



## Hera Resources Pty Ltd Community Consultative Committee Minutes

The meeting was held on 7 March 2023 at Recreation Room, Hera Village, Nymagee.

Meeting commenced at 10.00 am.

### Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)  
Des (David) Hill (Community Representative)  
Bev Ellison (Community Representative)  
Donna Cutting (Community Representative)  
Leon Jimenez-Sarta (Community Representative)  
Cr Peter Maxwell (Cobar Shire Council Representative)  
Robert Walker (Aurelia Metals Ltd, General Manager, Hera Mine Project)  
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine)

### 1 Apologies

Dolly Betts (Community Representative)  
Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)

### 2 Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

### 3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 6 December 2022 had been distributed via email and were accepted as a correct record.

### 4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

NIL

### 5 Correspondence

NIL

### 6 Company Report

The CCC presentation was presented and included an Acknowledgement of Country recognising the Ngiyampaa Nation as the traditional custodians.

## Work, Health and Safety – October - December 2022

Zero non-negative drug test for the period.

There were 2 positive breath tests recorded. It was noted all employees are breath tested before entering the site operations area. Employees can undertake voluntary testing at the Hera Village before fronting the mandatory testing to enter the site.

A new Permit to work implementation planning was commenced following on from the roll out of the new isolation procedure.

### Lag Indicators

There was one medical treated injury for the period and one lost time injury for the period. The combined Hera Mine 12 month Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) increased from 5.7 to 5.8 for end of December 2022.

### Key Hera Operating Metrics

Gold production for the quarter doubled which was a pleasing result and gold sales increased for quarter by 91%.

During the period costs were down following the work force optimization.

### Social Licence to Operate

Labour was provided for clean-ups in the Nymagee township together with a big focus on weed spraying. Contributions were made towards housing of local doctors.

### Water Solutions

Following the significant rainfall during the month, the back dam east that was built in 2013 was full and spilling for the first time in the mines operation. This enabled the mine to turn off the majority of the bores to the west towards Burthong Road.

## Environmental Incidents & Complaints – October - December 2022

There were 5 internally 'company only' environmental incidents during the period. Two wildlife deaths occurred at the dam at federation. Netting is to be installed to minimise reoccurrence. Two minor spills, 1 in store yard and 1 in the process plant. Both spills were cleaned up without issue. One instance of waste rock being placed outside an approved area. It was subsequently moved to an approved area.

There were no complaints received during the period.

An amendment has been lodged with the EPA to seek approval to modify the ground water monitoring program. It is proposed that level monitoring will continue monthly however sampling will be conducted annually. Since the mine commenced operation there has been minimal change to the water chemistry as expected.

A trial is being conducted of the use of coconut logs for erosion prevention and has shown to be successful on the edge of the bore access road. Erosion has been slowed and the area is revegetating naturally.

## Environmental Monitoring – October - December 2022

Blasting levels remain well below limits, except for one exceedance, but in case the company has an exceedance agreement with the impacted landholder. Improved ground cover continues helping in regard to air quality. The standing water limits are increasing following the recent high rainfall helping recharge the aquifers. Concentrate truck movements remain within the approved limits.

## Federation Project

The site is on care and maintenance with no mining or exploration activities occurring.

Clearing has been carried out to enable the installation of the Hera to federation pipeline. De-watering was ongoing through the use of evaporation misters. This program will be suspended once the pipeline is commissioned.

Fencing along the Burthong Road on the Four Corners property was completed to enable the cattle grid to be removed on Burthong Road.

The Federation Project has received development consent from the NSW Department of Planning. This consent is three months earlier than expected. Under a pre-existing approval to construct the exploration decline, all essential surface and civil works have been completed.

A funding arrangement to finance the development of the Federation Mine is expected to be announced by the end of March.

Further project approvals are still required such as the Mining Licence (ML) and the Environment Protection Licence (EPL).

ACTION: Chair to circulate Conditions of Consent to all members

## Hera Life of Mine & Care and Maintenance Update

Rob Walker, Hera General Manager provided the CCC with an update on the transition of Hera to Care & Maintenance from late March 2023.

Initially it was anticipated there would be minimal gap or seamless transition through Hera's Life of Mine (LOM) to the first production at Federation in 2024. However, two quarters of significantly challenging mining and financial conditions triggered a decision to review the LOM plan. It is now expected underground mining to finish late March 2023 and transition Hera to Care & Maintenance (C&M).

Hera is at the end of its mining life, making mining conditions more difficult and therefore more costly and not sustainable. A shorter LOM will focus on more valuable ore sources which will optimise cash from the remaining life at Hera.

The new LOM plan will affect every employee at Hera. There will be work for most roles until production finishes and some roles will be required to stay on at Hera to manage the C&M period, and later, the development of Federation. Some vacant roles at the Aurelia owned Peak and Dargues Mines are available for redeployment. 85% of employees have successfully moved to other local mines. Redundancy provisions are also being negotiated as necessary.

The Hera C&M Plan outlines the process and scope of activities to be completed during the C&M period for surface and underground domains. These activities will ensure:

- Company assets are decommissioned in a safe and efficient manner;
- The Company's licence to operate is protected;
- Assets do not pose undue environmental or safety risks to the site or community; employees and contractors can remain on site to support the execution of the C&M plan safely; and
- The assets are secured and protected in such a way that degradation of the assets is minimised allowing a safe, effective and economic return of facilities to operational status when required.

Rob stressed that the above ground assets are required to become operational at a future date to support mining at Federation.

The underground mine will be permanently sealed at the portal entrance and exhaust shaft collar.

The main administration office will be used for C&M activities. All additional administration buildings will be cleaned and secured for future use. The accommodation camp will be cleaned with rooms and facilities secured to allow the facility to be bought back to full operation mode.

## **7 Matters which the Community Representatives wish to raise with the Mine Operator**

Cr Peter Maxwell questioned the future of the RFS First Responder Crash Unit and the vehicle that has been located at Hera. Rob Walker advised that the Unit had had to be disbanded and the vehicle will return to Cobar.

Des asked about VPA payments. Company representatives advised that base payments will continue.

Des asked if a new VPA will be required as a result of the Federation consent? MW: The Conditions of Consent require a new VPA.

## **8 Community Engagement Opportunities**

Nil

## **9 General Business**

Leon advised there is a Progress Association meeting scheduled on 22 March 2023 and requested a company representative to attend. Rob Walker advised he will attend.

General discussion about phone reception in the Nymagee Village. It was observed that since Hera had installed their own communications network that should have released additional bandwidth locally. It was also noted that Cobar Shire Council has installed a router at the Nymagee Library.

## **10 Next Meeting**

5 September 2023 commencing at 10.00am