

**BALLARAT**  
GOLD MINE

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 103

Thursday 10th December 2020 4:30 – 6:00 pm

### Attendance

**Community Representatives:** Kim Kippin, Allan Peach, Helen Toriero, Ralph Keil, Cynthia Jardine, Kerry Daniel, Heather Bice, Earth resources and regulation: Andrew Radojkovic, Councillor: Ben Taylor

**CGT Staff:** Henry Wang (General Manager), Mark Davies (Senior Metallurgist), Andrew Dixen (Possessing Manager), Mathew Jackson (Mining Foreman), Jack Aaron (Health and Health Manager), Aaron Preston (Environment and Community Manager), Ramya Gowda (Environment Officer), Oliver Hickson (Environment Officer), Andrew Che (Environment Assistant).

**Apologies:** EPA and Central Highlands Water.

### Welcome

Councillor Ben welcomed all members and attendees. Ben noted he does not want to chair the ERC in the future as he feels there will be a conflict of interest. Councillor Ben has been Chair of this committee for the last four years and has found it was very rewarding to have an involvement with the mine knowing about the environment and licences that the mine adheres to, along with working with other agencies such as ERR and HVP Plantations.

### Previous Minutes

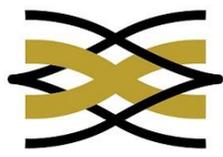
**Follow Up:** No follow up actions from previous minutes, moved by Ben and Seconded by Heather.

**Actions/Matters Arising:** Minutes sent to the committee members and received no feedback. No actions/matters.

### Corporate Update

Mark started by congratulating Ben for re-election as councillor. Within the last 6-12 months it is fair to say we have had a few changes on personnel at the mine however our fundamental commitment to the environment and community is strong and remains strong. With our new team we strive for positive changes as they bring new ideas moving forward. We are still coming up to speed but committed to doing things right, we appreciate everyone's patience and look forward to working together. Today we have 10 team members from all levels of the company including mining engineers, production foreman and our environmental team. 12 months ago, we had 1.5 people on the Environment team and now we will soon have 5.

We are all here for the long run. We have preference to hire locals, we are not interested in fly in fly out staff as that arrangement does very little to build and support our local community. 75% of our staff are residents of Ballarat. We are confident we have a healthy relationship with our government agencies and strive for it to remain that way.



**BALLARAT**  
GOLD MINE

### **Safety and Covid-19**

Mark reiterated that we are working very hard to stay on top of this virus. We have implemented all government recommendations and beyond. We are confident that we have everything under control, we are well placed and trained to respond to any incident.

We are pleased to report that we have had no incidents/injuries in the last quarter being July to September.

### **Exploration Update**

Exploration to the south between Ballarat gold mine and Buninyong. We have got a licence for Ballarat West/Sebastopol

We are gaining momentum at Tarnagulla north of Dunolly which is a historic gold field. We recently started drilling activity up there working from our Maryborough office; our subsidiary Ironbark Mining is running that operation.

### **Mining Update**

Right now, we are producing around 35,000-40,000 ounces per annum. We are well on track to achieving our budgeted tonnage goals.

Last quarter we dug around 1 km of tunnels, of that 50% was ore, that ratio is quite high compared to previous. There is a lot of barren rock to be mined and developed between the ore blocks. We have been focusing on Canton, Sovereign and Golden Point compartments.

### **Community Engagement**

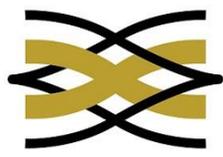
Earlier in the year we had contributed to our Good Neighbour Support Program. The recipients of the 5 grants have been announced.

### **Blast vibrations**

The unfortunate things about mining are blast vibrations a byproduct of breaking rock. It is certainly not our intention to impact anybody, we are always concerned about negative feedback from the community. We are striving to better understand and reduce blast vibrations. It's a very challenging problem, there are techniques that can be implemented such as delaying the detonation interval and refining the number of explosives used to address the situation

We are engaging with several experts as we do not know everything about blast vibration, but we are very experienced. These consultants specialise in blast vibrations and give us advice, especially Orica - the manufacturer of the explosives. We find it is very important that the community gives us feedback. The community is the strongest indicator for us to know if our changes are effective or not.

We have eight blast vibration monitors around Ballarat with some in residents back yards measuring vibrations.



## **BALLARAT GOLD MINE**

This quarter we did have one high reading that measured 6.15 mm/s. Letters were delivered to all residents apologizing for the disruption. We have increased the efficiency addressing complaints, we have eight blast vibration monitors around Ballarat with some in residents back yards measuring vibrations.

In summary what we do has negative impact, it is a challenge, and we are committed to improve on where we stand now.

### **Compliance Reports**

Regarding blasting, 95% must be below 5mm/s, 5% may exceed 5mm/s but not 10mm/s. We remain well below the compliance limits.

No major incidents.

1 minor fuel spill incident in late July, this was reported to EPA.

### **Member reports:**

Kim said she has had a vibration monitor at her house that has since been removed, with regards to the measurements taken, you analyse the results, but do I get a report? Ramya replied yes this can be sent to Kim in an email. Kim had a few other questions of personal interest regarding the mine. Ramya has promptly been in touch with Kim.

Mr peach asked for clarity on what exactly the Good Neighbour Programme was. Aaron, Ramya and Oliver briefed him on the program and the recipients.

Mr peach then asked who determines where the mining monitors are placed. Ramya replied the monitors are placed depending on mining activities underground.

Councillor Ben pointed out that we could be more proactive in updating and communicating the results to the community. We will investigate this in the future.

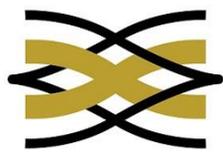
Ralph mentioned that maybe we do not have enough monitors. We have 8 monitors but will investigate getting more if deemed necessary.

Kerry was chatting to his neighbour; concern was raised about cracks on property. Kerry passed Ramya's contacts to the neighbours. Ramya has been in contact prior and following up.

Furthermore, Kerry was asking about annual donation to charities. We will investigate this and confirm.

There was a fire on the northern side of indicator lane. This issue was handled by our security and the fire department. We are working closely with the CFA, Police and Ballarat council.

Allan had an issue starting 12 months ago, he feels his lifestyle has not been the same due to the vibrations. Allan has said he has dealt with eight different people, but nothing has happened. His question was, is the ERC meeting the right forum to express his concerns? Aaron answered Allan's question, by stating that this is certainly the right forum to raise his concerns and that it is unfortunate that he feels disillusioned.



**BALLARAT**  
GOLD MINE

Kim's main concerns are how are the vibrations affecting the houses/property. Oliver explained just because the vibrations can be felt and heard, does not mean there is damage to property. We are well under the compliance parameters that scientific research and the regulators has come up with. We have a self-imposed guideline to keep blast below 2.5mm/s

### **Update TSF3**

Currently we have capacity till May 2021, we want to maximise this facility's potential. We are liaising with ERR and Ballarat City Council. These facilities are all in the existing fence line.

In summary, we are looking to utilise what we have before we look at a crating a new TSF.

### **Other**

The idea of a more proactive plan was suggested by the community. This is something we will take aboard and create a confident plan.

### **Meeting Closed at 6pm**

### **Next meeting 4th February 2021**

## **ERC Action Plan**

### **Tasks for CGT to implement before the next ERC meeting**

- 1 – Provide more detail to the community about our vibrations results - Increased transparency.
- 2 – Upgrade our vibration monitors so that the results are available to the E&C team in real-time.
- 3 – Investigate the potential for a community site visit.
- 4 – Hire a Community Officer