



## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (INCORPORATING NEW COBAR COMPLEX PROJECT CCC)**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was held on 3 December 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)  
Chris Bruce (Community Representative)  
Greg Brown (Peak Gold Mines, Acting 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  
Rob Morris (EMM Consulting)  
Andrew Dickinson (EMM Consulting)  
Andrea Kanaris (EMM Consulting)  
Jonathon Thompson (Aurelia Metals, Group Manager – Environment)

#### **1. Apologies**

Craig Thomas (General Manager, Peak Gold Mines)

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

NIL

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting** – Minutes of CCC meeting on 26 October 2020 were confirmed and will be 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: 134 employees (previous quarter 136 employees)
- Residing in Cobar: 109 employees (previous quarter 112 employees) – 81%
- Residing within 300km radius of Cobar: 7 employees (previous quarter 7 employees) – 5%

Pybar Employees:

- Total workforce: 192 employees and labour hire (previous quarter 204 employees)
- Residing in Cobar: 74 employees (previous quarter 93 employees) – 41%
- Residing within 300km radius of Cobar: 34 employees (previous quarter 10 employees) – 19%

The company's preference is for employees to reside locally however, to attract the right people for specialist roles, it is sometimes necessary to have flexible working arrangements.

#### Environmental Monitoring

A blast exceedance occurred in October at Fort Bourke as a result of a geological anomaly. Emulsion leaked into a void which resulted in simultaneous ignition of multiple explosives not in accordance with the blast design. The exceedance is reportable however, no complaints were received relating to this incident.

Two complaints were received regarding blasting vibration, one in October and one in November. There were no complaints for September. Complaints are categorised into notifications and complaints.

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

There were two recordable injuries in the last quarter. A lost time injury was recorded for an injury to a contractor and a restricted duties injury was recorded for an employee at Peak Gold Mine. Recordable injuries are Medical Treatment, Restricted Duties and Lost Time injuries.

Raw water usage has fluctuated upward after being low in June. Water usage is under constant review.

## New Cobar Complex

As reported at the last meeting the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) were issued on 12 February 2020. Further planned consultation includes CCC and Cobar Shire Council on 3 December and community walk-in sessions planned in Cobar on 4 & 5 December 2020

Community engagement and consultation has continued 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 digital platforms have resulted in 1976 total visits: 439 unique users with an average time per visit of 45 minutes. DPIE has commented on these results which shows digital consultation increases reach and is likely to be a more regular feature in future.

## Tailings Storage Facility – Life of Mine Approval

Greg Brown provided a refresh of the Life of Mine application that has been lodged with Cobar Shire Council. (See presentation)

A Round of donations to the Cobar community were advertised on 19 August 2020. A new Donations Committee Member has been appointed and a meeting was held on 16 September 2020.

PGM participated in Clean Up Australia on 29 September 2020 and an estimated 60 bags of rubbish were collected by PGM and Pybar employees.

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

- NIL

## **7. EMM Technical Briefing for New Cobar Complex EIS**

The EMM team provided a presentation and detailed discussion on the key aspects of the New Cobar Complex EIS which involves the development of underground mining from the New Cobar Complex to access and mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits using underground stope mining methods and will extend the life of mine by 12 years from 2023 to 2035 (based on current market assumptions).

Processing at Peak will remain at the existing approved rate of up to 800,000 tpa (continued operation under the CSC approval) as will the tailings storage.

The New Cobar Complex project aligns with Cobar Shire Council's Economic Resilience Project.

Stand-alone studies undertaken for the EIS are social impact and consultation, economic, human health risk management, air quality and greenhouse gas, noise and vibration, geotechnical and subsidence risk, groundwater, surface water, traffic and transport, historical heritage, aboriginal cultural heritage, rehabilitation and landform management, hazard risk and public safety, visual impact and biodiversity.

The impacts and the management arising from each of the studies were summarised and discussed with the CCC members including responding to specific questions.

## 8. General Business

NIL

### Next Meeting

**Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule:** 4 March 2021; 3 June 2021; 2 September 2021 and 2 December 2021

4 March 2021 commencing at 4pm

Meeting Closed: 6.15pm