

Hunter Valley Operations

Community Consultative Committee

Business Papers – August 2024

Materials ahead of meeting of the committee on **28 August 2024**

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1.0 Complaints

No (0) community complaints have been received since HVOs previous CCC meeting held on 8 May 2024. A summary of all complaints received during 2024 is provided in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**.

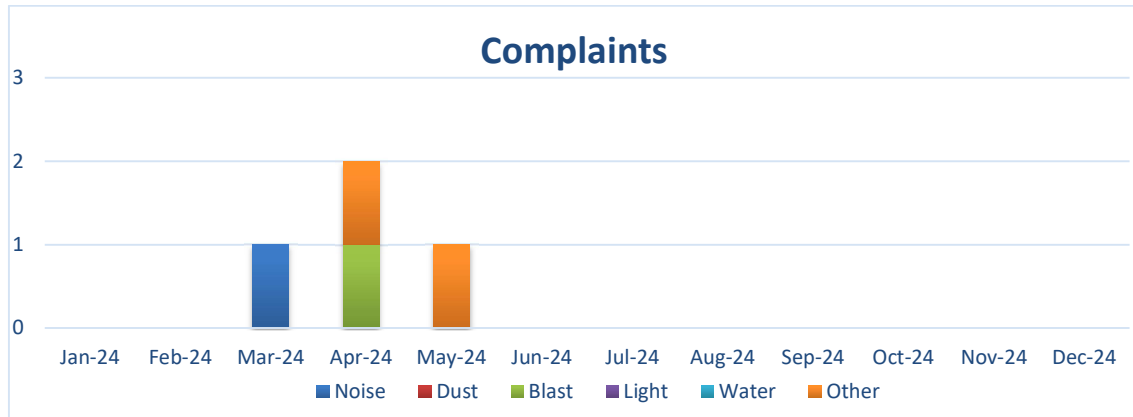


Figure 1: 2024 Community Complaints by Type

Table 1: 2024 Community Complaints Detail 2024

| Date | Time | Nature of Complaint | Mode of Complaint | Monitoring Indicates Exceedance | Brief Description and Response |
|--|---------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| No community complaints received during January | | | | | |
| No community complaints received during February | | | | | |
| 12 March | 8:59pm | Noise | Community Hotline | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 8:59pm regarding noise, commenting that “noise is pretty loud tonight” as well as equipment horns could be heard. • The OCE on duty in South Pit contacted the resident at 9:02pm and horn use and dumping practices – thought to be the causes of the disturbance – were altered and/or stopped. • No noise alarms had triggered within one hour of the complaint. Horn noise was audible from noise recordings at the Jerrys Plains noise monitor. |
| 2 April | 1:31pm | Blast | Community Hotline | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the United Wambo Joint Venture (UWJV) Community Complaints Hotline at 1:31pm regarding noise and vibration from a blast. This was relayed to HVO given they did not have a blast at that time. • A member of the HVO Environment and Community team contacted the resident to advise a blast had been fired in the Mitchell Pit at 1:29pm. • The closest monitor to the resident recorded overpressure of 105.5 dBL against a criteria of 120 dBL and ground vibration of 0.11mm/s against a criteria of 10mm/s. |
| 4 April | 12:30pm | Traffic | Community Hotline | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called the Community Complaints Hotline at 12:30pm regarding traffic incidents at HVO North entry off Lemington Road. • The resident reported that a vehicle exiting HVO North on the afternoon of 3 April failed to stop at the stop sign and almost collided with his wife’s vehicle. They have witnessed other vehicles failing to stop at the same location within the past two months. • A presentation about the importance of road safety whilst travelling to and from HVO was delivered to relevant roles. Vegetation maintenance was performed to increase visibility at the intersection. |
| 3 May | 7:40am | Traffic | Direct call to E&C Officer | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident of Jerrys Plains called an Environment and Community Officer directly regarding a traffic incident at HVO North’s intersection with Lemington Road. • The resident reported that a vehicle (small truck) exiting HVO North at approximately |

| Date | Time | Nature of Complaint | Mode of Complaint | Monitoring Indicates Exceedance | Brief Description and Response |
|--|------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | <p>7:40am on 3 May failed to stop at the stop sign and almost collided with another vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following an internal investigation into the complaint, a site-wide communication about road safety and the 100km/h speed limit along Lemington Road was delivered at daily HCOMs. In addition, road marking, signs and the surveillance camera near the intersection |
| No community complaints received during June | | | | | |
| No community complaints received during July | | | | | |

