

Community Consultative Committee Minutes

The meeting was held on 20 August 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)
Malcolm Harris (Community Representative)
Mark Williams (Aurelia Metals Ltd, Environmental Superintendent, Hera Mine)
Angus Wyllie (General Manager Cobar Region) (via teams)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the country on which the meeting is being held and also acknowledged Elders past, present and emerging and all First Nations persons present.

1 Apologies

Graeme Bourke (Bogan Shire Council Representative)

2 Pecuniary and other interests

NIL

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the CCC meeting of 14 May 2024 had been distributed via email and were accepted as a correct record.

4 Business Arising from Previous Meeting

The updated Dust monitoring Management Plans is now available online and the Traffic Management Plan will be available at the next meeting.

5 Correspondence

NIL

6 Company Report

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

Federation Project

Key Dates of Interest:

- Stage 2 Civil works, clearing and sheeting of the Rom pad, paste plant, heavy vehicle access road and new explosives magazine are nearing completion and are expected to be finalised in early Sept

Wet Weather Impacts

- The site has experienced heavy rain year to date and ongoing cold weather conditions impacted on-site water storage levels. This resulted in a temporary pause to underground mining as the site did not have sufficient storage capacity to enable de-watering the mine.
- The 230 megalitre (ML) water management dam is on track for completion in September, weather permitting. It is being built by Toowoomba based company BK Civil. This dam will enable management of water through winter and provide additional storage for summer needs.
- Evaporators are in place on the tailings dam and a water treatment (reverse osmosis) RO plant is operational treating mine water for approved discharge to the back east dam.

Mine Development

- Redpath are now back onsite. Underground mine development at Federation recommenced in early July 2024 and has now returned to 24 hour development activity in the first stope production area in the upper levels of the mine.
- The Hera workshop has been recommissioned to service all light vehicles at Hera & Federation.

Environment and Community

Modification 2 to the Federation Project

In addition to the MOD 2 detail provided at the last meeting the company plans to seek approval to extend the transportation hours of ore from federation mine to the Peak Mine beyond the current approved 7am to 7pm window. Initially, the company will seek to operate trucks until 10pm with the possibility of requesting 24-hour operation in the future. This change will allow movements to be spread out and provide more flexibility.

Des asked if the trucks will be company operated. Mark advised that this option is not being pursued at this stage.

Mal raised concern that the road shoulders are not conducive to safe passing of heavy vehicles and increased traffic of other users. Mark advised the cumulative impacts and road condition of Priory Tank Road will be assessed as part of the environmental studies required.

Priorities and improvement initiatives

Approval to carry out road works on the Kidman Highway is a key priority to enable ore to be

transported to Peak. The company's consultant is progressing a works deed with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and is hoped to be resolved by October.

Complaints

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

No complaints were received since the last meeting.

Rehabilitation Strategy

The company has to prepare a Rehabilitation Strategy to manage the rehabilitation outcomes of the site to satisfy condition B86 of the consent. The Strategy must be prepared in consultation with the Resources Regulator, DPE Water, BCD, CSC and the CCC.

The company must rehabilitate all areas affected by the development in accordance with the conditions imposed on the mining leases associated with the development under the Mining Act 1992. The Rehabilitation must also be generally consistent with the proposed rehabilitation strategy described in the EIS and must comply with the objectives of the project approval.

A draft was provided to all attendees and requested to review and pass on any comments to the CCC Chairperson by 30 August 2024.

Exploration

- Since the May meeting there has been auger program completed on Four Corners (between Hera and Federation) and on the Lyell property.
- Works on Iron Bark were suspended due to the rain and wet access.
- No results have been communicated yet.

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

Des expressed concern regarding the CSC VPA indicating the proposed expenditure schedule was of concern to the Progress Association. Mark advised there was little the company could do with this VPA. The new VPA relating to Federation has better conditions.

Des asked if the wet canteen concept was proceeding. Mark advised there had been no progress on that proposal.

Des noted there has been an increase in heavy vehicles travelling through the village. Mark explained that has been a transfer of equipment from the company owned Dargues site to Federation and Peak.

8 Community Engagement Opportunities

Community members drew attention to the need for extra accommodation to support the clinics operated by the Royal Flying Doctor Service and asked the company to consider what assistance may be provided

9 General Business

NIL

10 Next Meeting

Tuesday 26 November 2024.