



AVONBANK PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 – AUGUST 2021

PROJECT UPDATE

The Avonbank Mineral Sands Project (Avonbank Project) feasibility and engineering studies are continuing to progress well, and WIM Resource Pty Ltd (WIM) expects to complete by the end of 2021. The delivery of the feasibility study will inform the capital funds raising requirements for the project to be constructed.

The Avonbank Project test pit rehabilitation studies are ongoing and the crop to date has emerged and established well. Longerenong College Students continue their research efforts at the test pit site, under a partnership with WIM and WIM continues with a range of studies on site.

Environmental and socio-economic studies continue to progress well, as part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES), with the delivery of major studies, such as the noise, traffic, and groundwater studies over the past quarter. WIM expects to have the EES ready for public exhibition by late 2021-early 2022.

WIM is pleased to appoint Murray Wilson to our Horsham team, as Stakeholder Liaison Officer. Murray brings a wealth of local knowledge and experience having held the role of General Manager for the Wimmera Field Days for over a decade. Murray will have the WIM Information Centre open on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, between 9:30am and 3:00pm.

WIM plans to attend the Murtoa Big Weekend event in early October as a Gold Sponsor, as well as continue to hold Webinar Series, with the next planned for the 18th August. These events provide the opportunity for any member of the community to learn about the Avonbank Project and have input.



Michael Winternitz
Projects Director

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Murtoa Big Weekend
- Next webinar: 18th August 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: Hayden Burge on the project site, from Landform Architects, undertaking photography, for input into the EES Visual Impact Assessment.



Figure 2: Christian Bannan and Mick Zealley monitoring the rehabilitated test pit crop trials.



Figure 3: Monitoring ground water flows at the Avonbank Project Test Pit.

EES UPDATE

EES studies for Avonbank Project commenced with establishment of background (baseline) information on a range of environmental, social, and economic matters which potentially could be impacted by the project. This baseline work was largely completed in 2020, allowing impact assessment studies to be undertaken.

Both baseline and impact assessment studies are submitted as they become available to the Victorian Government’s Technical Review Group (TRG), comprised of agencies with an interest in the project. These agencies provide comment back to WIM on reports from the studies.

Additionally, engagement with a range of community stakeholders also provides input for WIM in determining issues and potential impacts of the Avonbank Project which need to be addressed.

Impact assessments – identifying all relevant impacts and any required mitigation or management actions – allow the chapters of the formal EES document to be written, a process currently underway.

Ultimately, impact assessment work and stakeholder input provides information on which the Minister for Planning will make an assessment on the acceptability of the proposed project.

To date, baseline and impact assessment studies completed or nearing completion are:

- ◆ Surface water – view Webinar 3 to learn more
- ◆ Groundwater
- ◆ Noise and vibration – register for Webinar 5 to learn more
- ◆ Air quality
- ◆ Traffic and transport – view Webinar 4 to learn more
- ◆ Economic impact – view Webinar 3 to learn more
- ◆ Soils and landform
- ◆ Visual impact
- ◆ Radiation

To view past webinars, read the Q&As or register your attendance for Webinar No. 5, please go our website or click [here](#).

Further studies are underway and expected to be completed before the end of 2021.

REHABILITATION UPDATE

In 2019, WIM excavated the Avonbank Project test pit, at the proposed mine site near Dooen (*figure 4*). In late 2019, a demonstration scale processing plant was constructed on site and over a period of approximately six months, WIM processed a large sample of ore. The trials were very successful in demonstrating that the Avonbank Project ore body can be mined using standard equipment and using standard wet gravity processing (*figure 5*).

In early 2021, WIM rehabilitated the test pit (*figure 6*). A crop was seeded over the test pit area by a local landholder for the current growing season as part of his normal cropping program (*figure 7*).

WIM continues to monitor the test pit site for a variety of studies, with a focus mainly on plant growth of disturbed, compared to undisturbed areas of the site. Students from the Longerenong College continue their studies, as part of the ongoing relationship with between WIM and the college (*figure 8*).



Figure 4: Avonbank Project test pit.



Figure 5: Avonbank Project demonstration processing plant.



Figure 6: the rehabilitated Avonbank Project test pit prior to crop sowing.



Figure 7: Crop covering the rehabilitated Avonbank Project test pit.



Figure 8: Mick Zealley and soil scientist Christian Bannan with Longerenong College students Megan Clothier, Darcy Gervasoni, and Isabella Grace, inspecting the test pit site.



COMMUNITY POP-IN INFORMATION SESSIONS

A community information session was held at the Horsham Plaza on Friday, 9th July 2021. Future sessions are planned for October, beginning with the Murtoa Big Weekend of which WIM is a gold sponsor. This will be followed by pop-in information sessions at the Dooen Community Hall, Horsham Plaza, and the Jung market. Look out for flyers with more details.



MEET THE TEAM

MURRAY WILSON

Stakeholder Liaison Officer

A Wimmera and Grampians local Murray grew up on a farm at Noradjuha. After moving to Halls Gap, he spent many years leading first response Helicopter firefighting teams in the Grampians. His team leadership skills took him to northern WA, across the top end to FNQ, working on community-based conservation programs. Murray managed large scale Landcare projects with the Wimmera CMA and then had nearly 14 years successfully managing the Wimmera Machinery Field Days. He also brings to WIM many years of involvement at a community level throughout the region from economic development, tourism, and sports. Murray lives in Horsham with wife Clare, two young school-aged daughters, and a new Border Collie pup.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

WIM continues to ensure the local community and all other stakeholders are updated, despite limitations related to COVID-19, to ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to express their views on the project and suggest ways in which aspects of the project might be modified to give better outcomes.

WIM continues to review ways to achieve stakeholder engagement in accordance with the EES Assessment's Scoping Requirements and Consultation Plan while observing COVID-19 restrictions. What is achievable and meaningful has also been discussed with the TRG which has carriage of the EES Assessment.

Activities

WEBINARS

WIM has held two more webinar sessions on the 16th June and 14th July. Webinar No. 3 covered findings from the Economic Impact Assessment (IA) and Surface Water IA studies while Webinar No. 4 covered the findings from the Traffic IA study. The sessions were recorded, which can be found on the webinar page of the WIM website under the [Avonbank EES – Documents & Presentations](#) submenu. The questions asked and answers provided during the sessions can also be found on the website in the same location.

The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, 18th August and will cover the Noise Impact Assessment report. To watch the webinar live, pre-register through the link provided on the Webinar page of our website, on our Facebook page, or by clicking [here](#).

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP (CRG)

The CRG meeting was held on the 8th July via a video conference link. It is planned to hold in-person meetings in the future subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

PRESENTATIONS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

WIM made presentations to both Rotary Clubs in July. If you would like WIM to make a presentation to your club or organisation, please contact either Murray Wilson or Michael Davies.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

WIM's Facebook page is now available, search for [@WIMResource](#) to see our posts, watch videos and register for upcoming events.

HORSHAM OFFICE

With the appointment of Murray Wilson as Stakeholder Liaison Officer, the Horsham office will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9:30am and 3:00pm. Murray is looking forward to meeting community members and provide updates on the project.

FEEDBACK PROCEDURE

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 of the project.

The Guidelines for Stakeholder Feedback has been uploaded to the WIM website to provide guidance on how you may provide feedback to WIM on the Avonbank Project. Your comments on the studies will be welcome and sought.