



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING No. 115 - MINUTES

Wednesday 29 of November 2023

## Attendance

**Chair:** Michael Poulton

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

**Government Rep:** Andrew Radojkovic (ERR), Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Peter Vawdrey (EPA, Online), Tim Giffins (CHW, Online), Mark Palmer (EPA), Antti Mikkonen (EPA), Cr Ben Taylor (Ballarat city council).

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

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

**Apologies:** Peter March (Community Representative)

Meeting opens: 16:00

## Welcome, Apologies, Introductions

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

## Previous Meeting Minutes & Actions

- ❖ Position of 2<sup>nd</sup> ambient air monitor.

Georgia: Advised monitor installed at the northern end of the mine site.

Heather: Why has this been placed there?

Georgia: To ensure monitoring at either end of the mine site, given these locations are closest to our sensitive receptors.

Andrew: Are there any works being undertaken at the northern end, of the waste rock noise bund?

Paul: No work to increasing the rock pile, some works are being done on reducing the size of the pile.

## Site news

Dale Announced the successful Thomson resolution. Voted on by staff and creditors. It was explained that Dr Jean-Michele Paul has been involved with the business since prior to the administration period. He sees significant value in the asset and understands the significance to the economic prosperity of the Ballarat region but also understands the obligations to ensure Balmaine is a socially responsible corporate citizen and that it takes its environmental performance seriously. The group was informed that the administration period would end toward the end of December, although Hall Chadwick would have some role to play in the background to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

## Exploration Activities

Paul: 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

Matthew:

- ❖ Mining development: 745.9m of development during the quarter, Inclusive of July 173 mechanised meters and 78.8 Airleg meters, August 191.6 mechanised meters and 80.8 Airleg meters, September 277.8 mechanised meters and 116.9 Airleg meters.
- ❖ Described Airleg meters as a form of handheld mining.

Paul:

- ❖ Firings: 371 over the last quarter, inclusive of 31 Stopes (Production), 190 development.
- ❖ Stope locations for the quarter were within the Sovereign, Canton, Britania and Llanberris
- ❖ Upcoming production – Canton, Sovereign, Golden point, Llanberis, Britannia and the Vic.

## Community Engagement & Complaints

Paul:

- ❖ 18 community contacts for the quarter; 16 Complaints and 2 feedback/Enquiries.

## Water Quality

Georgia:

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

Chair: Through monitoring the Yarrowee River, have you noticed times where the water quality changes, given the rainfall over the winter?

Georgia: Other than some fluctuations around March this year the results have been pretty consistent, with no real concerns.

## Vibration Monitoring

Paul -

- ❖ 5 fully automated/remote out in the field for the quarter
- ❖ Vibration monitoring regulation limits:
  - Highest blast was a recorded following a blast in the Llanberris compartment on August 9 registering at 5.09 ppv
  - 33 Stopes for the quarter
  - Positive blast performance
  - Monthly rolling average 0.329 ppv

## Air Quality

Georgia –

- ❖ All 7 depositional dust gauges were operating over the quarter.
- ❖ All results were under the regulatory 4.0g/m<sup>2</sup>/month.
- ❖ Results ranged from 0.33 and 1.5g/m<sup>2</sup>/month
- ❖ Our Ambient air monitor 1 continues to be located within White Horse gully and has been since January 2023. Real time readings are monitored, and data is obtained.
- ❖ The second Ambient air monitor returned from the manufacturer following repairs, it was installed in Whitehorse gully temporarily and has since been moved to the northern end of the site to monitor exiting the site towards the sensitive receptors.
- ❖ All results are within NEPM guideline limits for PM10 and PM2.5.

Antti: does your operation run 24 hours?

Georgia: On the surface we do not run 24 hours. As we are bound by noise restrictions.

Antti: At air-watch we present the data is hourly averages. And would recommend you do the same.

Georgia: We present our data over as the 24-hour averages in line with NEPM guidelines

## Projects & Approvals

Paul:

- ❖ As we did last quarter approval to remove sediment from Otway Street site has been received, Part of our rehabilitation for the site we will be handing the site back to DEECA. Once details are finalised with new ownership we will be able to have more of an idea of when this will take place.
- ❖ Northern dry Stack stage 1 facility is in use.
- ❖ Stage 2 of the dry Stack is about to commence construction

## TSF4 Update

Paul:

- ❖ The council voted in favour for the approval on 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.
- ❖ There are 2 objectors post this decision by council, one on health grounds and the other relates to neighbours concerns regarding infrastructure during rain events.
- ❖ Balmain continues to work towards engagement with these parties leading up to the VCAT hearing early 2024.

## Questions/other issues to raise

Chair: Called for any other matters to discussed

Cr Taylor: enquiry regarding Golden point shaft premises on Grant street – When will this be mowed

Paul: We are currently in the middle of our pre summer season works – Our contractor is G&S plantation solutions has a list of works that he is working through. Grant street will be completed very shortly.



Heather: Will there be noise monitoring conducted during the construction of TSF4

Paul: As part of contractor obligations, noise monitoring will be an ongoing consideration

Peter: When will Ballarat Gold mine produce the Respirable Silica results?

Paul: This personal monitoring is conducted by the OHS team who work with WorkSafe. All levels are well below personal exposure limits.

Peter: Have tailings been stored underground yet?

Paul: No this is not yet underway. It will have to undergo specific planning with the tech services and geology team to ensure safe working for all involved.

**Next meeting**

**Close of meeting:** 16:45

**Next meeting:** TBA

Actions	Responsible	Due date