2.0 Incidents

Eighteen (18) environmental incidents with a Category 1 ranking or above have been recorded so far during 2024. A summary of all incident details are provided in **Figure 2** and **Table 2**.

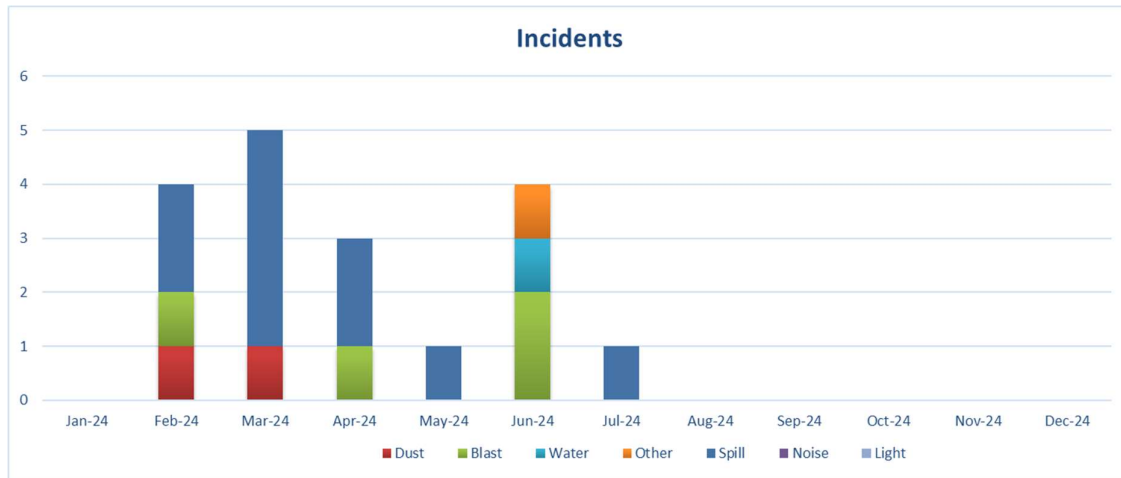


Figure 2: 2024 Environmental Incidents by Type

Table 2: 2024 Environmental Incidents Detail

| Date | Details | Key Actions | Aspect |
|------------|--|---|-------------|
| 5/02/2024 | <p>PM₁₀ dust exceedance – Cheshunt East Monitoring results indicate that on 5 February 2023, the Cheshunt East High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) recorded a total result of 69.1µg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM₁₀, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. Todoroski Air Sciences were engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO’s maximum possible contribution to be 24.4 ug/m³. HVO North was not a significant contributor of this exceedance based on elevated regional dust levels and the monitor being upwind for half of the day.</p> | Implementation of operational controls to comply with the approved Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan. The Department of Planning Housing and Investment were advised of this exceedance on 28 February and an incident report has been submitted. | Dust |
| 9/02/2024 | <p>Drill 213 oil spill A hydraulic oil leak occurred on Drill 213 whilst drilling holes on a drill pattern in Cheshunt Pit. Upon investigation, the drill operator found hydraulic oil leaking from the pump and subsequently found that a filter housing had failed. It is estimate that approximately 100 litres of oil spilled to ground.</p> | Repair of the filter was undertaken to prevent further oil leaking to the ground surface. Contaminated soils were scraped to a depth that staining was no longer visible and removed to the Carrington bioremediation area. | Hydrocarbon |
| 18/02/2024 | <p>Diesel spill at AECl manufacturing facility While conducting refuelling on thermal heater tanks, an operator has opened a diesel valve then has left the area to assist at another task leaving the refuelling operation running. The thermal heater tank overflowed resulting in approximately 3,500 litres of diesel spilling to ground within the AECl compound. The spill was contained by the stormwater system designed for the AECl compound. There was no potential for an offsite spill.</p> | Immediate corrective actions included closing of the diesel valve and containing the spill using designated absorbent materials and constructing earthen bunds. Post event cleanup included vacuum truck removal of liquid materials and excavation and disposal of contaminated soils to the Carrington Bioremediation area. Valves have been changed to spring-loaded, which only operate when in attendance. | Hydrocarbon |

