

31 March 2025

## HVO Continuation Project – Consultation summary

### 1 Introduction

Extensive consultation has been, and continues to be, undertaken with relevant stakeholders for the Project, including neighbouring property owners, members of the local community, Federal, State and local government agencies, service providers, local community groups, Aboriginal groups and the HVO Community Consultative Committee (CCC) members.

Engagement tools include in person and online meetings/workshops, a Project website, emails, phone calls, Project update briefings, community (drop-in) information sessions, Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation meetings and workshop, and the circulation of newsletters.

#### 1.1 Government agencies and regulators

Table 1.1 provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken with regulators and government agencies using the engagement tools listed above.

**Table 1.1** Engagement overview – Government agencies

Stakeholder/group	Method of engagement	Purpose of engagement
<b>Commonwealth</b>		
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).	Correspondence and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPBC Act referral briefings.</li></ul>

**Table 1.1**      **Engagement overview – Government agencies**

Stakeholder/group	Method of engagement	Purpose of engagement
<b>State government agency</b>		
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence, meetings and site visit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefings on key technical matters, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project updates.</li> <li>Final void, final landform and alternatives.</li> <li>Environmental and social assessment outcomes.</li> <li>Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and consultation.</li> <li>Rapid Assessment Framework.</li> <li>Proposed approach to Commonwealth referrals.</li> <li>Response to submissions on the Project.</li> <li>Amendment Report for HVO North.</li> <li>Response to information requests</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
DPHI Water	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to discuss outcomes of the assessment on Carrington West Wing barrier wall.</li> <li>Project update and water impact assessment outcomes meeting.</li> <li>Response to submissions on the Project and Amendment Report outcomes principally relating to updates to commitments associated with the construction of the Carrington West Wing barrier wall.</li> </ul>
Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW)	Meetings and correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefings and discussions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Realignment of Lemington Road.</li> <li>Baseline data and traffic growth rate assumptions in the traffic assessment.</li> <li>Traffic assessment outcomes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	Meetings and correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefings and discussions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach to the noise impact assessment.</li> <li>Outcomes of the noise and air quality assessments.</li> <li>Correspondence to confirm the approach to addressing the assessment requirements relating to contamination.</li> <li>Response to submissions on the Project.</li> <li>Greenhouse gas emissions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Division (BCS)	Correspondence and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing and correspondence relating to Category 1 land mapping.</li> <li>Project briefing on BDAR assessment outcomes and offset strategy.</li> <li>Site visit.</li> </ul>
Heritage NSW	Correspondence and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project update – ACHA methodology and RAP details.</li> <li>Consultation relating to the methodology to investigate CM-CD1.</li> <li>Notification of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment test excavations.</li> <li>Overview of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report consultation and study outcomes.</li> </ul>

**Table 1.1**      **Engagement overview – Government agencies**

Stakeholder/group	Method of engagement	Purpose of engagement
Mining, Exploration and Geoscience Department	Meetings and site visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources and economic assessment meeting and site visit.</li> </ul>
Resources Regulator	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project update – mine design and geotechnical investigations.</li> <li>Project update correspondence.</li> </ul>
Energy and Industry Committee	Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project introduction and overview.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW Health</li> <li>NSW Rural Fire Service</li> <li>Hunter Local Land Services</li> <li>Primary Industries Group (inclusive of Fisheries and Agriculture)</li> <li>Crown Lands Group</li> </ul>	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefing and relevant assessment outcomes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsidence Advisory</li> </ul>	Correspondence and meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefing and discussion on the realignment of Lemington Road.</li> </ul>
<b>Local government</b> Singleton Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> <li>Council Staff.</li> </ul> Muswellbrook Shire Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> <li>Council Staff.</li> </ul>	Correspondence and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project updates.</li> <li>Invitation to/ attendance at CCC Meeting.</li> <li>Discussion regarding the proposed Lemington Road realignment design.</li> </ul>
Elected Representatives (Federal): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Repacholi, Member for Hunter, NSW.</li> </ul> Elected Representatives (State): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Layzell, Member for Upper Hunter, NSW.</li> </ul>	Correspondence and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefings.</li> </ul>

## 1.2      Community stakeholders

Table 1.2 provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken with the community.

**Table 1.2**      **Engagement overview – Community**

Stakeholder/group	Methods of engagement	Purpose of engagement
HVO Community Consultative Committee (CCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ordinary meetings (quarterly)</li> <li>Project update emails (as required)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of environmental and social assessment outcomes</li> <li>Project update on Project progress .Provide an opportunity to receive feedback.</li> </ul>
Hunter Valley Gliding Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence and meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project briefings.</li> <li>Overview of relevant assessment outcomes.</li> </ul>

**Table 1.2 Engagement overview – Community**

Stakeholder/group	Methods of engagement	Purpose of engagement
Directly impacted landowners and nearby/adjacent landowners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerrys Plains</li> <li>• Maison Dieu</li> <li>• Long Point</li> <li>• Camberwell</li> <li>• Long Point</li> <li>• Gouldsville.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project newsletter</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Community information sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project progress updates.</li> <li>• Outcomes of scoping phase community consultation update.</li> <li>• Opportunity to provide feedback/advice about two-way communication channels.</li> <li>• Invitation to attend a community information sessions.</li> <li>• Overview of environmental assessment outcomes.</li> </ul>
Directly impacted landowners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerrys Plains</li> <li>• Maison Dieu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone call</li> <li>• Letter/email</li> <li>• Land owner specific information sheets</li> <li>• One on one meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of property specific information sheets for directly impacted land owners.</li> <li>• Project progress update.</li> <li>• Overview of environmental assessment outcomes.</li> <li>• Briefing on changes to or updated mitigation/acquisition rights.</li> <li>• Opportunity to provide feedback/advice.</li> </ul>
Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) Total: 33 RAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project newsletters</li> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Consultation meetings</li> <li>• Workshop</li> <li>• Distribution of Project materials for consideration and feedback</li> <li>• Fieldwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Project progress.</li> <li>• Notification of Project proposal and registration of interest.</li> <li>• Presentation of information about the Project.</li> <li>• Gathering information about cultural significance and values</li> <li>• Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report.</li> </ul>

### 1.3 Social

As part of the social impact assessment of the Project, the following was undertaken:

- in-depth interviews with near-neighbours predicted to be directly impacted and other community members in the local area
- in-depth interviews with 27 service providers
- in-depth interviews with 5 local council representatives
- community, workforce and supplier surveys
- community information sessions
- RAP social and cultural mitigation workshop.

## 1.4 Aboriginal cultural heritage

Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the processes and methods outlined in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

Ongoing consultation has been undertaken with 33 RAPs since September 2020.

HVO also facilitated a two-day social and cultural mitigation workshop with the goal to facilitate discussions between HVO and the RAPs to identify specific programs or initiatives for meaningful mitigation of the Project's heritage impacts, that would contribute towards Closing the Gap. Initiatives across eight key Closing the Gap themes including health, education, business, financial, employment, cultural, and community were raised.