



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING No. 120 - February

Wednesday 27th February 2025

Attendance

Chair: Michael Poulton

Community Rep: Roland Rocchiccioli, Heather Bice

Government Rep: Carsten Berberich (CHW Online), Glenn Kilburn (ERR)

BGM Staff: Paul Carter (HSE&C manager), Georgia Lannen (E&C officer), Peta Steffen (E&C student), Ben maxwell (Tech services superintendent)

Apologies: Peter March (Community Representative), and CR Ben Taylor. Andrew Radojkovic (DEECA), Peter Vawdrey (EPA)

Meeting opens: 15:00

Welcome, Apologies, Introductions

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

Previous Meeting Minutes & Actions

Chair: Passed

Roland : Second

Site news

Paul: first full year under new ownership with \$60M invested, 200+ jobs and \$25 M spent with local businesses

The company have purchased new equipment, two new CAT trucks, jumbo and a cable bolter

Gold prices have remained steady.

Process mill upgrades to increase gold recovery have been approved.

Last stage of the new dry stack completed and commissioned.

Acknowledgement of 12 months since fatality incident onsite.

Exploration Activities

Paul: no significant exploration.



Mining Update

Ben: Mining development: 828.7m of development during the quarter, Inclusive of October 285.5m, November 275m and December 233.5m.

Paul: Firings- 257 firings over the last quarter, inclusive of 16 Stopes (Production), 241 development and air leg firings. Bit low as a result of Christmas period.

Stope locations for the quarter, majority were within the Llanberis but also Golden Point, Canton, Sovereign and Britannia compartments .

Upcoming production – Canton, Golden point, Llanberis and Britannia compartments.

Vibration issues encountered in the Golden Point compartment, due to a geological cross course. It seems to attenuate to surface.

Community Engagement & Complaints

Paul: 10 community contacts for the quarter; 0 non-compliance, 7 Complaints, 3 feedback/Enquiries and 0 proactive community contact.

Water Quality

Georgia: Surface water testing is conducted monthly, throughout the quarter there were no exceedances of our licences limits at the sites discharge point.

Chair: queried elevated Manganese levels at the Yarrowee

Georgia: Low water flow over the last quarter resulted in manganese and other parameters at the top Yarrowee sampling to enrich the water within the lower lying areas. YC1 is located 3.5 upstream of the mines discharge point.

Vibration Monitoring

Paul: 5 fully automated monitors out in the field for the quarter.

Georgia: Highest blast at 2.79 mm/s ppv fired within the Llanberris compartment, It's a great success to see the quarter with such a low Maximum. A testament to the Tech services team and their efforts with the blasting.

Ben: Discussed how the team have been using decking blasts recently, especially within the Golden point compartment to reduce vibrations felt on the surface.

We now have underground vibration monitors, the procedure approved today and tested over the last couple of Stope firings with positive results. This allows us to look in to the wave lengths between the detonation and firings between holes.

Roland: Are blasts greater now than in the past?

Ben: Advised they would be the much the same, as we are working closer to the cross course at the moment, which can result in increasing vibrations being felt on the surface.



Roland: I feel vibrations have been lower than previous years.

Ben: Appreciated the feedback and made comment this may be due to decking now being implemented

Chair: Asked the community members present their feelings felt about vibration over the last quarter.

Heather: I live on the other side of town so I'm not close enough. And no reports from community members to me.

Carsten: No complaints from us

Glen: Ben would you be able to elaborate on the processes of decking for the group

Ben: Decking is where you stagger the blast

This helps reduce vibrations as we are not setting off large amounts of explosives at once

Anything over 40Kg is separated into 2 lots of 20Kg

Chair: Carsten I just thought about the comments Georgia made around water quality, have you had any issues with water quality this quarter

Carsten: We have experienced very little water flow coming from the Yarrowee upstream, we are a large proportion of flow in to the river.

Georgia: There was no flow upstream at YC1 during testing this month, which again is typical for this time of year.

Air Quality

Georgia: Discussed the 2 air monitoring programs – Depositional Dust gauges, passive form of monitoring over a 30 day period. Results are collected and reported to the mine by an independent contractor. Results are then required to be reported.

Continuous Ambient air monitoring of 2 different sized particles PM10 and PM2.5.

