

Hera Resources Pty Ltd Community Consultative Committee Minutes

The meeting was held on 12 December 2023 at Recreation Room, Hera Village, Nymagee.

Meeting commenced at 10.20 am.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)
Des (David) Hill (Community Representative)
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine)

1 Apologies

Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)
Bev Ellison (Community Representative)
Donna Cutting (Community Representative)
Michelle Tracey (Federation Project Director)

2 Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 5 September 2023 had been distributed via email and were accepted as a correct record.

4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Mark still to provide des Hill with information regarding existing exploration tenements in the area.

5 Correspondence

NIL

6 Terms of Reference

Mr West deferred finalisation of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) required by the Department of Planning.

7 Company Report

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

Mark tabled a copy of the Draft Federation VPA with Cobar Shire Council.

Federation Project

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

- Redpath Mining Contractors remobilisation recommence Mid – July 2023; **decline restarted early August 2023.**
- Hera to Peak and Burthong Road Upgrades **started September 2023. Works under way with Priory Tank Road intersections due to start late February, early march 2024.**
- Relocation of Mining Offices Hera to Federation January 2024 (**now September 2024**) **(No change)**
- Stage 2 infrastructure (RO Plant, Sewerage System and Server Room) February 2024 (No Change)
- Federation Workshop, wash bay, truck fill point June 2024 (No Change)
- Redpath Contract Decline complete August 2024 (No Change)
- Conversion of existing Hera Workshop into Truck Workshop October 2024 (No Change)
- Owner Operator Transition complete November 2024 (No Change)

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

The Federation Project successfully restarted, and the decline development is ramping up to meet development targets. See presentation for visual overview of development in Decline.

Road Upgrade Works

Drainage works, gravel re-sheeting and lime stabilisation works are underway with works still forecast to be completed by the end of February 2024.

Environment and Community

Priorities include continuing to provide input to the drafting of the new Federation Management Plans to ensure the outcomes are practical and feasible. This activity is critical to the timely commencement of construction and mining operations. Air Quality and Greenhouse

Gas, Blasting, Waste Rock and the Environmental Management System Management Plans are in the final phases of review.

The VPA with Cobar Shire Council is on public exhibition, with submissions closing on 21 December 2023.

Link: <https://www.cobar.nsw.gov.au/proposed-voluntary-planning-agreement-federation-mine-project-ssd-24319456/>

Consolidation and repurposing of the Hera environmental monitoring equipment is being undertaken to meet the needs of the Federation project (ie dust, noise and blast monitoring equipment). Reported at the last meeting that 1 real time monitor had been re-located. The 2nd has now been relocated to the Harris property. The 3rd unit will be relocated to the south of federation. This will enable assessment as to whether dust is related to the mine activities or not.

Complaints

There have been 3 complaints since September 2023.

- 1 October 2023 – Complaint regarding dust from the TSF. A check of the real time monitoring system showed that wind was from the SW and whilst visible it was not blowing towards residences. The dust suppression trial is under way.
- 28 November 2023 – Complaint that road trains associated with road works were parking in the Nymagee village impacting residents. This is not in accordance with the driver's code of conduct and the contractor has been advised not to pull up opposite houses and leave engine running.
- 6 December 2023 – complaint regrading trucks parked on roads to the north of the village. Mark advised he had responded to the complainant in the following terms:
 - *I have inspected the area and it is operated by Nicholsons of Nymagee. It is understood that other contractors and the council use this area occasionally to park heavy vehicles for security reasons.*
 - *The companies involved provide services to numerous other companies and government agencies in the area and are not a sole service provider to the mine.*
 - *The company has no control over the use of this area and Hera Resources does not intend to become involved in this matter. It is suggested you contact Cobar Shire Council as they are the appropriate regulatory authority that control use at a local level.*
- Burthong Road Drainage – there has been ongoing discussions with owners of Four Corners Farm Stay and Four Corners Homestead in response to concerns that water would not be able to cross Burthong road into a shared dam in the corner of their properties. The original design did not show it as being an issue, however once physical works commenced the residents raised concerns and changes in the road design have been made in agreement with Cobar Shire Council. The design change includes the creation of a 5m wide invert (low point) in the road.

Exploration

Exploration works at the Nymagee Copper Mine are ongoing however it is planned to finish by the end of the year with the results due in Q1 2024.

Des questioned if this exploration is part of longer term planning or just meeting regulatory requirements? Mark didn't know the answer and took it as an action. [ACTION]

8 Matters which the Community Representatives wish to raise with the Mine Operator

See General Business

9 Community Engagement Opportunities

Nil

10 General Business

Des requested up to date copies of the Traffic management Plan particularly relating to Driver Code of Conduct and Complaint Handling and also Employee Induction.

Mark advised these management plans were in the process of being updated and can be supplied when the updates are approved by the Department of Planning.

Des Hill sought advice about existing exploration tenements in the area. Mark Williams will provide the information. [ACTION]

11 Next Meeting

2024 CCC meeting schedule:

Tuesday 20 February 2024 commencing at 10am.

Tuesday 14 May 2024; Tuesday 20 August 2024 and Tuesday 26 November 2024.