

Peak Gold Mines CCC

Annual Report 2020

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Peak Gold Mines (Incorporating the New Cobar Complex)	Reporting Period:	2020
Independent Chairperson:	Garry West	Proponent Contact:	Jonathon Thompson Group Manager – Environment

1. Executive Summary

Aurelia Metals Ltd completed the purchase of the Peak Gold Mines in April 2018.

The Peak Gold Mines (PGM) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) commenced in May 2019. Initially PGM was not a mine operating under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) State Significant status as the existing mining consents were approved by Cobar Shire Council. However, with the agreement of DPIE and Cobar Shire Council, the CCC operated within the CCC Guidelines framework during 2019.

On 12 February 2020 DPIE issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the New Cobar Complex, establishing the requirement for a CCC in accordance with the CCC Guidelines. DPIE formally appointed Garry West as the Independent Chair on 4 March 2020. The CCC membership was formalised to consist of:

- One representative of Cobar Shire Council
- 3 Community representatives
- PGM General Manager
- PGM Environment and Social Responsibility Advisor
- Cobar Shire Council Director of Planning & Environmental Services, attends as an observer.

The PGM operates with 137 employees of Aurelia Metals (the Company), the parent company together with 204 Pybar and labour hire employees.

The CCC has operated since May 2019 within the DPIE Guideline and this was formalised by DPIE in March 2020, with the 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. Five CCC meetings were held during 2020.

PGM's 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.

The New Cobar Complex Project is unlikely to significantly create any additional jobs (approximately ten new jobs will be required for construction activities), however the life of mine will be extended from 2023 to 2035. The Environmental Impact Statement

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(EIS) technical assessments have progressed during the year with components of the community engagement and consultation via online and print platforms due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The CCC were provided with a detailed briefing for the New Cobar Complex EIS in early December 2020 which involves the development of underground mining from the New Cobar Complex to access and mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits using underground stope mining methods. The EIS is expected to go on public exhibition during Q1 2021.

The mine operates in close proximity to the urban area of Cobar and consequently a number of blast vibration complaints are made to PGM. All are investigated and whilst a few are recorded marginally over 5 mm/s, all other blasts are well below 10 mm/s, therefore within the approved limits.

Dust monitoring at both the mine site and town gauges showed continued elevated levels during the drought, however, results are compliant with licence conditions.

Raw water usage is under constant review to ensure the provision of a water supply for sustained operations.

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.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Five (5) meetings held during 2020, one by way of teleconference (Independent Chairperson and Group Manager – Environment only).
- Significant consultation and input into the New Cobar Complex EIS.
- PGM prepared a Statement of Environmental Effects (SoEE) for a life of mine construction plan for the tailings storage facility (TSF). The CCC were consulted on the SoEE. The SoEE was submitted to Cobar Shire Council and is currently being considered.
- PGM 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 PGM 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.


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- The escalation of COVID-19 to pandemic status required PGM 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. No cases were recorded onsite or in the local community demonstrating the success of the control measures.
- A complaints register is maintained on the Company website and the CCC is briefed at each meeting on the relevant and current issues.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- Life-of-mine construction program for the TSF pending approval by Cobar Shire Council.
- Implementation of New Cobar Complex project pending approval.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	2 January 2021