



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING No. 114 - MINUTES

Wednesday 08 of August 2023

## Attendance

**Chair:** Paul Carter

**Community Rep:** Roland Roc (online), Heather Bice

**Government Rep:** Andrew Radojkovic (ERR), Glenn Killburn (ERR), Peter Vawdrey (EPA, Online), Carsen Berberich (CHW, Online)

**BGM Staff:** Matthew Mills (Site mine Engineer - tech services), Paul Carter (E&C manager), Georgia Lannen (E&C officer),

**Administrators:** Peter Crooks (Acting as GM in Dale Rogers absence)

**Apologies:** Ben Taylor (CoB), Josh Driscoll (HVP), Michael Poulton (Chair), Dale Rogers (BGM Staff)

Meeting opens: 16:05

## Welcome, Apologies, Introductions

Chair: welcome members and visitors to the meeting; apologies presented.

## Previous Meeting Minutes & Actions

- ❖ Accepted minutes for meeting 113
- ❖ ToR/CoC brought forward for confirmation.
- ❖ Discuss the position of second ambient air monitor.

Chair: The second monitor has had to back to Thomson Environmental for second round of warranty work.

Heather: Do you know where it will be going?

Chair: Once it is returned, we will be selecting a second location in the gully. Which will be reported at next meeting.

Heather: Will you be getting another Ambient air monitor?

Chair: Given the price of each unit, we will not be purchasing any additional monitors

Peter: If we were to get data that was of concern or need to be investigated, we may reconsider.

## Site news

Peter: Operation continues to operate under administration with Hall Chadwich, Normal state of operations has continued. Day to day operations as normal. Administration continue to fund the operation.



Recent approval from EPA for Tailings underground which was always in the original plan. Awaiting on final details required to go ahead.

TSF3 dry stack progressing very well. Have prepared clearing for cell 2 of the dry stack. Will not be required for some months. There is around 110,000 sqm of capacity on cell 1, which will take us through to October – November. In terms of tailings capacity, we are very well under control.

In terms of administration process – 4 different interested parties looking at investing in the operation. Have received very good feedback in terms of getting the business back under control. Matt Mills and the technical team are in the process of getting the technical life of mine information together. Allowing for a compelling story for potential investors. The Ballarat City Councils approval of the TSF4 gives us a significant amount of confidence of a fair sale price.

The sale price will directly impact the creditors which majority are local businesses. The motivation of a lot of the work being done within the operations has been to do with the best return for creditors and the mine.

The administrators have been very good, and they have kept everybody on and kept the business going. Supporting the work that was required to be done for potential investors.

There is a creditors meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, by then we hope to be almost out of administrators. The intent is to have a party locked in and fine print being finalised not long after.

### Exploration Activities

Chair: No active exploration work undertaken over the last quarter. Nil change - Current exploration licenses are located at Snake valley and Buninyong and exploration licences under application are Ballarat West and Little Bendigo.

### Mining Update

Chair:

- ❖ Mining development: 623.1m of development during the quarter, Inclusive of April 151.7m, May 163.2, June 190.9m.
- ❖ This is inclusive of Air legging which started over this quarter. Air legging is a form of handheld mining.

Peter: We re-introduced Air legging in April to mine the narrow vein high grade. Structures that cannot be accessed by mechanised means. To maximise return. With significant promise for long term viability.

Roland: Confirmed the process of air leg process

Chair:

- ❖ Firings: 229 over the last quarter, inclusive of 19 Stopes (Production), 151 development.
- ❖ Stope locations for the quarter were within the Sovereign, Canton and Llanberris

Peter: These are the mechanised stopes that we keep a very close eye, in terms of vibration levels and density of explosions minimising the impact on the community.

Roland: I have been less aware of blasts and I am surprised there have been so many complaints.

Chair: the stope (2.46ppv) we received the most complaints on was one which was on a fault, where the vibration reached the surface easier. The 2 most problematic areas are the Llanberris which is our shallower depth and the canton. We are always looking to minimise our effects as much as possible.

- ❖ Upcoming production – Canton, Sovereign, Golden point, Llanberis and Britannia.
- ❖ Generally get complaints when firing within the Llanberris, as it is the most shallow part of the mine. As well as the Canton, due to the complex geology structures underground.

### Community Engagement & Complaints

Chair:

- ❖ 20 community contacts for the quarter; 9 Complaints, 6 Feedback and 5 proactive community contacts.

