



Project Update 2 - November 2023

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2023. We have now reached a major Project milestone with public exhibition of the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

EES released for public exhibition

The Victorian Minister for Planning has required VHM to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) to assess the environmental effects of the proposed Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project.

Commencing on 20th November 2023, the EES, together with a draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) and EPA Development Licence application, is on public exhibition for 40 business days.

This is an exciting time for VHM and is the culmination of years of studies, engagement and planning.

The full EES, and accompanying documents, are available on our website: vhmltd.com.au/ees, as well as guidance notes on how to make a submission. Hard copies of the suite of documents, are available for perusal at the Sir John Gorton Library Kerang, Swan Hill Regional Library, and at both the Gannawarra and Swan Hill Council offices. A copy is also available at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne.

If you have connectivity issues, a hard copy of an EES Summary Brochure and a USB containing the full EES and accompanying documents can be requested by emailing community@vhmltd.com.au or calling (03) 5450 8804. This will be sent via Australia Post upon request. Alternatively, we can email an EES Information Pack containing all the links to view the Summary Brochure and EES document suite on line on our website.

We encourage you to have your say by making a submission. All submissions are made directly to Planning Panels Victoria and instructions can be found at engage.vic.gov.au/Goschen-IAC. The public submission process is independently managed by Planning Panels Victoria.

Following public exhibition, the EES, draft PSA, draft EPA Work Plan and written submissions will be reviewed by an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning. In early 2024 the IAC will hold a Directions Hearing and formal public hearings to hear from VHM and any submitters who want to be heard.

ICN Gateway is now live

VHM is pleased to announce that the Goschen Project is now registered on the ICN Gateway – a digital platform that supports local industry participation, allows small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the opportunity to compete for work on major projects, and assists us with the Project procurement process.

As we work towards obtaining all the relevant approvals for the Project, we will be posting work packages on the ICN Gateway with a view to sourcing as many local contractors, subcontractors and suppliers as possible, and preferencing those that are registered on the Project's ICN supplier database.

If you are a business or a supplier in the Loddon Mallee region interested in working with, and servicing, the Goschen Project, we encourage you to create a company profile using the

template on the ICN Gateway: gateway.icn.org.au/docs/Creating_an_ICN_Gateway_Company_Profile.pdf. Once your company profile is created, you can then register an Expression of Interest to provide services to the Goschen Project – refer to the User Guide: gateway.icn.org.au/docs/EOI_User_Guide.pdf. At the appropriate time, Project work packages will be uploaded to the ICN Gateway so we recommend that businesses check the ICN Gateway website on a regular basis in future to keep up-to-date with the latest work packages.

VHM's policy is to preference and procure local suppliers and services with the longer-term view of developing local business capability and capacity.

Victorian Mine Rescue Competition

The 2023 Victorian Mine Rescue Competition was held in Stawell in October and VHM inaugurated its association with this important initiative by sponsoring the Winning Team Captain Award.

Even though VHM does not yet have an operating mine site, we are dedicated to the Victorian mining industry's commitment to safety, and our commitment is to develop a highly trained and capable mine emergency response team as part of the Goschen Project operational workforce in years to come.

Organised by the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), the Victorian Mine Rescue Competition is held annually and is a major safety training exercise for mine emergency response teams. This year eight teams from across Victoria and New South Wales pitted their skills in a range of simulated emergency scenarios including fire-fighting, first aid, rope exercise, underground search and rescue, road crash rescue, and theory.

An important part of the competition is the involvement of emergency response agencies including Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria to build links and preparedness with the mine rescue community. This year members of the broader community were able to witness some of

the rescue and response scenarios which were held at publicly accessible venues in the Stawell township.

The overall winning mine emergency response team was Fosterville Gold Mine, coming in second was Mandalay Resources Costerfield Operations, and CSA Cobar placed third.

The next Victorian Mine Rescue Competition will be held in Bendigo in March 2024.



VHM's EGM Operational Readiness Bernie Hyde congratulates Dean Hodges from CSA Cobar, winner of the Team Captain Award

VHM gets behind Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP)

In October 2023 VHM was pleased to support two local schools to enhance their earth science education program with the provision of rock kits and a professional development workshop for their teachers.

Sea Lake's Tyrrell College and Manangatang P-12 College now have new rock kits containing fine examples of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, accompanied by a plate tectonics poster which will assist students in learning more about earth systems science, and perhaps even inspire future careers in the geosciences.

Delivering these kits, with a fun and interactive geology lesson, and a tailored professional development workshop to teachers from both



TESEP geologist Dr Rodney Boucher (left) with teachers from Tyrrell College and Manangatang P-12 College who participated in the plate tectonics professional development workshop. The rock kits are displayed in the foreground

Colleges, was consultant geologist Dr Rodney Boucher.

Dr Boucher is one of a number of geologists and geoscientists who deliver this outreach education program throughout Australia on behalf of the Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP).



TESEP began in 2007 when a group of professional geoscientists and geoscience educators realised that Australian teachers were losing access to quality geoscience professional development. Over the years, the program has been able to continue and thrive through growing sponsorship support by Australia's mining industry.

VHM was on hand to witness Dr Boucher engaging with Tyrrell College Year 5-6 and 8-9 students, and Manangatang's Years 7-10 students, and we hope that the interactive lessons (for students and teachers alike) left a strong impression to inspire earth science professionals of the future.



Community Update

The 2023 Show season is now over, but many Show goers noticed the VHM pop-up information tent at both the Swan Hill and Kerang Shows, and dropped in to say hello.

It was great fun to be part of both local Shows and we intend to continue to be part of the local Show scene in future years. Indeed, by the same time next year we hope to have great news to share with community members on Goschen Project progress.





The Festive Season is now upon us and VHM is wrapping up 2023 with two final community initiatives. We were at the Kerang Christmas Festival on Friday 17 November with an information table amongst the street-side festivities and celebrations.

Once again we are involved with the Swan Hill Christmas Light Competition and proud to sponsor the Best Inflatable Award. No doubt it will be as difficult as it was last year to select a winner!

On that note, we wish one and all in our local communities a safe and happy Festive Season and we look forward to contributing and being part of this wonderful Loddon-Mallee region in 2024.



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