



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 105

Thursday 6th May 2021 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Attendance

Chair: Michael Poulton, CEO of Committee for Ballarat

Community Members: Alan Peach, Ralph Keil, Kerry Daniel, Heather Bice, Roland Rocchiccioli.

Stakeholders: Earth Resources Regulation: Andrew Radojkovic, Glenn Kilburn.

CGT Staff: Henry Wang (General Manager), Mark Davies (Senior Metallurgist), Brendan Carlisle (Possessing Manager), Mathew Jackson (Mining Foreman), Kevin Sun (Acting General Manager), Ramya Gowda (Environment and Community Superintendent), Oliver Hickson (Environment Officer), Jing Wang (Technical Services Manager), Claire Dyson (Senior Geotechnical Engineer), Paul Carter (Community Officer).

Apologies: EPA, Central Highlands Water, Kim Kippin, Cynthia Jardine, HVP.

Welcome

Michael Poulton who chaired his second ERC meeting (CEO for the Committee for Ballarat) welcomed all members and attendees.

Previous Minutes

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

Kerry and Alan made mention that they did not receive the previous meeting minutes.

Corporate Update

Mark commenced the meeting by covering off the assigned action items, advised of Kevin Sun acting in Henry's capacity while Henry attends to personal issues, updated the group on the current mining activity including mine development and ounces extracted YTD.

GPG has also recently commissioned new equipment that had been ordered in previous quarters. This is a significant milestone as the group intends to solidify its long-term strategy for the mine and believes the economic benefits of the mine's activities to the wider Ballarat community is significant.

Mark made mention that the third decline project, to increase the mining horizon above and below our current active mining compartments is on track.

Exploration Update

Limited news in the last quarter relative to exploration, it has been restricted to existing underground workings. Mark did make mention that Ironbark mining had commenced a drilling program in Tarnagulla. The group hopes that will lay a foundation for further commercially viable gold extraction in the future.



Mining Update

GPG have a production target of 40,000 ounces per annum. GPG remain slightly behind schedule being halfway through the year and have not quite achieved their extraction targets YTD.

Last quarter GPG extended the mine by approximately 1681m, this has now increased the underground tunnel network that GPG operates to around 51.5km. Most of the last quarters development occurred in the Sovereign, Llanberris and Victoria compartments.

Vibration and Noise Update

Mark completed an update on the vibration data. He explained that due to having some of the units calibrated, many of the smaller developmental blasts were not being recorded and as such the rolling average has been skewed by only recording stope blasting. On average, stope firings were lower than the previous quarter.

Mark spoke of the vibration improvements that GPG have successfully implemented since re-entering the Canton compartment for blasting. These optimisations are employed elsewhere in the mine.

During the quarter GPG received 31 complaints in total, 26x for vibration and 5x for noise. Many of the vibration complaints were derived from the works conducted in both the Llanberris and Canton compartments. Mark acknowledged that the Llanberris compartment has often been problematic as it is one of the shallowest areas of the mine.

GPG have had slightly larger blast results recorded due to working in shallower areas of the mine, GPG continue to test different designs for blasts to ensure we attempt to utilize best practice to minimize residual blasting effects for residents living above the ground as much as is practicable.

Mark explained that GPG are testing, evaluating, and constantly improving the way we are blasting to reduce our impact to residents as much as is practicable.

Waste rock dump configuration changes

Mark described the changes GPG have implemented to reduce truck noise effecting residents on McManus Dr.

Safety and Covid-19

GPG are pleased to report that we have had no lost time injuries in the last quarter being January to May.

Compliance Reports

GPG did receive 26 complaints related to vibration along with 5 related to noise issues (trucks driving on waste rock piles) for the quarter.

No major incidents were reported.

Community Engagement

Several donations were made to worthy organisations in the wider Ballarat community, of note was the donation of IT equipment to "Flashdrive" an organisation that employs people from the NDIS



program to repair IT equipment which is then sold at a nominal cost to people in the community that might not otherwise afford it.

The community received a formal update regarding the current Llanberris and Canton blasting program. The group was also informed of the letter drop conducted for the TSF one metre lift project.

It was suggested by one of the ERC members that donations be made “to the people that have to experience the vibrations and problems the mine causes”. Where practicable or appropriate GPG will endeavour to fulfill this request.

An update on the community walking track program was provided.

Member reports:

Alan Peach

Allan reported not receiving the minutes to the previous meetings.

Allan believes the community programs that the mine undertakes should be more focused on the areas directly above the mine operations.

Allan stated that the website needs to be updated to show more up to date mining areas.

Allan stated how blasting was “good during the Christmas period and now we are back to how we were.” GPG informed Allan that that very little blasting occurred during this timeframe, as work focused on development. The blast which Allan felt the week beforehand was the first blast GPG had taken in the area near Allan’s property in two months. This blast was optimised to reduce vibration in the same way all other blasts are, the proximity resulted in the vibrating at Allan’s property being worse than previous.

Heather Bice

Mentioned that the letter talking about the TSF raise that was given to residents living along Tinworth Avenue did not specifically talk about noise, however the letter did say that construction works would be undertaken with heavy equipment. GPG deem it not necessary to “re-drop” the letter as it can be implied that undertaking construction works will likely result in some noise increase.

Roland Rocchiccioli

Stated that gold mining is part and parcel of living in Ballarat, however GPG needs to continue to work on reducing the residual effects of blasting as other community members may not be as understanding as himself.

Kerry Daniel

Kerry reported not receiving the minutes to the previous meetings.

Peter March

Peter was concerned about blasting effecting his property and was concerned about the additional vibrations induced by blasting causing rock fall. Brendon explained that stopes are designed to



eliminant that roof collapse and stope inspections and vibration monitoring records would detect such an event occurring. Oliver answered several of Peter's questions about vibration measurement, blast frequency and PPV.

GPG will provide Peter with a map of the current Llanberris workings in relation to his house.

Presentation from Kai Han from Davey Bickford Enaex

As requested at previous ERC meetings, Kai (Engineer from vibration expert) gave a presentation about vibration caused by underground blasting and its effect on surface structures.

Kai answered technical questions from Peter and Roland.

Meeting Closed at 6.30pm

Next meeting 6th August 2021

ERC Action Plan

Tasks for CGT to implement before the next ERC meeting.

- 1 – Quarterly updates to the mining activity map on Ballarat Gold Mine's website.
- 2 – Will deliver the minutes in hard copy as well as soft copy
- 3 – Place greater emphasis on proximity to the mine as a criteria when awarding future community grants.