



**PEAK GOLD MINES COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
(INCORPORATING NEW COBAR COMPLEX PROJECT CCC)
MINUTES**

The meeting was held on 1 March 2022 at the Golf Club, Cobar.

Meeting commenced at 4pm.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)

Kay Stingemore (Community Representative)

Robyn Floyd (Community Representative)

Chris Bruce (Community Representative)

Greg Brown (Peak Gold Mines, Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor)

Laura Barnes (Peak Gold Mines, Environment and Social Responsibility Officer)

Bishal Ghimire (Peak Gold Mines, Environment and Social Responsibility Graduate)

1. Apologies

Julie Payne (Cobar Shire Council Representative)

Craig Thomas (General Manager, Peak Gold Mines)

Jonathon Thompson (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Group Manager, Environment

2. Pecuniary and other interests

Nil

- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting** – Minutes of CCC meeting on 2 December 2021 were confirmed and were 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)

Acknowledgement of Country recognising the Ngiyampaa Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pay respects to Elders both past and present.

Work, Health and Safety – Oct 21 to Dec 21

Aurelia has launched “The Aurelia Way, the company’s governance framework encompassing the company’s Vision and Values, Code of Conduct and corporate policies and standards.

Three Critical Control Verification activities have been incorporated in current site activities such as workplace inspections, Planned Task Observations (PTO) and Safe Act Observation’s (SAO).

Work is ongoing around a “war on dust” program with 3 real time monitors on site and scheduled fit testing is commencing aimed at ensuring PGM can maintain compliance across site through dust reduction.

New Cobar has had an Alcolizer fitted to site entry turnstiles, so compulsory alcohol testing will be undertaken for all workers entering the site.

PGM has paid out \$65,000 for a Mines Rescue Bonus to employees and a 3 monthly site training calendar has been established and promoted across the site.

COVID-19 risk control and verification measures have been updated on site and controls have been reinforced, particularly where workers have travelled from hot spot and lockdown areas. Rapid Antigen Testing is done for all workers daily. As of 1 January 2022, all new employees and contractors are required to be double vaccinated.

Aurelia Metals Pandemic Management Plan has been reinforced across the site as well as the implementation of the ‘Contact Harold’ contact monitoring system onsite along with COVID Essential Services Duty Card.

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) Improvement Plan is applying more stringent investigations and actions endeavouring to prevent recurring incidents. This includes regular monitoring of all actions through the internal incident reporting system and more stringent management of the NSW Resource Regulator notices.

No notifiable events in December.

Social Licence to Operate – Oct 21 to dec 21

14 Lodes of Gold books were donated to the Great Cobar Museum, and funds were donated to the Cobar Weekly as the Major Sponsor of the Christmas Light Competition. A donation was made to the Great Cobar Museum for the reopening event and PGM assisted in the judging of the Annual Arts Exhibition. A Christmas lunch and gifts were provided to each resident at the Brennan Centre and PGM ran a colouring competition at the Cobar Christmas Parade.

Environmental Incidents, Complaints & Initiatives – Oct 21 to Dec 21

There was one environmental incident requiring notification to the regulator during the period. A water tank used to store water for fire suppression was emptied resulting in sediment build up breaching the containment drain. The sediment eventually drained to a contaminated water storage on site and did not discharge offsite.

Four complaints were received during the period regarding blast vibration. All complaints received correlated to PGM blasts and monitoring data confirmed compliance with licence conditions.

The Annual Environmental Management Report was submitted to government agencies in October, together with a revised Rehabilitation Cost Estimate Report to the Resources Regulator.

An application for a monitoring bore licence was approved by the Natural Resources Access regulator during November 2021.

Operations Update – Oct 21 to Dec 21

Development Consent for the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) lifts, Queen Bee waste rock transport and surface exploration within mining lease areas was approved by Cobar Shire Council on 13 July 2021. Planning for the TSF lift continued during the reporting period.

Environmental monitoring reports are available on the Aurelia website indicating compliance with licence conditions. Raw water usage continues to be closely monitored as usage increased during the quarter.

New Cobar Complex

Peak Mines submitted a Responses to Submissions (RTS) in August 2021. Peak Mines hope to receive Development Consent soon from the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE). Once received, Managements Plans will have to be prepared and submitted to the relevant government agencies for approval prior to commencement of mining activities, however exploration work is still being undertaken.

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

Kay Stingemore requested assistance from PGM to move and store collection items in preparation for Stage 2 of the museum upgrade.

Kay Stingemore asked if it would be possible to recommence the “fireworks in the open cut” event. PGM took as an action to consider the request. [ACTION]

Kay Stingemore advised the museum receives notifications when the lookout is to be closed and when blasting is to take place, both of these are much appreciated.

Kay Stingemore asked where will the wastewater from New Cobar go if the project is approved. PGM advised it will be transferred back to Peak after the settling ponds at New Cobar.

Kay Stingemore asked what happens to the Spain’s tank overflow? PGM is a zero-discharge site. However, recent flood modelling completed by PGM indicates that a 1 in 10 year flood event could lead to a discharge from Spain’s Dam. This is because Spain’s Dam has a very large clean water catchment. PGM will attempt to mitigate this in the future. If a discharge event were to occur (has not occurred since Aurelia acquired the asset), it would be reported to the relevant authorities.

Kay Stingemore asked will another vent be required at the New Cobar complex if the project is approved. PGM advised that only the two vent rises proposed in the EIS are required at this time. If required for any future projects, a modification application to the development consent would be required which would be subject to further public consultation and DPE approval.

Chris Bruce asked how the Federation Project was progressing and what are the likely impacts on the Nymagee Village. The Chair provided a brief overview of the project, as he also Chairs the Hera Resources Mine CCC, and advised the EIS was likely to proceed to Public Exhibition soon. ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD

- A question from the community - Has a headstone been discovered at Queen Bee? Peak Mine took the question on notice and will report to the next CCC meeting. ACTION Peak Mine reported that there is a new owner of the property, and an access agreement is currently being negotiated.

7. A question from the community - Is access to Towser’s Huts possible? Peak Mine advised there are safety issues associated with access but will review and report to the next meeting.

General Business

Garry West noted the appointment of Robyn Floyd following the resignation of Russell Vincent due to him leaving the district.

Next Meeting

2022 schedule of meetings: 1 March, 7 June, 6 September, and 6 December. Venue TBC