### Water Quality

Chair:

- ❖ Surface water quality, within licence limits
- ❖ Demonstrating the location of water quality point on the Yarrowee River

### Vibration Monitoring

Chair -

- ❖ 5 fully automated/remote out in the field – Solar powered, few extra swapping and changing of batteries with the sunshine not as evident in recent times.
- ❖ Vibration monitoring regulation limits:
  - Highest blast was a recorded following a blast in the Llanberris compartment in June 16 registering at 2.19ppv
  - Nil blasts over 5ppv for the quarter – Rolling 12 month average is 0.3ppv

### Air Quality

Georgia –

- ❖ We have our 6 Depositional Dust Gauges located in positions surrounding the Ballarat Gold Mine property.
- ❖ Results for the insoluble solids ranged between 0.11 and 0.74m/m<sup>2</sup>/month.
- ❖ 6 of the 7 returned readings well within compliance limits. There was 1 reading in April-May at Gauge D16 where it was analysed to have 17h/m<sup>2</sup>/month.
- ❖ Further investigation identified a large amount of organic content within the gauge sample. It was determined that exceedance was due to the organic matter and not dust, however a notification to EPA and ERR was made.
- ❖ Our Ambient air monitor continues to be located within White Horse gully. Real time readings are monitored, and data is obtained.
- ❖ The second Ambient air monitor had had to be returned to Thomson Environmental and in the process of being assessed.

### Projects & Approvals

Chair:

- ❖ Have officially had approval to remove sediment from Otway Street site, During the quarter we received a quote for the work once cashflow allows we will be removing the sediment back to TSF3. Part of our rehabilitation for the site we will be handing the site back to DEECA. Hoping the new owner will want to progress that as soon as possible. From there it will be a community decision, what happens with the land.
- ❖ Northern dry Stack stage 1 facility is in use.

Peter: Explained the sections and process of 1a, 1b and 1c.

Andrew: Will that remove the need to have to dry on top of TSF3?

Peter: I am hoping that we are able to manage the dry stack in 2 parts and remove the need to dry on TSF.

Glenn: Do the tailings need to be a certain wetness to stack and compacted properly?

Peter: Absolutely.

Chair: The name dry stack isn't really a good way of explaining the process.

Roland: Does it ever actually dry?

Peter: All of the science says it will never truly dry.

Heather: If the dry stack dries too much will there be dust?

Peter: Once we finished stacking it will be capped with clay and revegetated. The positioning of the monitors will ensure that if there is dust our active monitoring program will pick it up.

Heather: There was a fair bit of dust coming off White horse gully, coming up White horse gully this afternoon. I phoned up to let you guys know.

Peter: That was appreciated, if you ever come across an issue like that. Please call in and let us know. Georgia was up in the Gully monitoring earlier that day.

## TSF4 Update

Chair:

- ❖ Drop in night held by council was held in the quarter for the objectors.
- ❖ The council voted in favour for the approval on 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.
- ❖ Moving on there will be a procedure with VCAT regarding some ongoing objectors.

Peter: The key is in facilitating a session with the objectors to hear what the issues are and what we could be doing better. Which we will be keen to get involved with. As this will help put better systems and approaches in place.

Chair: confirmed that there will be a transition to TSF4 and once TSF is built TSF3 will be closed. There will not be 2 operating.

## Next meeting



Chair: End of the presentation. Any other business to discuss?

Andrew: With the dust reading where you were able to prepare a report for us I just want to confirm it was insects.

Georgia: Correct it was insect eggs/larvae. The Ash content and the organic matter content indicated that the result was not attributable to dust.

Andrew: At other sites they tabulate the respective fractions. The organic V inorganic - the aggregation of the data allows to instantly identify weather of not results are because of dust.

Roland: Is there still Gold at the Ballarat Gold Mine?

Peter: In the administration process we are not going to do work for the future owner's benefit, However Matt Mills and the team have been able to outline and define resources that demonstrate the valuable asset this mine is. There is still plenty of gold. A lot of work has been done since March to improve processes and demonstrate good long-term resource. This mine produces \$100million per year into the region. Providing a great quality of life, lifting the standard of living. If managed effectively in conjunction with a supportive community, there is a great future here. I want to thank everybody for their engagement tonight.

Chair: We will be looking at getting a few more community members on the ERC.

Close of meeting: 16:40

Next meeting: TBA

Actions	Responsible	Due date
<b>Discuss position of second Ambient air monitor</b>	PC	Next Meeting