

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

The meeting was held on 26 June 2023 at Peak Gold Mines, Hilston Road, Cobar.

Meeting commenced at 4pm.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)

Julie Payne (Cobar Shire Council Representative)

Kay Stingemore (Community Representative)

Chris Bruce (Community Representative)

Matthew Nuttall (Peak Gold Mines, General Manager)

Laura Newton (Peak Gold Mines, Environment & Social Responsibility Officer)

Sara Waak (Peak Gold Mines, Graduate Environmental Officer)

1. Apologies

Diana Barnes (Peak Gold Mines, Environment Superintendent)

2. Pecuniary and other interests

Nil

- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting** – Minutes of CCC meeting on 06 March 2023 were confirmed and arrangements are being made to have them 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.

Performance Improvement – Peak – January 2023 – March 23

A marked improvement was achieved in production and cost.

Gold, zinc and lead metal production increased more than 20% above the December quarter, benefitting from higher grades in the ore feed.

Construction of the Stage 5 Tailings Storage Facility embankment raise was completed on time and on budget, providing capacity for approximately five years of ore processing.

Work, Health and Safety – January 2023 – March 23

No recordable injuries in Q3 FY23 with a strong safety focus during a period of organisational renewal.

WHS Documents & sitewide templates are being reviewed, updated and submitted for approval.

PGM Members attended and completed a Risk Assessment for Psychosocial Hazard Management.

Mines rescue team organised an Emergency Services Day and welcomed 6 new members and activated BART.

Routine hygiene monitoring was conducted on underground workers and routine emergency evacuation drills were conducted.

A total of 27 Critical Control Verifications were captured over the quarter with 11 improvement actions created from these verifications.

Lag Indicators

January - March saw 8 first aid injuries and 2 report only. 9 Regulator improvement notices were issued and there was 1 reportable incident. This was a fire at the Batch Plant caused by a faulty light fitting.

At the end of March the combined PGM Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) remained steady with the 12-month rolling average at 9.22 & 7 individuals are being monitoring for Blood Lead levels.

Social Licence to Operate – January – March 2023

Community donations totally \$60,766 were reported to numerous local organisations.

See presentation online for details.

Environmental Incidents, Complaints & Initiatives – January – March 2023

There were 2 environmental incidents requiring notification during the period; a dead snake was found on the Tailings Storage Facility. Whilst it was reported to the EPA, due to the lacerations on the snake, its death is not believed to have been caused by operations at the TSF. The other incident was the fire at the PGM concrete batching plant. The mine was evacuated and emergency services attended and all run off was

contained. It was a reportable incident due the monetary cost exceeding \$10,000 & therefore reportable under the POEO Act 1997.

One complaint was received during the period regarding blast vibration. The complaint received correlated to a PGM blast however monitoring data confirmed compliance with licence conditions.

Aurelia Metals donated an awning at St Johns for children to wait under for pick up/drop off.

A “Things that Sting n Bite” event was held at the RSL with funding by Aurelia Metals helping community members to prevent and treat venomous bites & stings.

The Geology team spoke at Cobar High School for the “Teacher earth Science Education Program” with funding being provided by Aurelia.

Management Plans continue to be update and approved by the Regulator.

Environmental Monitoring

Whilst 2 blasts reached the 95% blast vibration limit they did not exceed the blast triggers. Depositional Dust Gauges results for April 22 – March 23 were all under the EPL limits. As was previously noted the December 22 results were rendered invalid due to collection delays, however, there was no non-compliance to conditions.

Organisational renewal Program

As previously noted a number of priorities were identified by the interim CEO including safety, operational delivery and cash management, Federation optimisation, Federation funding and Leadership renewal.

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

Prior to the Hera Process Plant being re-commissioned which is scheduled for December 2025, ore will be transported by road to PGM for processing.

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

Kay sought permission for fireworks to accompany the planned festival of the Miners Ghost. Agreed

Kay requested consideration be given to surface tours of mining operations be arranged as part of the festival. Company will review and advise.

Kay referred to the goats that range across both the mine and museum land and the need to manage the genetics. Noted.

Kay requested an interpretation sign be developed near the mine dust gauge at the museum.

Kay requested the signage on the Federation Walking Track be updated.

Kay indicated that she would like to visit the site of the Queen Bee mine and its village, Illewong. She is particularly interested to find out if the headstone of Lott Maloney is still in the cemetery or if, indeed, the cemetery is still visible. Given the necessity for rehabilitation, also interested to know if any heritage items or landscape can be preserved in situ, and what can be relocated.

Kay also mentioned Wrightville and the traces of the built heritage in the townsite itself, together with the remnants of the mining history associated with the town. She is aware that further testing and/or rehabilitation may need to be done at the site of 'the Pinky'; again, and is interested in preserving / recording the heritage wherever possible. Of particular concern are the remains of the powder magazine, the traces of the railway line and sidings, the railway bridge, and the foundations and footings for mine buildings.

Kay referred to changes planned for the Museum referred to at the June 2022 meeting. The phases are being reviewed and further discussion is needed as to the PGM involvement for storage for larger items.

Kay indicated it would be useful for new mine workers to attend a guided tour of the museum so to understand the history of mining at Cobar.

Kay tabled a proposal for a project to be developed to facilitate accessibility, allowing visitors to engage visually with Towser's Huts. The significance of the site has been recognised by their inclusion on the National Trust of Australia Register. It was agreed PGM would work with Kay to progress the project.

Julie indicated that the Art trail needed reinvigorating, including possible painting a mural on the Peak tank. Any assistance PGM could provide would be appreciated.

Chris queried progress of de-watering the Great Cobar Open Cut. Advice was received that this work is reliant on the Federation Project progressing.

7. Community Engagement Opportunities

NIL

8. General Business

General discussion regarding the PGM housing stock in in Cobar. Five houses are currently being renovated to accommodate senior managers taking up roles at the mine. Six houses are uninhabitable and are proposed to be sold with the proceeds being invested in upgrades of other houses.

Next Meeting

Monday 4 September 2023 commencing at 4pm.