

HUNTER VALLEY
OPERATIONS

Annual Community Consultation Report

Assessment Lease No 34 (1992)

COAL & ALLIED OPERATIONS PTY LTD
ANOTERO PTY LIMITED

4 November 2023 to 3 November 2024

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(A) Title Page

DETAILS OF AUTHORITY

Report Type:	Annual Activity Report/ Annual Community Consultation Report
Authority:	Assessment Lease 34 (1992) (“AL 34”)
Authority Holder:	Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd (ACN 000 023 656) Anotero Pty Limited (ACN 618 503 674)
Original Grant Date:	4 November 2020
Current Expiry Date:	4 November 2026
Project Operator:	HV Operations Pty Ltd (JV Manager for Coal & Allied Operations Pty Ltd and Anotero Pty Limited)
Project Name:	AL 34
Location:	Hunter Valley Operations, Lemington Road, Lemington
Reporting Period:	4 November 2023 to 3 November 2024
Date of Report:	3 December 2024

AUTHOR

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This Annual Community Consultation Report comprises Component 4 of the Annual Activity Report for AL 34.

(B) Introduction

In accordance with Section 163C of the *Mining Act 1992* (“**Act**”), Clause 59 of the *Mining Regulation 2016* (“**Regulations**”), the Conditions of Title of the Authority, and the Department of Regional NSW’s (“**Department**”) Exploration Guideline: Annual activity reporting for prospecting titles, the Annual Activity Report is a single report which comprises the following component reports, each of which is an annual report for the purpose of Clause 59 of the Regulations:

- Component 1A: Annual Exploration Report – Part A;
- Component 1B: Annual Exploration Report – Part B;
- Component 2: Annual Activity and Summary Expenditure Table;
- Component 3: Annual Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Compliance Report; and
- Component 4: Annual Community Consultation Report.

This report comprises the Annual Community Consultation Report.

This Annual Community Consultation Report does not constitute a summary of a work program for the purpose of Clause 64(3) of the Regulations.

Notes:

- 1. Charges for activities conducted on the Authority in the last quarter of the term of any Annual Activity Report may not have been invoiced, charged or processed as expenditure on the subject Authority for the relevant period. Any such charges will be reflected in the next Annual Activity Report for the subject Authority.*
- 2. Every effort has been made to prepare and lodge this report pursuant to Section 163C of the Mining Act 1992, the Regulations and various Guidelines/Procedures issued from time to time by the Department. If the holder has been unable to prepare and submit this report in the content, form and lodgement as required by Clause 59 or by the due date in accordance with Clause 59(2) of the Regulations, whether as a consequence of the most likely causes (statutory constraints, changes to various Guidelines/Procedures issued by the Department, the holder's other commitments or the project geologist being otherwise unable to complete and submit this report due to other commitments) or otherwise, it is submitted that the content, form and lodgement is not intentionally wanting and there is reasonable excuse for any issues relating to the content, form or any delay in lodging the report.*
- 3. The content of this report may not be published, printed or adapted without the consent of the holder of the Authority.*

(C) Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of community consultation activities undertaken during the period 4 November 2023 to 3 November 2024 (the reporting period) for AL 34.

Hunter Valley Operations Mine (**Hunter Valley Operations**) approach to community relations is focused on building enduring relationships based on mutual respect, active partnership and long-term commitment.

Hunter Valley Operations executes its community relations activities in a way most appropriate to our stakeholders and local communities. Hunter Valley Operations engages based on each operation and project, as well as on a more regional approach where appropriate. It is often not possible to separate licencing arrangements within each operation or project for either engagement or reporting purposes.

The area of AL 34 is located within the Hunter Valley Operations complex (**HVO**). Therefore, engagement and consultation on AL 34 occurs within the broader context of HVO. This report reflects the broader engagement program undertaken to support this operation.

No stakeholder consultation directly related to activities on AL 34 was undertaken, as no surface disturbing activities were undertaken within the AL during the reporting period, however Hunter Valley Operations has actively engaged with key community members and stakeholders to provide information and seek feedback on the broader HVO and associated exploration activities including AL 34 through activities such as Community Consultative Committee (**CCC**) meetings and near neighbour engagement.

