



## AVONBANK PROJECT WEBINAR NO. 1

# INTRODUCING THE AVONBANK PROJECT

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### *What area will be mined at any one time?*

At this stage, approximately 150-200 hectares of mine footprint will be disturbed at any one time.

#### *Would that be initial excavation through to rehabilitation?*

Initially, a box cut is opened and topsoil, subsoil, and overburden stockpiles created. The initial box cut is 800m long and it extends from there. Once the ore is removed from the box cut, processing starts and the mining phase moves forward. When there is space for the tailings, the direct return rehabilitation can commence.

WIM intends to mine in slots 400m wide, and the longest disturbed area is estimated to be 3km long, with this figure fluctuating as the mine progresses and dependent on waste volumes.

For example, if WIM is mining a shallow strip ratio (overburden) area, while the backfill area is deep, then more area in front is opened. Conversely, if the backfill area is shallow and mining a deep overburden area, then the backfill areas are filled more quickly.

#### *What crop is planned to be planted over the rehabilitated test pit this coming farm season?*

As WIM does not own the test pit area, the landholders have advised that they intend to plant barley this coming season (May 2021).

The questions here were asked during Avonbank Project's Introductory Webinar, hosted on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Moderator:** Paul Atherton, CRG chair

**Presenters:** Michael Davies, Community and Land Liaison Officer, Michael Winternitz, Projects Director, Jarrod Pye, Principal Mining Engineer, Dr John Yeates, Approvals and Environmental Manager



### CONTACT

More information on the Avonbank Project may be accessed via the website [www.wimresource.com.au](http://www.wimresource.com.au).

If you have a question raised by a past webinar or would like to submit a question for one of the upcoming webinars, please email [admin@wimresource.com.au](mailto:admin@wimresource.com.au)

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*Will the barley be harvested this year or be used as green manure to build up the organic layer?*

As the landowner intends farming the test pit area as per the rest of the paddock, it is not anticipated they would leave the barley in the area.

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*Where does the water come from? How much is used at any one time? Does WIM plan to reuse the water?*

At this stage, WIM intends to utilise the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, consuming between 2.5 to 4GL per annum from existing entitlements.

When the pipeline was installed and the trenches removed, the trenches did not lose as much water to evaporation and approximately 15-20GL of water was left in excess.

WIM has been in conversation with GWM Water, and this excess will be the entitlement that WIM plans to use by tapping into the pipeline that runs due north from Longerenong towards the Wimmera Highway, and divert water due west to the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Precinct where the plant will be located.

The main loss of water is in the tails. WIM sets up the tail sails with drainage to recover as much water as possible. From the test pit studies WIM was able to recover around 66% of water before it reached the tails, around 19% stays inside the tail's mud, and around 19% goes into the groundwater. The remaining loss is evaporation and some dust suppression.

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*If the land belongs to the current owner, what is the contractual agreement or understanding with the owner and the mining company? Is there compensation to the landowner? Is the landowner able to say no to having land mined?*

Under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (MRSD Act), the mining company can gain access but requires an agreement with the landowner. The Act is specific about the areas that require discussion prior to agreement.

There are avenues if an agreement cannot be reached, through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Supreme Court. An alternative is a purchase agreement, but WIM cannot compulsorily acquire the land. Certainly, compensation will be paid and an agreement in place.

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*Can you outline what information is on the WIM Resource website?*

There is a button on the home page to sign up for email alerts. When the website is updated with a newsletter, factsheet, or another item, then an automatic notification email will be sent.

In addition, the website has information about the company, the projects, the team, and a dedicated Avonbank EES area for those wanting to learn more about the EES process, including factsheets and frequently asked questions.

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*Is there a plan to have any renewal energy on site? Solar, wind, etc.*

WIM is currently assessing power options. With the Murra Warra Wind Farm and proposed Jung Wind Farm nearby, and other wind farms potentially closer, WIM is examining if these are feasible alternatives to mains power.

Reliability of power is important to successful mining operations. As solar power depends on continual sun and wind power with consistent wind speed, these may let operations down. If WIM was to use renewables. Energy this would potentially take the form of a combination of renewable power with grid power.