Georgia: All 7 depositional dust gauges stationed around the boundary, collects dust fallout. All results returned below 4g/m²/month.

Highest reading D8 was just over 2 g/m²/month, mostly pollen

Air quality monitor – 2 exceedances most likely caused by external sources as seen through northern site monitor 2.

Chair: have the community members present had any issues with air quality

Heather: I did have an issue with dust coming off the northern dry stack



I was walking my dog along the track parallel to the fence on Brittan Street. You couldn't see the dust, but I could smell and taste it in the air. After around 100 meters I began to have a wheeze. I have concerns with the fine dust particles blowing around this area.

Chair: This was recent.

Heather: Monday 24th February around 12:00pm

I have seen a video of dust blowing off the side of the dry stack. You are watering on the top where the trucks are, but the dust is blowing off the sides. Not sure if this is affecting the houses in the area but I was affected. My breathing did recover in a few days.

Chair: Did you report this at the time?

Heather: yes, I rang Georgia

Chair: Georgia in terms of monitoring, was this event being captured?

Georgia: There was no exceedance in PM 10 or 2.5 on the day

After receiving the call, I contacted the team on the TSF and organised for a polymer to be sprayed down to prevent this issue. This has now been applied

Chair: Would the dust be picked up by the monitors or the depositional dust gage.

Georgia: It could be picked up by either

I have seen the video, it was dated for the 27th of January, and you could see pick up off the dry stack, but it dropped away before approaching the internal boundary. The mine is regulated to maintain minimal dust 10meters from sensitive receptors and the video was take in front of the tree line. This tree line prevents dust and acts as a buffer. If walking in these areas is causing issues, we may need to close the walking track as we do have the deed for the area.

Chair: But in the meantime, there is that risk mitigation by coating the dry stack.

Georgia: On days of high winds or total fire ban we do prioritise additional controls to prevent dust so far as reasonably practicable. Such as additional water carts and reducing operations as much as possible.

Chair: Heather, are you comfortable with the response from the mine

Heather: Yes, but it would be a shame if the walking track closed

The dry stacks getting higher to?

Paul: it's at it limit now and won't go any higher.

Heather: Okay, because that reduces the risk of dust coming off the top and over the trees.



Glen: yes, we have spoken to the mine and confirmed that they have reached their limit now and are moving along. We have also been discussing the use of polymers in area that are no longer frequented by trucks. As they move away they will look at rehabbing on top. Waste rock soil then vegetation

Heather: What time span are you looking at for rehabilitation.

Paul : We don't currently have one as the mine is still operational.

Glen: They are licenced to rehabilitate the area but they are still working on the site

Paul : rehabilitation is also linked with the life of the mine. More resources the longer the mine goes

Chair : rehab is long term planning but is apart of the environmental obligations.

Paul : we have paid bonding for that and every time we add new infrastructure we have to update the rehab plans. We have independent contractors for this GHD

Georgia : we do have ongoing controls for the day to day operations. At the moment they placing clay for the liner of the dry stack. The product is sprayed down, at every opportunity but at the same time we are still required to maintain safe environment, and over watering is also a risk, conditions were able to drive on

Paul : I believe everyone on site makes best efforts to control dust onsite. We can't control extreme weather conditions

Roland: what was the wind direction on the day of the incident?

Georgia: it was coming from the north and some of the dust affecting heather that day could have come from offsite sources

Projects & Approvals

TSF4 Update

Paul: Final design was awarded to GHD and should be complete and May-July after a competitive tendering process. Work on gathering documents for Ballarat City Council and their requirements for the Planning permit.

In the process of completing geotechnical assessment and seismic testing to ensure it is constructed safely.

Hopefully we will be able to receive permission to complete reworks for TSF4

Roland: asks for clarification on what is a TSF, and GHD are

Paul: TSF is a tailings storage facility



Carsten: GHD Australian own engineering firm active international and world rebound for dams engineering

Paul: The design will be independently review by experts and built safely to regulatory standards.

Open day

Georgia: Open day was held on 7th December 2024 with over 1500 people attending

Raised over \$2,000 for the kid's foundation

Questions/other issues to raise

Close of meeting: 3:45 **Next meeting:** 21st May 2025

Actions	Responsible	Due date
Nil		