During the reporting period, Hunter Valley Operations continued to encourage the community to contact the company in a way that suits the individual community members. Communication tools such as the website, community newsletters and freecall community hotline, all of which ensure Hunter Valley operations continues to be an active and accessible member of the community.

During the reporting period, HVO received no complaints regarding AL 34.

During the upcoming 2023-2024 reporting period, Hunter Valley Operations plans to continue to implement community programs and activities to support its operations and projects including HVO Mining and associated exploration areas including AL 34.

While no on-ground activities are anticipated during the 2023-2024 reporting period, should any exploration works be required for AL 34, HVO will conduct a risk assessment to identify and consider opportunities and potential threats associated with the activities. Any risks identified through this process will be addressed and managed through a community consultation strategy prepared in accordance with the 'Exploration code of practice: Community Consultation'.

(D) Community Consultation Completed in Reporting Period

No surface disturbing activities were undertaken in AL 34 during the reporting period, and as a result, no targeted consultation was undertaken with stakeholders regarding AL 34, as demonstrated in Table One. The balance of this Part (D) describes the general consultation that was also undertaken with respect to Hunter Valley Operations and its associated exploration licences more broadly.

Table 1: Particulars of community consultation undertaken in the reporting period specific to AL 34.

Stakeholder details	Consultation details (Date, Time, Location)	Objectives of consultation	Method of recording consultation and collection of feedback	Matters discussed	Comments or complaints received in relation to exploration activity (if applicable)	Action taken to address community concerns (including any alteration to program, if applicable)	Outcome of consultation	Objectives Met (Yes/No)	Assessment against Community Consultation Strategy (and Plan if applicable)
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

General consultation and engagement activities

Members of the community are encouraged to contact Hunter Valley Operations and engage in a way that suits them. Communication avenues in place to support HVO and exploration leases include:

- HVO free call Complaints and Blasting Hotline (1800 888 733), which is advertised in newspapers, website and community newsletters; and
- Online, with information about HVO including latest newsletters, public reports, environmental monitoring results, and information about our Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

During the reporting period, HVO received no enquiries or contacts regarding AL 34 surface disturbance activities.

On 13 September 2024, Terrain Solar notified HVO that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Maison Dieu Solar Farm had been submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and extended an invitation to an information session due to the project area being subject to AL 34.

Hunter Valley Operations has also actively engaged and consulted with key community members and stakeholders. Over the reporting period, Hunter Valley Operations has undertaken a range of consultation and engagement activities, including:

- Near neighbour engagement, including a newsletter and;
- Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultative Committee.

Enquiries and complaints

Hunter Valley Operations provide a number of avenues for community members to register enquiries or complaints, including a community information hotline. Hunter Valley Operations also maintains a 24 hour freecall complaints and blasting hotline, which allows community members to register a concern or complaint at any time of the day or night. The hotline is advertised on the website, regularly in local newspapers, and also in Hunter Valley Operations publications. Calls to the hotline are managed in accordance with a standard procedure, as outlined in **Figure 1** below. Hunter Valley Operations is committed to responding to calls at all hours.

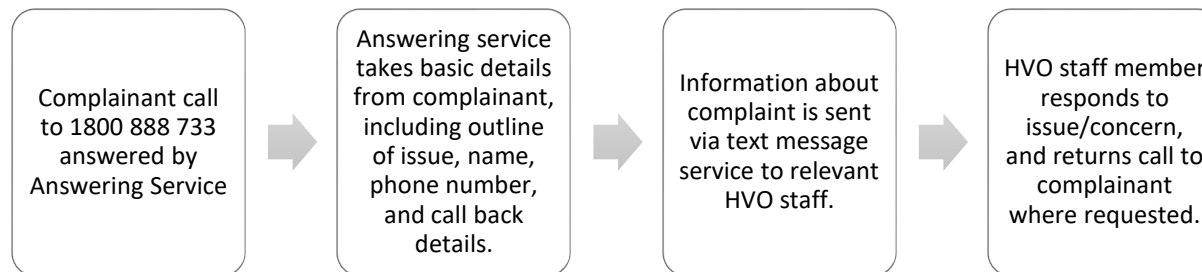


Figure 1: Complaints and Blasting Hotline response procedure.

