



## Hera Resources Pty Ltd Community Consultative Committee Minutes

The meeting was held on 13 June 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)  
Robert Walker (Aurelia Metals Ltd, General Manager, Hera Mine Project)  
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine)

### 1 Apologies

Leon Jimenez-Sarta (Community Representative)  
Cr Peter Maxwell (Cobar Shire Council Representative)  
Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)

Mr West advised that Dolly Betts has formally resigned from the CCC. Mr West thanked Mrs Betts for her long service. The CCC membership will need to be reviewed as a result of the closure of the Hera Mine and to focus on the potential community impact of the Federation Mine Complex.

Robert Walker advised that he has tendered his resignation as General Manager of the Federation Hera Complex as he has been appointed General Manager of the CSA operations in Cobar. Under Aurelia Metals employment contact he has had to give 3 months notice.

### 2 Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

### 3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 7 March 2023 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.

### Federation Project

Aurelia Metals Limited has secured a funding solution for the Federation Project. The new capital structure will allow for the restart of development, with the remobilisation of the mining contractor commencing in July 2023 with works to recommence in August 2023.

Key Dates of Interest (as at 13 June 2023):

- Redpath Mining Contractors remobilisation recommence Mid – July 2023; restart decline early August 2023.
- Hera to Peak and Burthong Road Upgrades to commence late August 2023
- Relocation of Mining Offices Hera to Federation January 2024
- Stage 2 infrastructure (RO Plant, Sewerage System and Server Room) February 2024
- Federation Workshop, wash bay, truck fill point June 2024
- Redpath Contract Decline complete August 2024
- Conversion of existing Hera Workshop into Truck Workshop October 2024
- Owner Opoerator Transition complete November 2024
- Hera to Hermidale intersections August 2025
- Hera Plant re-commissioning December 2025.

As previously announced the Federation site is on care and maintenance with no mining or exploration activities occurring.

The Federation Project had received development consent from the NSW Department of Planning. This consent was three months earlier than expected. Under a pre-existing approval to construct the exploration decline, almost all essential surface and civil works have been completed. The decline is proposed to be developed to a depth of approximately 600 m below surface.

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

The mining operation is for gold, copper, zinc, lead and silver over 12 – 14 years with a new process plant at Hera.

100 people will be employed during construction and 200 -250 for operations. Workers will reside at the Hera Accommodation Village on shift roster. (Hera mine numbers were 150 – 200).

Once the economically viable resource deposits are accessed, underground stopes will be excavated via drilling and blasting.

Approximately 6.95 million tonnes (Mt) of ore is expected to be processed over the life of the mine. Maximum annual production is planned at a rate of 750ktonnes per annum (ktpa). About 10% of the ore will be processed at the Peak Mine, near Cobar, in the initial years. The project is predicted to provide \$63 M in royalties and a \$247 M capex including sustaining capital and rehabilitation.

About 5.2 Mt of tailings will result from processing at Hera Mine. 1.7 Mt will go to the TSF and 3.5 Mt will be used for back filling stopes at Federation. The currently approved hera TSF has sufficient capacity.

Waste rock stored at the surface will be used for back filling stopes and the PAF waste rock will be returned underground. The NAF waste rock will be either used for backfilling or used in rehabilitation of other areas.

The ore will be transported by surface trucks to the Hera Mine ROM stockpile at the process plant via Burthong Road. About 10% of the ore will be transported to the Peak Mine in the early stages. Concentrate from the Hera Mine will be trucked to the Hermidale rail siding for transport, as per the current concentrate transport methods and truck sizes. Tailings for backfilling stopes will be transported from Hera Mine to the Federation site.

Whilst the mining operations on site will be 24 hour, the transport of material off site will be restricted to daylight hours.

#### Hera Processing Operations

- January 2024 a “restart condition assessment” will be undertaken
- An estimated \$10 M+ is included in the Hera Growth Capex for the restart of the Hera Plant scheduled for December 2025
- Planned processing costs are \$55/t in line with the Federation / Hera LOM assumptions
- New Power solution of a mixture of solar, battery & diesel is to be installed and operational prior to the restart, in line with Aurelia Metals climate change action policy, however there has been no assumptions included for this in terms of additional capital investment.

#### Environment and Community

Drafting of the new Federation Management Plans continues and is critical to ensuring the outcomes are practical and feasible. This activity is critical to the timely commencement of construction and mining operations.

Monitoring environmental related regulatory compliance for the Federation project continues, particularly with regard to the Project Approval and Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) conditions.

Consolidation and repurposing of the Hera environmental monitoring equipment will be undertaken to meet the needs of the Federation project (ie dust, noise and blast monitoring equipment)

A Bathurst Burr reduction is planned across the Hera site and the Hera/Federation pipeline route as there has been a significant outbreak following the favourable seasons with above average rainfall.

The Company will continue to actively participate in the Nymagee Progress Association meetings where possible, and encourage employees to make use of the CWA organised Royal Flying Doctor clinic in Nymagee. Keeping the clinic well patronised will ensure its ongoing benefit to the Nymagee community.

Key community projects will continue to be supported over and above the VPA contributions. Key projects identified are as follows:

- Nymagee Christmas tree - \$5,000
- Nymagee Cricket Club - \$2,000
- Paula Potter Memorial Cup - \$1,000
- Nymagee CWA Flower Show - \$200
- Nymagee Gymkhana - \$5,000
- Nymagee Progress Association – ANZAC Day ceremony - \$1,000
- Hermidale Future Farmers - \$2,500

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

See General Business

## **8 Community Engagement Opportunities**

Nil

## **9 General Business**

Des Hill sought clarification regarding the VPA with Cobar Shire Council. Mark Williams advised a payment has recently been made which should be the final payment for the Hera VPA. A new Federation VPA will need to be agreed with Cobar Shire Council within six months of the date of physical commencement of development (Condition of Consent A14). If agreement is not achieved within a further three months a contribution of \$2 million is to be paid to Cobar Shire Council (Condition. Of Consent A15).

What happens to the Bogan Shire Council VPA? The BSC Hera VPA will terminate, however, a planning agreement is required to include a contribution to road safety upgrades of the Nymagee- Hermidale Road.

Donna Cutting sought advice regarding continuation of exploration. Robert Walker provided an explanation how exploration will continue within the Federation Project.

Des Hill sought advice about existing exploration tenements in the area. Mark Williams will provide the information through the Chair.

Robert Walker advised that the Hera Accommodation Village is to become a “wet mess” as a liquor licence has been approved. This will permit the regulation of alcohol usage onsite.

Robert Walker advised the Emergency Response Team (ERT) will recommence with the Redpath contractors, however the RFS Road crash team is unlikely to recommence until the site becomes owner operator.

Community representatives asked if Aurelia Metals could help in the lobbying effort to secure the replacement of a police officer in Nymagee. Mark will make inquiries.

## 10 Next Meeting

5 September 2023 commencing at 10.00am