



AVONBANK PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 – JUNE 2021

PROJECT UPDATE

WIM Resource Pty Ltd (WIM) is pleased to advise that the bulk earthworks and contouring of the Avonbank Project test pit site was successfully completed during the last quarter. This enabled standard farming machinery to seed a crop, which has now been undertaken by local farmers.

As part of the rehabilitation, detailed post-mining soil studies were also completed by an independent soil scientist to assist in understanding the effectiveness of the pre-mining soil stripping, and post-mining soil treatment and replacement of sub and topsoils.

WIM continues to make progress with a wide range of environmental and socio-economic studies that will inform the Environment Effects Statement (EES) assessment, currently being completed.

Feasibility related studies including definitive engineering, water supply, power supply, transport and mine design are continuing, with a view to the completion of a Definitive Feasibility Study by the end of 2021. This will enable the company to commence a funds raising process for the project, as well as continue related EES and mining approvals.

In June, WIM will hold the third webinar in the series on the Avonbank Project, as well as other community engagement initiatives.

WIM is also pleased to announce the sponsorship of the Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP). This program supports secondary school science teachers and, as part of this, WIM has sponsored the provision of a Rock Kit to Dimboola Secondary College and one other school in Victoria.



Michael Winternitz
Projects Director

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Next community pop-in information session: 9th July 2021

Next webinar: 16th June 2021



CONTACT US

WIM invites you to contact us with any questions or comments on any aspect of our project as we continue to progress through the approvals and development phases.

- ◆ Web: www.wimresource.com.au
- ◆ Email: admin@wimresource.com.au
- ◆ Free call: 1800 959 298
- ◆ WIM office: 62 Darlot St, Horsham



Figure 1: Gypsum being applied to sub soil



Figure 2: Grading and ripping of sub soil



Figure 3: Topsoil final level



Figure 4: Final Rehabilitated site

TEST PIT REHABILITATION

During the quarter, WIM completed the bulk earthworks with a local Horsham team from Garraway Group, as well as drawing upon other local service providers including surveyors, diesel suppliers, site office suppliers, and diesel mechanics.

The final landform was reinstated such that it was as close to the pre-mining landform as practically possible, and such that it would enable standard farming equipment to operate across the whole site.

Gypsum was added to assist with the overall rehabilitation efforts, and the sub soil and topsoil profiles were carefully placed back over the land in the same order as they were stripped originally.

WIM engaged Christian Bannan, an independent soil scientist, to excavate of several small trenches across the test pit area to allow visual inspection and physical logging of the reinstated soil profile. Samples were taken for analysis to allow for a comparison against the pre-mining soil conditions of the site and the results are still being assessed.



Figures 5 (above), 6 (below left) and 7 (below right): C. Bannan inspecting and logging soil trenches



SPONSORSHIP OF THE TEACHER EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (TESEP)

WIM has made a small sponsorship for the Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP).

This program supports secondary school science teachers and, as part of this, WIM has sponsored the provision of a Rock Kit to Dimboola Secondary College, as well as one other school in Victoria. Rock Kits are a collection of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary specimens safe for students to handle and study, with information about their source and formation.

TESEP has been running for thirteen years. It relies on corporations, geological societies, mines departments, and universities for financial contributions and in-kind support, as well as raising funds via the sale of TESEP Rock Kits to schools.

TESEP has won awards in Australia and overseas, and started as a 'Teach the Teachers', with a multiplier effect on influencing students to engage in science and take up work in industry. It has now moved into delivering earth sciences classes in schools, usually Year 8/early high school level, but is also suitable for primary schools.

The Minerals Council of Victoria (MCA) identified the need for a TESEP Western Victoria Coordinator and arranged for one to be based in Rainbow to roll out the program in the Wimmera and Mallee regions. A school visit program has been set for June in Horsham, Stawell, and Dimboola.

With the growth of gold mining, exploration, and emerging mineral sands projects in the region, and the importance of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects in schools, WIM is pleased to play a small part in supporting the TESEP in regional Victoria and looks forward to further development of its relationship with TESEP.



Figure 8: students learning which minerals form rocks.



Figure 9: an example of the TESEP Rock Kit. Source: www.tesep.org.au



Figure 10: close-up of a sample from the kit. Source: www.tesep.org.au



COMMUNITY POP-IN INFORMATION SESSIONS

Community pop-in information sessions were held at Horsham Plaza on the 23rd of April and at Jung Market on the 24th of April, and these will continue in Q3.

The next session for the Horsham market is planned for the 9th of July. Sessions at other locations in the district will be announced as they are organised.



Social Media Presence

WIM is planning to have Facebook and a LinkedIn company pages up and running by the end of June.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

WIM continues to ensure the local community and other stakeholders are updated on progress on the Avonbank Project, despite limitations related to COVID-19. This engagement provides all stakeholders the opportunity to understand the project, express their views on concerns they may have, and to suggest ways in which aspects of the project might be modified to achieve better outcomes.

Activities

WEBINARS

WIM has held two webinar sessions – on 14th April and 12th May. The sessions covered an introduction to WIM, the EES process and project description. Both webinars were recorded and can be viewed at WIM’s YouTube channel and on the website under **Avonbank EES – Documents and Presentations**. A PDF of questions asked during the sessions, and the responses from WIM, may also be found in the same location on the website.

The next webinar is scheduled for 16th June and will cover Economic Impact Assessment and Surface Water Impact Assessment results. To watch the webinar live, you will need to pre-register. Check our website from 10th June for the pre-registration link.

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP (CRG)

The first in-person meeting was held in April at the Horsham Golf Club. It is planned to continue with in-person meetings in the future subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

HORSHAM OFFICE

The office has been manned sporadically over the last two months. If the flag is out visitors are welcome to call in – please do and browse project information, ask questions, or provide comments. From July 2021, with the appointment of a Stakeholder Liaison Officer it is planned to have the offices open for approximately three to four days per week.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) AND FACTSHEETS

All questions and comments on the Avonbank Project and assessment studies undertaken as part of the EES process, and the responses provided by WIM, are recorded and are available on our website under the **Avonbank EES – Documents and Presentations**. Hard copies can also be obtained from the Horsham Office.

Questions and comments may be submitted via the **Get In Touch** form, by phone or via email located in the Contact dropdown menu on the website.

Additional Factsheets covering the various Impact Assessment Studies will be developed as the assessments are completed.

PRESENTATIONS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

WIM has commenced short presentations to individual community groups, and these can be arranged on request at a date and time that suits both parties.