During the reporting period, HVO received no complaints regarding AL 34.

(E) Government Consultation Completed in Reporting Period

No surface disturbing activities were undertaken in AL 34 during the reporting period, and as a result, no targeted consultation was undertaken with government stakeholders regarding AL 34, as demonstrated in Table Two. The balance of this Part (E) describes the general consultation with government that was also undertaken with respect to HVO and its associated exploration licences more broadly.

While no consultation took place in relation to proposed surface disturbance activities, HVO did lodge a submission with the DPHI in relation to Terrain Solar's proposed Mason Dieu Solar Farm due to it being located within AL 34.

Table 2: Particulars of Government consultation undertaken during the reporting period.

Stakeholder details	Consultation details (Date, Time, Location)	Objectives of consultation	Method of recording consultation and collection of feedback	Matters discussed	Comments or complaints received in relation to exploration activity (if applicable)	Action taken to address community concerns (including any alteration to program, if applicable)	Outcome of consultation	Objectives Met (Yes/No)	Assessment against Community Consultation Strategy (and Plan if applicable)
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

General consultation and engagement activities

HVO consulted with Singleton Council on general HVO (including AL 34) matters via CCC meetings.

Enquiries and complaints

During the reporting period, HVO received no complaints from Government Agencies regarding AL 34.

(F) Proposed Future Consultation

Engagement and consultation planning is undertaken annually for all Hunter Valley Operations and projects and identifies activities in the areas of communication; consultation and engagement; and community development.

HVO plans to continue to implement community programs and activities during the 2024-2025 reporting period in the Singleton region, to support its operations and projects in the area.

Currently no on-ground exploration activities are proposed for AL 34 during the 2024-2025 reporting period. In accordance with the 'Exploration code of practice', should any activities be required Hunter Valley Operations will review and update the Community Consultation Strategy, accordingly, as outlined in **Part G** of this report.

An overview of some of the key activities planned for the next reporting period are outlined in the following table.

Table 3: Proposed consultation activities for the next reporting period.

Stakeholder	Future consultation
HVO CCC meetings	Continuing regular meetings of the HVO CCC, with four meetings planned annually. Additional meetings may be conducted if necessary
Registered Aboriginal Parties	Continuing annual meetings of the HVO Cultural Heritage Working Group. Additional meetings may be conducted if necessary.
Local government engagement (Singleton Council)	Ongoing engagement through various forums including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings with Singleton Council as required for project milestones - Engagement with Singleton Council staff members on specific matters when required
Near Neighbour engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing availability of HVO staff to discuss specific issues, concerns as requested - Distribution of a newsletter to all neighbours (typically two newsletters a year)
Broader community	Maintenance of communication avenues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing advertising in local media when required - Maintenance of contact points, including website and free call hotline.
Business community engagement	Ongoing participation in local Business Chambers, including provision of general business updates when required.
Schools' engagement	Continuing work with local schools to promote education and understanding of the mining industry and promote and support careers in the industry and essential local service industries.

(G) Community Consultation Strategy

In order to maintain effective consultation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with the relevant Conditions of Title and the *Mining Act 1992*, community consultation is, to the extent practicable, conducted in accordance with the Community Consultation Strategy prepared and maintained by holder of the Authority in relation to Exploration Activities.

Currently no on-ground exploration activities are proposed for the 2024-2025 reporting period. In accordance with the '*Exploration code of practice: Community consultation*', should any activities be required HVO will implement the Community Consultation Strategy accordingly and if necessary, review and revise the strategy.

Any Community Consultation Strategy prepared for AL 34 will incorporate the following:

- Outline the objectives of the strategy
- Include a detailed description and analysis of potential community stakeholders
- Describe how community consultation will be undertaken
- Set out mechanisms for revising the community consultation strategy to ensure it continues to meet the requirements of the code.

This must include ensuring that the strategy:

- Outlines a clear process to maintain records of engagement and consultation.

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