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| 20/02/2024 | <p>Post blast fume event (Level 3B) Following initiation of a blast at 1:13pm in Cheshunt Pit 1, post blast fume was observed coming out of the face rows as well as towards the back section of the blast. The blast was ranked as Level 3B in accordance with the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group (AEISG) rating scale. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast was 5.4 m/s and 171 degrees. Blast fume travelled in a north-westerly direction and dispersed across HVO North.</p> | The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. | Blast |
| 13/03/2024 | <p>Excavator oil spill Excavator 325 was undertaking drill preparation works in West Pit on a bench. As the excavator trammed backwards, it ran over a large rock which caused the travel motor guard to flex and travel motor oil filters to be damaged at the elbow connectors to the filters. This resulted in approximately 100L of oil spilling to ground.</p> | The damaged connector elbow and filters were repaired in the field. The spilled oil in-pit was not recoverable. | Hydrocarbon |
| 13/03/2024 | <p>PM₁₀ dust exceedance – Jerrys Plains Monitoring results indicate that on 13 March 2024, the Jerrys Plains TEOM recorded a result of 51.2µg/m³ for the 24-hour averaging period for PM₁₀, exceeding the relevant criteria of 50ug/m³. A specialist air quality consultant was engaged to investigate the result and determined HVO’s maximum possible contribution to be 13.3ug/m³. HVO’s contribution towards this event was minimal and likely to have been overestimated as only the southern portion of HVO North could have potentially contributed to dust levels at Jerrys Plains and this part of the mine has no active mining occurring.</p> | The Department of Planning Housing and Investment were advised of the exceedance and an incident report has been submitted. | Dust |
| 21/03/2024 | <p>Oil spill adjacent to Parnell’s Dam Whilst undertaking poly welding works at the former shutdown pad adjacent to Parnell’s Dam, the hydraulic oil filter on the poly welding machine became dislodged. This resulted in approximately 20L of oil spilling to ground beneath the machine.</p> | Dirt bunds were formed to contain the oil spill as well as absorbent material applied to soak up the oil. The contaminated soil materials were picked up using an excavator and relocated to the Carrington bioremediation area. | Hydrocarbon |

