



## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 104

Thursday 4th February 2021 4:30 – 6:00 pm

### Attendance

**Community Representatives:** Helen Toriero, Ralph Keil, Cynthia Jardine, Kerry Daniel, Heather Bice, Roland Rocchiccioli, Earth resources and regulation: Andrew Radojkovic, Glenn Kilburn, Councillor: Ben Taylor, Chair: Michael Poulton

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

**Apologies:** EPA and Central Highlands Water. Kim Kippin, Alan Peach, Cynthia Jardine, Jack Arrow (Health and Safety Manager), HVP

### Welcome

The new chair, Michael Poulton (CEO for the Committee for Ballarat) welcomed all members and attendees. Michael Poulton thanked Councillor Ben for the last four years that he has chaired the ERC meeting.

### Previous Minutes

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

**Actions/Matters Arising:** Minutes sent to the committee members and four items for action are noted and implemented.

1. Hiring of Community Officer
2. Community Site Visit -
3. Purchase of another real time vibration meter
4. Uploading of blast/vibration data onto GPG website

### Corporate Update

Mark commenced the meeting by covering off the assigned action items, commencement of the Community Officer, updated the group on the acquisition of a real time blast vibration data monitor. Once we have the unit in place GPG will be more informed and better placed to attend to the community's enquiries.

GPG are still wanting to conduct community consultation however this will be dictated by the current Covid-19 pandemic and how that progresses.

Oliver Hickson completed an update to how blast and vibration data is presented on the corporate website. Oliver has done an excellent job of ensuring that relevant, understandable information has been made available and it is now as close to "real time" as is practicable.



Mark advised the group of the corporate name change to Golden Point Group, he described the meanings behind the GPG logo.

The group advised that in the previous quarter 20x new positions had been created and filled by either local Ballarat people or people whom have decided to re-locate to Ballarat. There was also 7x new apprenticeship positions filled in this time, the first time in eleven years the organisation has made commitments to younger constituents in the Ballarat community.

Mark made mention of the commencement of the third decline project, to increase the mining horizon above and below our current active mining compartments. This is a huge project for the group and confirms GPG's longer term commitment to the Ballarat community.

GPG has also recently made significant investments in plant and equipment to help fulfill its targeted production schedules.

12 months ago, we had 1.5 people on the Environment team and now we have 4.

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

Mark again reiterated that we are working very hard to stay on top of this virus, it is a dynamic situation and is subject to change daily. GPG continue to implement all government recommendations and to date the groups CV-19 record has been exemplary. We maintain our confidence that we have everything under control, we are well placed, flexible and able to respond accordingly to this dynamic situation.

We are pleased to report that we have had no lost time injuries in the last quarter being October to December.

### **Exploration Update**

Limited news in the last quarter relative to exploration, it has been restricted to existing underground workings. Mark made mention that another entity had taken on the "Ballarat Gold Mine" name and that they had no relationship with GPG.

### **Mining Update**

GPG have a production target of 40,000 ounces per annum. Currently GPG are running behind schedule being halfway through the year and have not quite achieved 20,000 ounces YTD.

Last quarter we extended the mine by approximately 1400m, this has now increased the underground tunnel network that GPG operates in to around 50km. most of the last quarters development occurred in the Canton, Llanberris and Normandy compartments.

### **Community Engagement**

A series of advertisements will run in the Ballarat for the winning recipients of the Good Neighbour Support Program, this is both increase awareness of the recipient's activities in the wider community and the role GPG also plays within the Ballarat Community as one of the region's largest employers.

The last quarter also saw the beginning of upgrades to the GPG website relative to blasting and vibration information. The aim is to increase transparency, knowledge and awareness surrounding the residual effects of GPG's blasting program.



To help fulfill these goals GPG will embed a link to the website and associated information within the blasting alerts that are sent out via text message. It is expected that this will be fully operation in the next quarter.

### **Blast vibrations.**

GPG continued last quarter to reduce their impact on the community with their blasting activities. The meeting attendees heard that there are 5x permanent “base station” vibration metres and 3x roaming metres. The roaming units spent the last quarter in 5x separate residences in order to establish the blast vibration levels in areas other than the established base station units.

In last quarter 2 consultants had been engaged, one being Orica, GPG’s current explosives provider. They determined that the advice given by the previous consultant may not have been in the group’s interests. They suggested that the changes made to the blasting regime by the last consultant have likely increased the residual effects of blasting (GPG changed from a 25 millisecond to 50 millisecond delay on detonation), resulting in increased Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) readings. Upon adopting Orica’s blasting recommendations (return to previous detonation timings), the corresponding PPV results have lowered.

It was mentioned that although this technique might be working in the current area of activity, due to the “chopped up” fractured nature of the ground that GPG operates in, the current techniques might not work in every situation/compartments. To that end GPG are constantly striving to improving their performance relative to blasting and residual vibrations.

### **Compliance Reports**

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

GPG did receive 44 complaints relative to vibration along with 2x related to noise issues (trucks driving on waste rock piles) for the quarter.

No major incidents.

### **Member reports:**

Roland asked how long the most recent stope blast went for. Oliver mentioned it would have been less than 5 seconds, most likely 3. Roland asked how many firings would occur at night during development of the third decline, Oliver responded no more than 2x per night.

Councillor Ben asked if it were possible to add a slide to the presentation and a bit more information in the report, that covered off water sampling locations and dust monitoring in the next quarter.

Ralph mentioned that it would be nice to have how GPG manage the blast vibrations in point form on the website. Also wanted to confirm that blasting would take place through the night during development of the third decline. Mark responded it would, and that it was unlikely to cause issues due to blasting being like development blasts and that we would also be operating further underground. Toward the end of the meeting Ralph acknowledged that there had been less vibrations in the last quarter. It was explained to Ralph that blasting had not been as frequent during the holiday period.



Andrew asked for further explanation relative to dust monitoring around the site. He wanted to know the locations of the dust monitoring units relative to the TSF. Ramya explained that the dust levels that had been exceeded derived from dust monitors situated around the TSF. Andrew wanted to know if we can determine how much dust is generated on site vs dust being measured that originates offset. Ramya confirmed that this information will be included from next quarter report.

Kerry wanted clarification regarding text alerts for blasting during development of the third decline. It was reiterated to Kerry that these alerts are activated for stope blasts only. Kerry also asked if the new monitor would be “real time”. Kerry was informed that it was.

Michael Poulton was interested to know why the blast timing was changed from 25ms to 50ms. Ravi explained that initially it was thought the 50mm timing would help with vibrations and allow them to dissipate.

### **Update TSF3**

Currently TSF3 has capacity till May 2021, we want to maximise this facility’s potential. We are still liaising with ERR (ERR have endorsed the project) and Ballarat City Council.

In summary, we are looking to utilise what we have before we look at a new TSF4 facility.

### **Other**

The idea to provide more information for both water and air quality in the next report was raised. This is something we will implement for the next quarter.

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

### **Next meeting 6th May 2021**

## **ERC Action Plan**

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

- 1 – Provide more detail to the community about water and dust monitoring in the next ERC report.
- 2 – Provide location of dust monitoring units. To be provided in the next ERC presentation