

# Project Update 2 - March 2022

# **Our growing Community** team

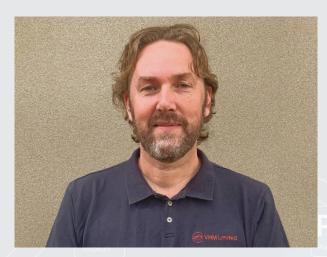
In late January, our Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Vesna Rendulic commenced work in Kerang to deliver VHM's 2022 community engagement program. Vesna will be visible at local events and markets running the Goschen project information stand and greeting you at drop-in information sessions which will be held across the Gannawarra Shire area in weeks and months to come.



Vesna Rendulic - Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

Also part of our site team is Environment and Approvals Specialist, Kurtis Noyce. Kurtis is supporting the Goschen project approval process and working with the various State government regulators and agencies to ensure the Goschen project meets all the requirements of the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

Please do say hello to Vesna and Kurtis as you see them in the community. They will be collecting your feedback about the project, documenting any concerns and issues raised,



Kurtis Noyce - Environment and Approvals Specialist

and answering any questions you may have about the project and the government approval process.

# **Community engagement**

In line with pandemic restrictions easing in Victoria in recent months, we recommenced work on the Environment Effects Statement (EES) approval process in February. A key part of this work is our community engagement program to share project information and gather feedback from community and stakeholders about the Goschen project. As a member of the community, your feedback will inform the impact assessments for the EES technical studies now being prepared.

Part of the engagement program will be to re-activate the Stakeholder and Community Reference Group (SCRG) in coming weeks. The group will play an important role by providing feedback that will help guide VHM with project planning - issues and concerns raised by the group inform the EES technical studies and ensure that project design addresses and mitigates community concerns.

# Where are we in the **Environment Effects Statement process?**

The timeline below illustrates the steps in the EES process and where we currently stand in the overall approval process.

#### **Federal Government**

## State Government



#### September 2018

Project referred to Federal Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).



Environment Effects Act 1978.







#### December 2018

Federal Minister for the Environment determines that project is a controlled action needing approval due to:

- · Ramsar wetland sites
- Radiation
- Listed threatened species and communities

assess all EPBC Act matters.

NOTE: EES process is accredited to

### Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to review EES. February 2019





DELWP invite community to comment.



Minister for Planning issues and publishes final Scoping Requirements for EES.

VHM refers Goschen Project to the Minister for Planning (State Government) under the

Minister for Planning determines that Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required. Technical Reference Group (TRG) established by Department of Environment,

### February - August 2019



Stakeholder and Community Reference Group activated and meetings held.



May 2019 - February 2020 VHM commences EES specialist studies and consults with community.

# February 2020 - January 2022



All EES activity on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic.

# February 2022





Resumption of TRG process.

# We are here:

# February – September 2022



TRG meetings re-activated. Stakeholder and Community Reference Group re-activated. Community engagement program re-activated. Impact Assessments for Technical Studies being prepared.

#### October 2022



VHM provides completed EES to DELWP for final review by DELWP and seeks Minister's authorisation to exhibit the EES.



**Quarter 4 2022** 



VHM exhibits EES and Minister for Planning invites public comment. **Quarter 1 2023** 



Independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee considers EES and public submissions. Inquiry invites submitters to present in person.



#### Quarter 2 2023



Assessment of the EES by Minister for Planning



#### **Quarter 2, 2023**

Federal Minister for Environment and Energy considers the State's assessment to inform approval decisions.

**Project Update bulletins** We will email a regular update

on project progress and publicising

activities being undertaken by VHM.

These bulletins will also be uploaded

on the Goschen project website.

Please let us know:

vhmltd.com.au/registration

if you wish to be included

on the email

distribution list.

Throughout 2022 we will be proactive in gathering your feedback and visible on a regular and frequent basis. Some of the different ways that we will be seeking your feedback include:

#### **Drop-in** information sessions & open houses

To be held at local public venues across the region. VHM representatives and technical experts will be available to chat about the project and discuss the EES technical studies. We will advertise these sessions in local newspapers, on radio and the Goschen project website: vhmltd.com.au

#### **Technical** information sessions

From time to time these sessions will be held to brief interested stakeholders on technical studies assessments and will allow VHM to gather local knowledge and views relevant to technical studies.

#### Goschen **Project website**

The website contains all project information including answers to Frequently Asked Questions, links to relevant government websites and a feedback form and enquiry service to enable us to gather your feedback on the project.

# Contact us

Email: community@vhmltd.com.au

We encourage you to provide feedback and direct any enquiries to:

#### Pop-up information stalls

We will attend local markets and key community events across the region, including shows and field days - keep an eye out for VHM at Kerang, Swan Hill, Murrabit and Cohuna markets.

#### **Personal** meetings

On request we will conduct one-on-one meetings to maintain close and direct communication. These meetings provide informal opportunities for stakeholders to express their views directly and openly to VHM.

## Stakeholder and **Community Reference Group (SCRG)**

This forum is more formal and an independent facilitator will chair meetings with a view to gaining an understanding of social and environmental priorities that will inform project design.



#### Fact sheets/ Information Sheets

Factual information about the project to explain technical information and the EES process. These will be available at drop-information sessions and pop-up information stalls, and can also be downloaded from the Goschen project website. If community members cannot access a digital copy we will post upon request.

#### Advertising

We will advertise in local newspapers and on radio to advise when we will be attending local events and markets, providing updates on the project and related issues, and notifying the broad community at key milestones in the EES process.

#### Stakeholder briefings

We will provide direct and regular face-to-face briefings with key stakeholders, answer questions and seek direct feedback.

#### Surveys

We will conduct surveys from time to time to gauge stakeholder and community attitudes and perceptions of the project and identify areas of concern that require action.

#### Goschen **Project office**

We are currently planning to establish an office in Tate St, Kerang where community members can drop in on allocated days to chat with a VHM representative and learn more about the project.



Website: vhmltd.com.au/contact-us

Telephone: 0429 462 524