



## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was held on 5 March 2020 at the Peak Gold Mines, Hillston Road, Cobar.

Meeting commenced at 4.05pm.

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

Garry West (Independent Chair)  
Chris Bruce (Community Representative)  
Julie Payne (Community Representative)  
Russell Grant (Community Representative)  
Kay Stingemore (Community Representative)  
Neal Valk (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  
Jonathon Thompson (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Representative, Group Manager, Environment)  
Adrian Bell (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Representative, Risk & Sustainability) as Observer  
Garry Ryman (Cobar Shire Council, Director of Planning & Environmental Services) as Observer

#### **1. Apologies**

NIL

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

Russell Grant advised his son had undertaken a vacation engagement with the environment team prior to going to university.

#### **3. 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)

It was noted that the site is now non-smoking.

An update on employment statistics was provided.

Several complaints were received during the last quarter regarding blasting vibration. Complaints are now categorised into notifications and complaints. It was noted 2 blasts in February 2020 from

Fort Bourke recorded marginally over 5mm/s. All other blasts were well below 10mm/s, therefore within the approved limits.

Dust monitoring at both the mine and town gauges show continued elevated levels which have been exacerbated by the drought conditions. Despite this, results are compliant with licence conditions.

There were no recordable injuries in the last quarter of 2019. Recordable injuries are Medical Treatment, Restricted Duties and Lost Time injuries. The total recordable injury frequency rate (TRIFR) for site has reduced from 15.04 to 8.39.

Raw water usage declined during 2019 and 2020 usage is at similar levels however it is under constant review. Pumping of the Great Cobar has commenced with water quality displaying high total dissolved solids and heavy metals necessitating additional treatment prior to use and a reverse osmosis plant is required. This will assist in providing a water supply for sustained operations. Groundwater monitoring bores will be installed to monitor groundwater levels and quality

The mill upgrade project is on schedule for completion of commissioning early in 2020. The project has resulted in an investment of approximately \$53M. So far \$14.4M has been spent through 46 local vendors which equated to 28% of the total project construction.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) which outlines the requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the New Cobar Complex. Issues that the SEARs require the EIS to address include: Land resources, subsidence, air quality, human health, water, noise, vibration and blasting, biodiversity, heritage, transport, waste, rehabilitation and final landform, hazards, social, economic and visual. The Company indicated they aimed to lodge the EIS in Q1 2021 and aim to commence operations mid 2023.

The Chair advised that the SEARs require a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to be established in accordance with the DPIE State Significant Projects Guideline. Whilst the CCC has largely performed within the Guideline he will now have to submit the names of CCC members for endorsement by DPIE. Mr West advised the department has appointed him to be the Independent Chair. There will need to be a formalisation of a representative of Cobar Shire Council and Expressions of interest (EOI) will occur to seek further community and stakeholder representatives for the CCC. The CCC will cover the existing operations as well as the proposed New Cobar Complex Project.

The Company indicated following consultation they propose to amend the approved location of the ventilation rises so they are further away from town. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is planned to be submitted by the end of March 2020. Community members at the meeting were very appreciative of this change.

Advice was provided that a development application is being prepared to support a life of mine construction program for the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF). The proposal includes three components: TSF; rehabilitation of Queen Bee including the transportation of waste rock to Peak; and surface exploration within the Mining Leases. Details of each component were provided in the presentation. Consultation will occur regarding this project and feedback is encouraged.

A clean up of both the New Cobar and Peak site has continued resulting in a change to waste providers with the aim to create a more efficient and effective waste management process.

The company engaged several students/apprentices for the summer vacation period.

A community meeting was held on 27 February 2020 and the attendance numbers were low. However, Peak appreciate the community members taking time out of their schedules to attend such meetings and provide valuable feedback. The Company does encourage participation of community members at future presentations.

Recent donations to community organisations were outlined.

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

- Company support Pelican Air in an endeavour to sustain their scheduled flights to Sydney;
- Company approach to Coronavirus - Explained that Company is developing a Coronavirus strategy
- Possible presentations to senior high school students regarding the mine's operations;
- Rumour about an Aurelia contractor discouraging one employee to live locally;
- Adequacy of the safety fence restricting access to the open cut; and
- Issues concerning top soil needs associated with the tailings storage facility.

#### **5. General Business**

NIL

#### **Next Meeting**

4 June 2020 commencing at 4pm

Meeting Closed: 5.30pm