

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

The meeting was held on 4 September 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)

Matthew Nuttall (Peak Gold Mines, General Manager)

Diana Barnes (Peak Gold Mines, Environment Superintendent)

Laura Newton (Peak Gold Mines, Environment & Community Advisor)

Sara Waak (Peak Gold Mines, Graduate Environmental Officer)

1. Apologies

Chris Bruce (Community Representative)

2. Pecuniary and other interests

Nil

- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting** – Minutes of CCC meeting on 26 June 2023 were confirmed and arrangements are being made to have them uploaded to the company website.

4. Correspondence

Mr West tabled draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for consideration and confirmation at the next CCC meeting. The ToR are requested by DPE following a review of the CCC Guideline.

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 – April 2023 – June 23

Ongoing initiatives to lift performance resulted in consistent quarterly ore production at 109kt (MarQ: 107kt) and processing volumes at 107kt (MarQ: 106kt). The quarter saw higher lead-zinc production from a greater proportion of lead-zinc ore (63% vs MarQ: 52%) at better base metal but lower gold grades.

Aurelia recorded a good final result for the 2022-23 financial year.

Major shutdowns were completed for the SAG mill reline and shaft conveyance replacements.

A program is underway to reduce unit costs and lift development rates.

Work, Health and Safety – April 2023 – June 23

There were zero recordable injuries for the six months to June 2023 which is a very pleasing result.

The 12-month moving average Recordable Environmental Incident Frequency Rate (REIFR) reduced by 17% to 2.91 which was a pleasing result. The 30 Jun 22 REIFR was 3.50.

PGM was named as a finalist in the NSW Mining HSEC Awards for Environmental Excellence.

Positive activity:

Lead indicator activity by departments for the period was at full practical compliance.

Random and scheduled Alcohol and Drug testing continued during the period with 489 tests undertaken.

There were 8 non-negative results obtained; Mines Rescue recruited 5 new members, bring the total number to 22; and the Mines Rescue Team completed Underground rescue Phase 1 and 2.

PGM transitioned the site to the Pegasus management system, which is a company wide compliance software system.

Rollout of the PGM isolation of energy Procedure.

A mock emergency evacuation was completed.

A severe weather management plan to include an alert system for lightning events was reactivated.

A total of 79 Critical Control Verifications were captured over the quarter with 6 improvement actions created from these verifications.

Lag Indicators

April had 4 First Aid Injuries, May had 7 and June had 4.

At the end of June the combined PGM Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) remained steady with the 12-month rolling average at 5.89 & 6 individuals are being monitoring for Blood Lead levels.

Social Licence to Operate – April – June 2023

Community donations for the quarter of approximately \$37,000 were reported to numerous local organisations.

See presentation online for details.

Members urged PGM to publicise the community donations program as there is a good message of community support.

Environmental Incidents, Complaints & Initiatives – April – June 2023

There were 2 environmental incidents requiring notification to the regulator during the period. They were both relating to recycled water leaks on the 9th and 15th of June. These are occurring in old poly pipes buried without sand beds. A program of replacement is under investigation.

No complaints were received during the period.

All New Cobar Complex Management Plans (Great Cobar) have now been approved.

Six volunteers from Peak helped run the Outback Science and Engineering Challenge in April.

PGM attended the Rugby League Sponsors Game match to show their support.

Environmental Legal and Approvals training has been completed on site.

Drilling of groundwater monitoring bores were completed in the quarter and drilling of the New Occidental Tailings has been completed.

Environmental Monitoring

No blasts exceeded the blast vibration limit triggers. Depositional Dust Gauges results for July 22 – June 23 were all under the EPL limits. As was previously noted the December 22 results were rendered invalid due to collection delays, and the levels of insoluble solids in Feb/March 2023 for GC2 were due to frogs in the containers.

Organisational renewal Program

The financing package with Trafigura has been finalised with a \$40m equity raise completed and the existing debt facility has been repaid in full. A \$56.8m cash backing will be returned once the performance bonds are replaced.

Byron Quinn has been appointed as Managing Director and CEO as part of a management restructure.

Underground development activities have recommenced at Federation and Michelle Tracey has been appointed as Project Director.

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

Julie asked if Peak was interested in sponsoring Defibrillators for around the town and what other locations needed to be considered.

Julie advised that Council were reviewing options for the future of the old town water treatment plant building and questioned if there was any interest. No use to PGM.

Julie advised that there was a vacant wall on the western side of the NAB building that was suitable for a mural that CSC are looking to have completed and showed Peak for interest if they wanted to undertake a mural on the water tank.

Kay raised the Great Cobar Signs in regard to Diana's email on who made the COBAR sign and approvals that were gained for it.

Kay raised concern that the gate at the rear of the museum was left unlocked and that it was a potential security issue. PGM agreed to monitor.

Matthew referred to the fireworks to accompany the planned festival of the Miners Ghost and sought clarification on potential safety issues. Previous festival procedures will be followed.

Kay confirmed the Festival of the Miner's Ghost will be held on the last weekend of October, Friday 27th to Sunday 30th.

Friday evening will be "A Night to Remember our Lost Miners" at the Miners memorial in the Heritage Park (opposite the Museum). If wet, it will move to the Memorial Services Club. PGM requested for volunteers to form a Guard of Honour during the wreath-laying and to lay a wreath. The event will involve guest speakers; Roger Jackson, (Cobar community and mining history) as well as Therese and Craig Stegman (authors of *Lodes of Gold*) and co-editors of *The Cobar Mineral Field*.

Saturday events will include markets, food, music and children's entertainment in Drummond Park with fireworks in the evening. Cemetery tours will run from 10am.

Kay and Julie asked if a decision had been made to hold surface tours of mining operations on Sunday as part of the festival. Company will review and advise. Sunday to also host a Mini Mining Expo and PGM were sought to be involved.

7. Community Engagement Opportunities

NIL

8. General Business

Mr West referred to the Resource Regulator notice that is due for reporting in February 2024 and asked is it was on track. PGM confirmed they will meet the timeframe.

Mr West advised when scheduling the 2024 meetings consideration will be given to trying to align meetings closer to the end of quarterly reporting.

Next Meeting

Monday 11 December 2023 commencing at 4pm.