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| 23/03/2024 | <p>Haul truck oil spill</p> <p>Whilst haul truck RD407 was attempting to tip at WS145 dump, an oil spill was identified beneath the truck. An inspection was conducted and it was identified that the right-hand hoist ram had failed. This resulted in approximately 50L spilling to ground.</p> | The damaged hoist ram was repaired in field. The contaminated material was unrecoverable. | Hydrocarbon |
| 23/03/2024 | <p>Hydrocarbon spill</p> <p>A hydrocarbon spill was identified by a maintainer adjacent to the oil pod storage area at the North workshop. A partially filled 1,000L IBC 50W grade oil pod was found leaking oil onto a hardstand area. The volume of the spill was approximately 80L.</p> | The spill was stopped and contained using a nearby designated spill kit. Contaminated soils on top of the hardstand area were collected for disposal. | Hydrocarbon |
| 12/04/2024 | <p>Lemington fuel facility oil spill</p> <p>An oil spill was detected within the Lemington re-fuelling facility. The cause of the leak was an oil hose reel dispenser valve being left open. Upon further investigation, it was noted that the valve had no handle fitted, which had been broken off prior to the leak. The spill was approximately 400L.</p> | Spill kit matting and drysorb materials were applied to prevent it from flowing into downgradient drains. The area of the spill was contained to the hardstand area of the facility floor. Waste contractor disposed of contaminated materials. | Hydrocarbon |
| 23/04/2024 | <p>EX326 hydraulic oil leak at Mitchell Pit</p> <p>Excavator 326 received damage to its left-hand side hydraulic bucket cylinder pipe after contacting the dovetail tray of haul truck DT479. The damage caused a leak which resulted in approximately 400L of oil to be spilled to the ground.</p> | Approximately 200 tonnes of contaminated coal were stockpiled and later transported and placed at Loop 2 for processing through the Hunter Valley CHPP. | Hydrocarbon |
| 26/04/2024 | <p>Post blast fume event (Level 3B)</p> <p>Following initiation of the P21002001A blast at 11:25am in Cheshunt Pit 2, post blast fume was observed coming out of the face rows. The wind direction and wind speed at the time of the blast were 3.5m/s and 138 degrees respectively, resulting in fume travelling North and dissipating over the pit. The blast was fired in accordance with blasting permissions for wind speed and direction. No community complaints were received relating to the blast.</p> | The blast was ranked as Level 3B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale after camera footage of the blast was reviewed by the blast supervisor, engineer and shotfirer. An internal investigation into the cause of the fume found that cracking in the face rows contributed to the event. | Blast |

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| 22/05/2024 | <p>Haul truck oil leak – South Pit</p> <p>An oil leak occurred whilst undertaking field maintenance on a failed hydraulic pump on haul truck TR784 at the South Pit RL20 crib-hut maintenance bay. After the pump was removed, approximately 200L of oil leaked to the ground beneath the truck. The oil tank was evacuated however was not verified to be empty.</p> | <p>Hydraulic pump replaced and truck moved from the location and remediation works undertaken. This included the excavation of contaminated soils, transport and disposal at the Carrington bioremediation area.</p> | Hydrocarbon |
| 4/06/2024 | <p>Post blast fume event (Level 4B)</p> <p>Following initiation of the P10101003A-P101N5P01A-P10N10P02A blasts at 1:09pm in Cheshunt Pit 1, post blast fume was observed coming from across the blast surface. Fume from the blast travelled from the initiation points in an easterly direction and dispersed above the pit. No community complaints were received relating to the blast.</p> | <p>The blast was ranked as Level 4B in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. An internal investigation into the incident found the blast was impacted by a rain event (approximately 60mm) following loading and before initiation. The blast was initially delayed to avoid impact to the neighbouring glider club. The delay resulted in the rain impact to the blast product. The event was reported to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), no further follow up was requested.</p> | Blast |
| 20/06/2024 | <p>Post blast fume event (Level 3A)</p> <p>Following initiation of blast P209BR601C at 1:07pm in Cheshunt Pit 2, post blast fume was observed along the face row of the blast surface. Fume from the blast was observed to stay within the blast exclusion zone and dispersed onsite. No community complaints were received relating to the blast.</p> | <p>The blast was ranked Level 3A in accordance with the AEISG rating scale. An internal investigation into the incident found inadequacies with product such as gassing properties and product placement were the cause of the greater than anticipated fume.</p> | Blast |
| 22/06/2024 (Cat. 2) | <p>Discharge of mine water from Dam 17N</p> <p>During a routine inspection by the CHPP, a small diameter hose was found to be discharging mine water into Farrells Creek. The hose was connected to a pump dewatering a valve pit at the toe of Dam 17N. The maximum estimated volume discharged to Farrells Creek was 523kL between 13 and 22 June.</p> | <p>The pump was immediately turned off. Water quality testing was undertaken upstream and downstream of the discharge point. Upstream water quality had a higher salinity than the discharged water and downstream samples. It was determined that no actual or potential environmental harm was caused. EPA was notified on 24 June and incident report submitted.</p> | Water |

