



Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project

GOSCHEN PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 – MAY 2024

PROJECT UPDATE

The Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) Panel Hearing for the Goschen Project was completed on Tuesday 30 April 2024. Throughout the six-week period the Panel heard from a number of expert witnesses and submitters who presented in person in Melbourne, Swan Hill, and online. Based on expert evidence heard and submissions made, the IAC has 40 business days to compile a report about the Project's environmental effects and submit to the Minister for Planning. The timing of the Minister's assessment of the Goschen Project Environment Effects Statement (EES) is at her discretion.

The Goschen Project will provide approximately 400 jobs for the region during the 20+ year life of the mine and will inject millions of dollars into the Loddon-Mallee economy every year.

In recent weeks I have continued my commitment to engage directly with the local community and also met with the Board of the Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (MMLLEN), Member for Murray Plains Peter Walsh and the Murray Plains Electorate Support Group, to provide an update on the status of the Project and answer any questions they had. I was pleased to receive positive community feedback in support of the Project, and the economic diversification and opportunities that it will bring to the region.

As part of our commitment to supporting the community, we proudly continue our sponsorship of the Central Rivers Football-Netball League (CMFNL) and this year VHM has extended this sponsorship support to encompass the CMFNL Under 12 Boys football and the AFL Central Vic/CMFNL Junior Girls competition.



Bernie Hyde
VHM Executive General Manager - Projects

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VHM IN COMMUNITY

- Kerang Community Market:
22 June
- Murrabit Country Market:
6 July
- Mallee Machinery Field Days:
31 July-1 August

CONTACT US

Have you got a question or comment?

Feel free to contact us and share your views on the Goschen Project.

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Goschen permitting pathway

Approvals milestones achieved

Primary Approval (EES)¹

Q4 2023
Victorian Minister for Planning approved public exhibition for Goschen EES³
Exhibition stage: Public Submissions⁴
 Monday 20 November 2023 – Wednesday 17 January 2024

Q1 2024
Hearing stage: Directions Hearing
 Tuesday 13 February 2024

Hearing stage: Public Hearing
 25 March 2024 – 30 April 2024⁵

Q2 2024
Report stage: IAC Panel reports back to Planning Minister and next steps
Approval stage: Ministerial approval

Source: Engage Victoria website

Secondary Approvals (Work Plans, Mining Licence)²

Statutory advertising for the **Goschen Mining Licence application** executed, January 2024⁶

NEXT STEP

Mining Licence application assessed by Earth Resources Regulator

Notes:
 (1) EES Approval process managed by the Victorian Department for Planning
 (2) Secondary Work Plans and Mining Licence application assessment outcome expected H2 2024
 (3) See ASX release dated 1 November 2023
 (4) See ASX release dated 14 November 2023
 (5) See ASX release dated 24 January 2024
 (6) See ASX release dated 24 January 2024

Victorian Women in Resources Awards

VHM is a proud sponsor of the 2024 Victorian Women In Resources Awards: minerals.org.au/about/mca-vic/victorian-women-in-resources-award, which celebrates the women who are forging careers across the mining industry. These Minerals Council of Australia awards recognise the rewarding careers women have paved in Australia's resources sector, and provide a platform to inspire young women in Victoria to consider a career in mining.

The winners across the six award categories will be announced in May 2024 and will be invited to the Victorian awards ceremony in Ballarat. Category winners will be eligible to represent the state in the national awards.

2024 Rotary Club of Kerang Art Show

For the past 21 years the Rotary Club of Kerang Annual Art Show has been showcasing the work of artists from the region, across Victoria and from interstate. VHM was once again proud to sponsor this signature event which had more than 350 artworks submitted for showing this year. With 14 different category awards on offer, the competition was tough for judge Craig Penny from Mildura. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Kerang for hosting this highly regarded event which helps fund local community projects, promotes artistic talent, and provides an attraction to the many visitors who come to Kerang during the Easter weekend.

Out and about in the community

International Women's Day

VHM celebrated women on 8 March by attending the Gannawarra International Women's Day breakfast held at the Sir John Gorton Library in Kerang. More than 50 guests heard inspirational accounts from three local speakers with their very different business, career, and life stories.



From left to right: Gannawarra Shire Council's Director Corporate Services Amanda Wilson, guest speakers Amy Treacy, Rachel Robertson and Yvonne Fabry, and VHM's Vesna Rendulic.



Winner of the Yvette Brimacombe Memorial Youth Encouragement Award (13-18 years) at the 2024 Rotary Club of Kerang Art Show.



