4pm

Meeting Closed: 5pm