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|------------|---|--|-------------|
| 28/06/2024 | <p>Clearing outside of GDP 494 boundary</p> <p>A land management contractor was engaged to clear vegetation along the boundary of GDP 494, located adjacent to River ROM. The operator of the mulching equipment employed to clear the boundaries inadvertently cleared vegetation on the incorrect side (outside of the approved boundary) of the GDP pegged limits. The area of disturbance was approximately 0.15ha. The area cleared is classed as rehabilitation, HVO owned land earmarked in the mine plan for clearing during 2024. No listed or protected vegetation communities or species were impacted.</p> | The issue was addressed with the land management contractor | Other |
| 13/07/2024 | <p>Excavator 331 oil leak</p> <p>During works in West Pit, a control valve on a high-pressure filter housing assembly failed on excavator 331. This resulted in approximately 1,000L of hydraulic oil being spilled to ground within the pit. The machine was shut down when the operator observed the low hydraulic oil level alarm had activated.</p> | The machine was inspected and repaired in the field. Remediation works included scraping of contaminated soils to a depth where visible staining was no longer present, followed by transportation and disposal to the Carrington bioremediation area. | Hydrocarbon |

3.0 Community Sponsorship and Events

Local organisations successful in obtaining funding during Round One of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2024 were as follows:

| Proposed Project | Organisation | Focus Area | Amount Provided |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 2024 Singleton Book Fair | Singleton PCYC | Local / regional need | \$5,204 |
| 50 Sparkling Years | Mark Hughes Foundation | Health | \$2,000 |
| Commbx upgrade | Singleton Public School | Education / training | \$4,519 |
| Food for the homeless | Upper Hunter Homeless | Local / regional need | \$3,000 |
| Scout Jamboree | NSW Scout Association | Education / training | \$1,000 |
| SRC wellbeing day | Muswellbrook High School | Health | \$1,542 |
| Singleton Art Prize | Rotary on Club of Singleton on Hunter | Economic | \$2,500 |
| Volunteer support | Singleton Neighbourhood Centre | Local / regional need | \$1,600 |
| Timing system installation | Maitland Tenambit BMX Club | Health | \$4,944 |
| First Aid Course - Year 10 | St Catherines Catholic College | Education / Health | \$4,200 |
| Our Bushland Festival | Cessnock City Council | Environment | \$1,500 |
| ASHS Championships | Australian Stock Horse Association | Local / regional need | \$1,500 |
| Athletic fields upgrading | Sandy Hollow Public School | Health/regional need | \$2,968 |
| Little Bang Science Programme | Singleton Public Library | Education / training | \$4,890 |
| Toilet upgrade at Whittingham facility | Hunter Valley Camp Draft | Health / Local Need / Economic Development | \$4,905 |
| Renaissance Star Reading | Denman Public School | Education / training | \$3,157 |
| Creative Hands | Sunnyfield | Health | \$4,500 |
| TOTAL | | | \$53,929 |

Round Two of the HVO Community Grants Programme for 2024 will be open between 1 – 30 September.

4.0 Environmental Monitoring Documents

Monthly summaries of environmental monitoring uploaded to the HVO website since the last meeting (<https://www.hvo.com.au/documents>) include:

- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – February 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – March 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – April 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Environment Protection Licence 640 Monitoring Data – May 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - February 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - March 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - April 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report - May 2024

5.0 Environmental Documents

Environmental documents uploaded to the HVO website since the last meeting (<https://www.hvo.com.au/documents>) include:

- Hunter Valley Operations Community Complaints Register – current to July 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Agenda – May 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Business Papers – May 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Presentation – May 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Minutes – February 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee Terms of Reference – May 2024
- Hunter Valley Operations Annual Environmental Review 2023
- Hunter Valley Operations Annual Environmental Review 2023 – Appendices A and B
- Hunter Valley Operations Annual Environmental Review 2023 – Appendices C and C