From left to right: Mayor Ross Stanton, VHM's Vesna Rendulic, Rotary Club of Kerang's Jenny Kelly, Gannawarra Shire CEO Geoff Rollinson, Rotary District Governor Ian McKay.

Quambatook Tractor Pull

VHM was part of the action at the 46th Australian Tractor Pull Championships in Quambatook on Easter Saturday with an information stall to chat with event goers interested in the Goschen Project. We had some great conversations between the loud revs as tractors did their best to pull significant loads to beat previous records. It was a great day and a credit to the Quambatook community to host such a successful event for locals and visitors alike.



VHM information stall at the Quambatook Tractor Pull.



Officials hooking up a load for one of the tractor pull competitors.

Country Universities Centre Mallee launch

The Country Universities Centre (CUC) Mallee officially opened in Swan Hill in April and along with so many others in the broader community, VHM can see tremendous benefits of this facility for students not having to leave the region to undertake their studies.

VHM commends all those involved in helping attract, establish, and maintain this facility in the region as it will no doubt become an important community asset to help attract, train and retain the future workforce for the Goschen Project. The mining operation will need a wide variety of tertiary, trade, and technical skills to operate the mine for the next 20+ years and the CUC will play a key role in alleviating the financial and emotional burden of local students needing to leave home to study in other locations.



CUC Mallee Chairperson Anne Young cutting the ribbon to officially open the Centre.

Register your Business to supply the Goschen Project

We encourage materials and services suppliers to register their interest in getting involved in the Goschen Project via Industry Capability Network - Victoria. ICN Victoria is supported by the Victorian government and serves as a vital link between local businesses and major projects in the state, facilitating partnerships that create jobs and drive economic development.

Register your interest to supply the Goschen Project today by visiting our website: www.vhmltd.com.au/contact/work-with-us



Institution of Surveyors Victoria Swan Hill Regional Conference

As a key regional destination, Swan Hill hosted The Institution of Surveyors Victoria annual conference on 27 April and VHM was invited to speak at the conference about the Goschen Project. Vesna Rendulic presented to the 75-strong audience who hailed from across Victoria and took great interest in the Project with a number of questions following the presentation.



Surveying plays a critical role in all phases of mining by providing accurate spatial data to inform decision-making – from aerial surveys during the mineral exploration phase, through to measuring and mapping physical features of land prior to disturbance; ascertaining boundaries, measurements and maps for mine site planning, design and construction; helping to determine location of utilities, roads and other infrastructure; as-built survey after construction to verify adherence to plans and specifications; confirming volumes of material mined and processed; and recording the area of rehabilitated land each year.

2024 Football-Netball season and Under 12s sponsorship

The 2024 Golden Rivers and Central Murray Leagues football-netball (GR-CMFNL) season is well underway and VHM proudly continues its sponsorship support for both Leagues.



On season opening day at the Woorinen home game versus Swan Hill- first quarter pep talk by Woorinen Under 12s coach to his young charges.

This year we have continued our commitment through naming rights sponsorship of the CMFNL Under 12 Football competition. During the 18-week season VHM will keenly follow the progress of all these young players as they grow a range of athletic and important life skills with their respective team mates on the footy field – all under the watchful eye of the many parents

and friends who come together to support their young players come rain, hail, or shine. We consider it a privilege to be strengthening our ties with the local community and watching these young players, and their respective clubs and communities flourish.

VHM is invested in supporting the AFL Central Vic/CMFNL Junior Girls Competition in 2024 which provides a pathway for regional girls aspiring to progress to the AFLW. Supporting women in sports reflects VHM's values of gender diversity and equal opportunity and we look forward to providing career opportunities for young women across the Loddon-Mallee region.

First home game at Kerang

Kerang Football-Netball Club held its 2024 season launch and sponsor's night on 20 April and VHM was on hand and part of the action.



Pictured here are VHM's Bernie Hyde and Vesna Rendulic amongst Kerang players and coaches proudly displaying their 2023 Senior and Reserves football premiership pennants.

Anzac Day

VHM joined the many people who gathered at the Swan Hill cenotaph on 25 April to commemorate Anzac Day during the Dawn Service. It's an honour to share these key moments with the local community and to recognise those who served and sacrificed for the peace and freedoms we enjoy in Australia today.



Come and chat with us

VHM will have pop-up information stands at the following community events:

Saturday 22 June: Kerang Community Market

Saturday 6 July: Murrabit Country Market

Wednesday 31 July-Thursdays 1 August: Mallee Machinery Field Days