

Community Consultative Committee Minutes

The meeting was held on 14 May 2024 at Recreation Room, Hera Village, Nymagee.

Meeting commenced at 10 am.

Present at the Meeting:

Garry West (Independent Chair)
Des (David) Hill (Community Representative)
Bev Ellison (Community Representative)
Leon Jimenez-Sarta (Community Representative)
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine)
Matthew Nuttall (General Manager Cobar Region)
Angus Wyllie (General Manager Cobar Region, as at 3 June 2024)

Malcolm Harris (Observer)

The Chair advised the meeting that Malcolm Harris has nominated to join the CCC and his forms have been sent to DPHI for appointment and has been invited to attend as an observer. The Chair welcomed Matthew Nuttall and Angus Wyllie.

1 Apologies

Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)

2 Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 20 February 2024 had been distributed via email and were accepted as a correct record.

4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

The updated Management Plans are still outstanding.

Mark advised he had contacted Cobar Shire Council regarding the future of the Nymagee airstrip as it is no longer required by Aurelia. Members raised concern as to whether it is required for emergency services. Matthew and Angus advised they will discuss with Council.

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.

Cobar Regional Executive Organisational Changes:

On 30 April 2024, Bryan Quinn (MD & CEO) announced changes to the Executive Leadership Team that will support the Cobar Regional Model and the end of life of mine at Dargues.

Matthew Nuttall, General Manager, Cobar region, will step down from his leadership role and will be leaving the Company mid-September after taking planned leave during June and July.

Effective 3 June 2024, General Manager Dargues, Angus Wyllie will transfer to the role of General Manager Cobar region. This will encompass the mining and processing operations at Peak and Federation.

Neal Valk, Acting General Manager Dargues will resume with full responsibility for the operations and closure at Dargues. Neal has recently provided great support to the project team at federation while our operations team was being mobilised.

Now that the Federation Project is well established, after a very quick commencement in August 2023 led by Michelle Tracey, the role of Project Director (based in Brisbane) will be redundant from 30 April 2024 in line with the handover completion.

Effective 15 May 2024, Steve Paiken and Paul Bettinzoli will commence their back-to-back, site based Project Manager positions at Federation in the Cobar Region to ensure the delivery of the workstreams for the Federation Project and report to the MD. The Federation Operational Team will continue reporting to the General Manager Cobar Region.

Federation Project

Key Dates of Interest:

- Redpath Mining Contractors remobilisation recommence Mid – July 2023; decline restarted early August 2023.
- Hera to Peak and Burthong Road Upgrades started September 2023. Works completed at the Federation end. Burthong Road and Priory Tank Road intersection works completed. Kidman Way works will take some time to complete due to the approvals process required from TfNSW. Possible November – December commencement.

- Relocation of Mining Offices Hera to Federation January 2024 now completed.
- Stage 2 infrastructure (RO Plant, Sewerage System and Server Room) February 2024 – onsite sewage system is installed, and new computer server building is completed.
- Stage 2 Civil Works set to commence Thursday 16 May 2024. This involves the area of the ROM pad, paste plant, heavy vehicle access road and new explosive magazine.

The flared collar on the fresh air rise and the shotcreted return air rise developments have been completed along with the installation of a surface to 1230 level ladder.

Environment and Community

Modification 2 to the Federation Project

A Scoping Report has been submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The proposed modification seeks to increase from 200 ktpa up to 600 ktpa of ore from the site to the Peak Mine in AB-triple road trains for the life of the project. The total maximum ore transported from Federation would remain unchanged at 750 ktpa. Retain the existing processing plant at Hera Mine to process Federation ore with a nominal rate of up to 750 ktpa. Where ore is processed at Hera processing plant, there will be no change in tailings management. Where larger volumes of ore are transported to Peak mine, up to 30 ktpa of tailings will be harvested from the Hera TSF for use in paste backfill at Federation.

A minor rearrangement of ancillary infrastructure at the Federation site is sought within the approved disturbance area and inclusion of an 800-kl water tank.

The key environmental aspects identified include traffic, noise, air quality and greenhouse gas and water. When DPHI issue the SEARs, an environmental impact statement will be prepared for submission to the department and subsequent public exhibition and determination.

Malcolm Harris noted that the shoulders on Priory Tank Road are dangerous. Mark indicated issues such as this will be identified in the assessment process.

Priorities and improvement initiatives

Critical Management Plans of water and waste rock have now been approved by DPHI which was required for construction to commence.

The Hazardous materials management plan is close to completion with the final draft sent back to the consultants.

Water Management

A 240 mgl dam is to be constructed to help mitigate water impacts in times of high rainfall. This dam was approved in a previous Hera modification and is planned to be commissioned before the next wet season.

Complaints

Members were reminded of the complaint email hera.community@auréliametals.com.au or by phone 1800 437 264 (call centre 24/7).

Two complaints were received in February in relation to dust from the Tailings Storage facility (TSF). The company acknowledges that dust may be visible on occasion, however monitoring shows that there is no exceedance of dust limits and weather data shows that wind was predominately from the SW and not blowing towards near sensitive receivers or off site.

To assist with water balance on site and dust suppression, misters have been installed and revised. 2 more larger evaporators are about to come online. The misters will assist in keeping the TSF moist and minimise dust.

Exploration

An extract of the announcement of 5 April 2024 to the ASX was circulated at the meeting with the full document available on the company website:

- <https://aureliametals.com/federation-exploration-update>

The announcement shared significant results from its recent exploration programs at the Federation deposit.

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

Concern was expressed by community representatives about the behaviour of some employees at the end of the weekly shift on Tuesdays. The company undertook to remind employees of their responsibility both onsite and in the village.

8 Community Engagement Opportunities

Appreciation for the funding of the Gymkhana scheduled to be held in June.

9 General Business

Des requested copies of the new Environmental Management Plans, particularly traffic, as they are approved. [ACTION]

Dust monitoring program as noted in the February CCC meeting [ACTION]

10 Next Meeting

2024 CCC meeting schedule:

Tuesday 20 August 2024 and Tuesday 26 November 2024.