



AVONBANK PROJECT  
WEBINAR NO. 3

ECONOMIC AND  
SURFACE  
WATER IMPACT  
ASSESSMENTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Do the additional 25% of the workforce work directly in the mine or are they in part the multiplier jobs in the wider community?*

For the purpose of the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA), the assumption is the additional 25% of workers will be working directly for the project.

The intention of the assessment was to evaluate the impact if a percentage of the workforce was employed externally from the Wimmera Southern Mallee (i.e 25%).

*Does the EIA indicate over 1,200 full-time equivalent (FTE) will come from the Avonbank Project? 656 FTE in the Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) plus additional 588 FTE in wider Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM).*

No. The EIA examined employment through two 'lenses':

1. At a Horsham Rural City level, where the 656 FTE only in this area.
2. If examining the Wimmera South Mallee as a collective (that includes Horsham Rural City), then the estimate is 588 FTE.

HRCC has greater capacity and services that mean the EI of the Avonbank project is realised greater in this LGA of the WSM.

*36 days is 9% not 0.09%?*

Thirty-six days is nine percent of a year. The Surface Water Impact Assessment (SWIA) model period was one hundred years, so this is 0.09%.

The questions here were asked during the Avonbank Project's Economic and Surface Water impact assessments webinar, held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Moderator:** Paul Atherton, CRG Chair

**Presenters:** Michael Winternitz, Projects Director,  
Ben Hughes, Water Technology,  
Michael Davies, Community and Land Liaison Officer



**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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*Where will the temporary accommodation be located?*

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At present there has been no decision on the temporary accommodation location.

WIM Resource Pty Ltd (WIM) is engaging with the community through avenues such as the Community Reference Group (CRG) and webinars to facilitate discussions regarding temporary accommodation and its location, should it be required.

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*Following the successful test pit trial how can community members support and encourage the approval process to a positive outcome?*

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It is important that community consultation forums enable discussion and questions regarding the project.

Participants in such forums can pass on their takeaway messages/findings (such as regarding the SWIA and EIA) to members of their community (for example, they agree that the Avonbank Project will have significant positive impacts).

An alternative method to voice support of the project is to engage with your local government member, HRCC councillor, state or federal Members of Parliament, or the State Planning Minister, and discuss your views with them.

WIM is undertaking a comprehensive and rigorous process. It is helpful to receive positive community support and utilising the above avenues will demonstrate that support.

*Post-Webinar Note: There will also be an opportunity to voice your support for the project more formally, during the EES Public Exhibition Process which WIM expects will be in early 2022.*

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*Is the project planning on using renewable energy sources?*

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WIM is still considering using renewable energy to supply power for the project. It is likely WIM will need to connect to the grid power as the key issue with renewables such as wind or solar is their reliability.

The mine requires a very reliable source of power. The present intention is to connect to the grid through a 66kV line. However, WIM is still examining the potential of a 'behind the meter' arrangement with renewable facilities should that come to fruition. WIM will continue to engage with the community regarding this matter.

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*Are there any radioactive by-products from the process and if so, how are they going to be managed?*

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In terms of waste streams, no there are not.

WIM will be processing the ore through spirals and this process produces a heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) that contains mainly minerals such as zircon and the rare earth minerals monazite and xenotime. These minerals do naturally contain radioactive elements (uranium and thorium), which will be exported as part of the product (HMC).

What is returned to the pit through the tailings stream will be cleaner than what was removed from the ground, via the removal of the HMC from the ore. Therefore, WIM will not be depositing radioactive by-products back into the ground, that are greater than what was in the ore originally.

The rare earths and zircon will be exported overseas. The management of the HMC at the proposed mine site will be managed under a radiation management plan issued by the Victorian Government, which is very stringent. The transportation of the HMC is typically managed under a radiation transport management plan, that is also very stringent.