

Questions for the Hillgrove Community Reference Group meeting 14/5/2026

Hi Kim [Larvotto Community Engagement Officer]
Thanks for the minutes of the last meeting.

Questions to be added to the agenda of the Hillgrove CRG Meeting 14/5/26.

1) Background

The Larvotto Resources CEO has referred, in ASX reports and Larvotto's Annual report, to the production of tungsten from the Hillgrove Mine. He has commented that the company is fast tracking a new, cost-effective recovery circuit at Hillgrove for tungsten.

Question

Has Larvotto received the required NSW Government approvals for tungsten production?

2) Background

I have previously requested information about the design of the dry stacked tailings proposal for the Hillgrove Mine. In response I was provided with a number of scientific papers about dry stacked tailings from Rachelle Domanski. These did not deal with the Hillgrove proposal and the only information I could find in the Modification 5 report are in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and the Human Health Risk Assessment. Neither of these dealt with any of the technical details about dry stacked tailings. So my question remains.

Question

Has the dry stacked tailings design for Hillgrove been prepared and approved by the NSW Government and if so, can this be provided to the CRG?

3) Background

There are quite a number of Development Approvals (DA) for the Hillgrove Mine Area (Mining Lease(s)). There are also six modifications. It is important the CRG has an understanding of the approvals and modifications to clearly understand how renewed mining activities at the site will be managed to prevent contamination of the waterways in the Macleay Valley.

Question

What are the DAs which cover the area referred to above (ie the Hillgrove Mine/Mining Lease(s) site), what is covered in each DA and what are the conditions of consent?

4) Background

Impacts from mining at Hillgrove have had major impacts on water quality in the Macleay River. This is noted in the Save Our Macleay River Modification 5 submission and those from Government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. A constant comment refers to the adequacy of water monitoring. This relates to the connection between surface and groundwater water and the need to improve water monitoring to characterise existing impacts, how these are being addressed and how the Larvotto expansion would avoid contributing to further impacts (See P 3 of the EPA Submission in relation to Modification 5). There is also a potential issue with current monitoring based on a temporal approach whilst the addition of episodic sampling to deal with major flood events seems warranted.

Question

Will Larvotto be reviewing and improving the water monitoring program currently in place?

5) Background

Waste rock management also received a number of comments in Government submissions and the SOMR submission in relation to water quality and management. This relates to high levels of antimony and arsenic generally in the rocks in the area.

The modification 5 report (P 27 section 3.6.5) refers to "Waste rock from the Brackins Spur Mine will be temporarily stored at the expanded waste rock stockpile adjacent to the existing Brackens Spur portal ... on the southern side of Bakers Creek." The proposal is to backfill this material into the underground

workings once mining is complete. Bakers Creek is one of the most contaminated creeks in the area. It is unclear how waste rock be managed to seal it off and prevent additional arsenic and antimony from entering Bakers Creek.

Question

Will Larvotto review waste rock management practices at the mine and provide details on proposed management practices to prevent contamination from its activities?

6) Background

I note that Larvotto was a finalist in the AMEC community award for consultation with the community and has actively engaged with the Armidale and Hillgrove communities.

Question

Has Larvotto extended this engagement to communities downstream of the mine who are more exposed to water pollution?

Thanks

Michael Pemberton (SOMR Rep)