

Project Update 3 – June 2022

As we approach mid-2022, works for the Goschen Project in the Gannawarra Shire region have been slowly increasing. Read on to find out what we've been up to.

Airborne geophysical survey

In recent weeks, community members may have seen some newspaper advertisements, and/or received a flyer in their letterbox, advising that VHM will be undertaking airborne geophysical survey work in June.

This activity involves a light aircraft carrying specialised magnetic sensing instrumentation flying in an east-west direction at 100 metre intervals over a designated survey area.

The magnetic sensing instruments can measure extremely small variations in the earth's natural magnetic field, and magnetic variations within different rock types are used to map the underlying geology to help predict the location of minerals.

The survey work will be undertaken in VHM's exploration licence areas in parts of the Gannawarra, Swan Hill and Buloke Shire areas.

Any queries about this work can be directed to the VHM Community team on 0429 462 524 or email community@vhmtd.com.au.

Metallurgical drilling program

Kerang residents may have seen a number of VHM vehicles driving around town lately and a bit more activity around the VHM warehouse in Tate Drive.

The extra hi viz-wearing personnel around town are VHM's specialised field crew and drilling teams who are currently operating three drill rigs to obtain both soil and mineral samples for the Goschen Project. Several tonnes of samples are being collected, logged, sorted, packaged and sent to laboratories in Queensland for analysis.

Importantly, the mineral samples are being metallurgically analysed to ensure that the mineral separation plant is designed to suit the mineralogy of the area and then built to perform at optimal level.

Further testing and refining is also taking place to ensure that different soil layers are fully understood. For example, if mining is allowed to commence, all topsoil would be carefully removed, then stored while mining takes place. On completion of mining, the pit would be filled with mine tailings, then the topsoil reinstated and conditioned to ensure cropping (pre-mining land-use) would continue. This is the key outcome of mine rehabilitation works.

All drilling activities are conducted under licence in accordance with Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) guidelines. ERR is the government department that regulates the resource industry in Victoria.



A sonic drill rig in action. This technique utilises ultrasonic vibrations with slow rotation to cut through the ground to obtain a 7-inch diameter core which is a larger sample suitable for metallurgical test work.

Community engagement

You may have seen VHM out and about at local markets in recent times. Our community and stakeholder engagement advisor Vesna Rendulic has been literally popping up with an information stand at the Murrabit, Cohuna, and Kerang markets, and soon to be at Swan Hill as well. Do stop and have a chat with Vesna to find out more about the Goschen Project and where we're up to in the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. With a sample taken from the Goschen project area, Vesna is also keen to demonstrate how we separate the heavy minerals from the sands.

Where we are in the EES process

Since 2018, a wide range of technical studies have been undertaken in line with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. In March 2022 a group of government departments and agencies began progressively reviewing technical studies which form the baseline from which potential impacts as a result of mining can be assessed.

Some of these studies include air quality, noise, biodiversity, cultural heritage, landscape and visual, and traffic and transport, and assess and measure existing environmental conditions. The reviewing agencies, known as the Technical Reference Group (TRG), ensures that all potential impacts from a mining operation have been considered and addressed. Following the TRG review, the findings from these studies, and the resulting environmental management commitments, will be presented to the wider Gannawarra community

VHM will advertise broadly when these presentations will occur so stay tuned for announcements in local newspapers, on radio, and keep an eye on the VHM website - [Community – VHM Ltd.](https://www.vhmltd.com.au/Community-VHM-Ltd)

Community support

Since our previous Project Updates in March, VHM has been proudly supporting community through local sponsorships. Our 2022 sponsorship program kicked off with the Rotary Club of Kerang Annual Art Show during the Easter weekend. Attracting 470 artworks and all on display, it was a tremendous event on the Kerang social calendar and testament to the enjoyment this brings to community as the Annual Art Show approaches its milestone 20th anniversary in 2023.

VHM recognises that football and netball are key sporting and social activities that bind and strengthen regional communities in Victoria. As this year's football-netball season got underway, we did not hesitate to commit to becoming Major Sponsor for the Golden Rivers Football-Netball League for the next three years. VHM is also supporting the Junior Netball Interleague, and we offer our congratulations to all Interleague players who gallantly represented the region at the Northern Zone tournament in early June.

VHM continues its close association with the Mallee Eagles Football-Netball Club in Lalbert and we wish the Mallee Eagles, and all football and netball teams in the Central Murray League well as they vie for a place in the Finals in a couple of months' time.



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Presentation

Contact us

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

Email: community@vhmltd.com.au

Telephone: 0429 462 524

Website: [vhmltd.com.au/contact-us](https://www.vhmltd.com.au/contact-us)