



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (INCORPORATING NEW COBAR COMPLEX PROJECT CCC)

MINUTES

The meeting was held on 26 October 2020 at the Peak Gold Mines, Hillston Road, Cobar.

Meeting commenced at 3pm.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)
Julie Payne (Cobar Shire Council Representative)
Kay Stingemore (Community Representative)
Chris Bruce (Community Representative)
Craig Thomas (General Manager, Peak Gold Mines)
Samantha Lloyd (Peak Gold Mines, Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor)
Jonathon Thompson (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Representative, Group Manager, Environment) – By video
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
Andrea Kanaris (EMM Consulting Pty Ltd) – By video

1. Apologies

Russell Grant (Community Representative)

2. Company Presentation

All business was set aside to allow consultation with the CCC for the preparation of the social impact assessment as part of the EIS for the New Cobar Complex. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a brief overview of the project; provide a summary of findings from the technical studies; and to get input from the CCC on the consequences (impacts and benefits) of the Project for the Cobar community.

Andrea Kanaris provided a presentation to facilitate the discussion.

A summary of the CCC observations are:

- The project has the potential to provide stability in town as a result of a significant extension to the life of mine and some new employment opportunities during construction.
- Cobar has good local infrastructure to support new and existing employees.
- Increased availability of traineeships would be useful.

- This is the first large scale project to be considered in Cobar and workforce impacts will be considered as part of the EIS.
- Construction and operation impacts considered to be minor.
- The proposed development is predominately underground with minimal (<2ha) surface disturbance proposed. Mining activities will be between 150m and 800m below ground level.
- Noted the project impacts don't go beyond the Barrier Highway, therefore the urban impacts will be nil. Mining under the Museum precinct (approximately 800m below ground level) is proposed, however, mitigation and monitoring proposed.
- The Subsidence Assessment has determined that subsidence is likely to be minor (<15mm at the surface).
- Future of the Fort Bourke Hill Lookout post mining needs further consideration and future negotiations with Cobar Shire Council as the likely custodian.
- Public access (tourism) to Towser's Huts needs consideration. PGM is keen to make this area accessible to the public but public safety and preservation of Towser's Huts is of utmost concern.
- Impacts of water loss in the Great Cobar historic open cut – it is expected the open cut will be dewatered as the underground workings are dewatered.
- Impact on Newey reservoir – modelling suggests this is not connected to groundwater, however, requires ongoing monitoring.
- Potential exclusion zones during construction of the box cut need to be considered (e.g. surface blasting, if required)

3. General Business

Jonathon advised he is hoping to send the EIS to DPIE in January 2021 and a CCC meeting in that timeframe will be considered.

Samantha Lloyd advised she is leaving Peak Gold Mines. Garry West thanked Sam for her assistance during the period of the CCC and extended best wishes for the future. The committee member echoed support.

Next Meeting

2021 Meetings to be advised.

Meeting Closed: 4.10pm