

Hera Gold Mine CCC

Annual Report 2020

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Hera Gold Mine	Reporting Period:	2020
Independent Chairperson:	Garry West	Proponent Contact:	Jonathon Thompson Group Manager – Environmental

1. Executive Summary

The Hera Gold Mine CCC has operated within the Department of Planning Community Consultative Committee Guidelines during the year.

The Membership consists of:

- Cobar Shire Representative
- Bogan Shire Representative
- 5 Community Representatives
- Hera Mine General Manager
- Hera Mine Environmental Advisor

One community member resigned during the year after the Proponent signed an exploration agreement over part of his property and he commenced regular part-time employment with them. Advertising is currently underway to seek nominations and the department will be advised of the outcome and to request their appointment of replacements.

The CCC continued to operate with the procedure of draft minutes being circulated for comment within 7 days of the meeting and the final minutes being circulated and uploaded to the company website to permit CCC members to use them for their stakeholder consultation activities.

The company presentation at each meeting provides a comprehensive review of workplace and environment issues together with a report on production and exploration activities. This presentation is uploaded to the company website at the same time CCC minutes are uploaded.

As the drought continues the CCC were kept abreast of the contingencies being adopted to ensure an adequate water supply for the continued operations. Another result of the continuing drought was the reporting of more regular elevated dust levels, however, as a result of improved weather conditions there was a reduction in regional dust conditions

The escalation of COVID-19 to pandemic status in March required the site to implement a number of control measures. These measures ensured a safe working environment for employees and the local community.

Hera's three yearly Independent Environmental Audit report review by DPIE was completed in April. DPIE considered that the Audit Report generally satisfied Condition 9 of the consent. Hera is 80% compliant to its licence conditions with the majority of non-compliances being historical or administration related. An action plan

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was submitted to DPIE to address and continually improve Hera's compliance to its licence conditions.

Environmental Impacts for Modification 6 to the Project Approval commenced during the year to permit transportation of up to 100,000 tpa from the Hera Mine to Peak Gold mines with backloads of similar volume of waste rock from the Peak Mine to the Hera Mine; use of tailings underground for backfilling operations; amendment of the current tailings WAD cyanide discharge; extension of the current approval for mining operations at the Hera Mine to December 2026; and an extension of the Project Site boundary to incorporate additional bores proposed to be installed. The EIS was on Public exhibition from 2 – 15 December 2020.

Preliminary planning commenced for the Hera camp expansion to accommodate the existing workforce and future proposed workforce, including additional construction personnel with the development of the Federation exploration and potential mining progressing. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to mine Federation is in the process of being developed.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Four (4) meetings held during 2020, one by way of teleconference
- Company presentations included reports on all site injuries, environmental incidents and monitoring, complaints, production and exploration activities and were included with the adopted minutes and uploaded to the company website.
- The Company contributed to several local community activities and events and supporting local community organisations. CCC members kept the Proponent updated on the local community priorities.

3. Key issues

- Efficient and responsible use of water continued to be a critical management issue during the year, in spite of the eased weather conditions. Contingencies to ensure an adequate water supply for the continued operations were continuously explored.
- The VPA with the Cobar Shire Council remained outstanding.
- Significant focus and attention was applied to improve safety performance over the year, with the introduction of '*Rules to Live By*' which became a mandatory requirement for inductions and received favourable feedback.
- The escalation of COVID-19 to pandemic status required the site to implement a number of control measures to ensure the safe environment on site and to limit interaction with the local community to ensure their ongoing health from the coronavirus.
- An Intervention Plan was implemented at the Hera site during the year with the intention of raising awareness of the importance of good environmental outcomes and reporting. This has resulted in a marked decrease in reportable incidents and a much greater focus on good environmental and community outcomes.

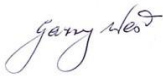
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- Continuing to contribute to key local projects and events remained a focus of the Hera Mine management team, however, some planned events were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- A complaints register was maintained on the Mine website and the CCC was briefed at each meeting on the relevant and current issues.
- Exploration success has been an important driver with drilling efforts yielding significant discoveries.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Exploration and production activities with a critical focus on water sustainability.
- Implementing activities associated with MOD 6 if approved.
- Expansion of Hera Camp.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	2 January 2021