



GOSCHEN PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project

ISSUE 3 – AUGUST 2024

PROJECT UPDATE

Since the conclusion of the Public Hearing stage of the Goschen Environment Effects Statement (EES) assessment process at the end of April, the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) finalised preparation and issued its findings and recommendation report to the Victorian Minister for Planning on 27 June 2024. This milestone concluded the public exhibition, IAC Hearing and reporting stages. The Minister for Planning is now in the process of making an assessment on the environmental effects of the Goschen Project after considering the IAC's report, together with the EES, public submissions, and any other relevant matters.

Should the Planning Minister make a favourable recommendation for the Goschen Project EES, that recommendation then triggers the Earth Resources Regulator to assess the Mining Licence for which VHM advertised in January 2024. The Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources is responsible for granting the mining licence and the subsequent Work Plan and management plans which allows application for approval to construct, operate and close the Goschen Project.

We recently announced that VHM has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bendigo-headquartered Yellow Iron Fleet to provide mining services for the Goschen Project. Yellow Iron Fleet has extensive experience in large scale bulk earthworks and mineral sands mining operations, and we look forward to being able to progress the relationship to a formal mining partnership agreement in the near future.

Congratulations go to all the category winners of the 2024 Victorian Women in Resources Awards. We are proud to sponsor the Outstanding Trade Operator or Technician in Victorian Resources award which was awarded to Alina Tyler from Deepcore Drilling.

August and September is a busy period in the community as VHM continues its involvement with the 2024 Victorian Mine Rescue Competition in Bendigo in August, and we're also keenly following the Central Murray and Golden Rivers Football-Netball Leagues finals. We wish all teams well for an exciting Finals season.

Bernie Hyde
VHM Executive General Manager - Projects

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VHM IN COMMUNITY

- Swan Hill Market:
1 September
- Swan Hill Show:
4-5 October
- Kerang Show:
7 October

CONTACT US

Have you got a question or comment?

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

E: community@vhmltd.com.au

M: **0429 462 524**

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Where we are with the approvals process

Goschen Project approvals

Permitting pathway



Note: 1) Executed by the Planning Panel Victoria selected Independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee
Source: Engage Victoria website

MOU with Yellow Iron Fleet

As a critical step on the pathway to future production, VHM announced in late May that it has entered into an MOU with Yellow Iron Fleet for mining services for the Goschen Project.

This work will include the establishment of all mine site operating facilities; procurement and maintenance of mining fleet, plant and equipment; and recruitment and management of all mining operators, technical staff, and management for the life of mine of Area 1.

The MOU is for a six-month period, during which VHM hopes to achieve the necessary approvals for the Project, debt and equity financing, and Board approval for the Financial Investment Decision for the Project to proceed.

Yellow Iron Fleet is Victorian based and has extensive experience in large scale bulk earthworks and mineral sands operations within the Loddon-Mallee region.

VHM's Chief Executive Officer Ron Douglas has strongly endorsed this partnership with Yellow Iron Fleet as a local Victorian service provider and has reinforced the strong emphasis that the Project has on delivering long-term benefits to the people and economy of the Loddon-Mallee region.

"The Goschen Project is set to be a significant contributor to the region for more than 20 years and we are delighted to have Yellow Iron Fleet as our partner," he said.



VHM enters mining partnership with Yellow Iron Fleet.

Victorian Women in Resources Awards

Four exceptional Victorian women were announced in May as winners of the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) 2024 Victorian Women in Resources Awards. VHM proudly sponsors this initiative which recognises professional success, leadership and advocacy of women working in the Victorian resources sector.



Alina Tyler (centre) pictured with VHM's Executive General Manager Projects, Bernie Hyde and Executive General Manager Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Carly O'Regan.

Winners come from a broad range of backgrounds and pathways to the sector including community engagement, geoscience and trades, and demonstrate mining's diverse workforce. The awards aim to provide a platform for women to be role models and encourage more women to consider a career in the mining industry.

VHM sponsored the category of **Outstanding Trade Operator or Technician in Victorian Resources** which was awarded to Alina Tyler from Deepcore Drilling.

Other 2024 category award winners include:

Exceptional Woman in Victorian Resources – Fiona Czusman, S2 Resources.

Exceptional Young Woman in Victorian Resources – Shannon Brown, Geological Survey of Australia.

Gender Diversity Champion in Victorian Resources – Felicity Davy, Agnico Eagle, Fosterville Gold Mine.

We congratulate Alina, and each of the category winners, and wish our Victorian winners well in the national Women in Resources Awards in September.

2024 Victorian Mine Rescue Competition

VHM is a proud sponsor of the MCA's **Victorian Mine Rescue Competition** - a large-scale annual mine rescue and emergency response training exercise involving mine rescue teams and emergency services including Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and the CFA. This is an important part of mine rescue team training and also supports Victorian emergency services agencies.

This year eight teams from Victoria, NSW and Tasmania are taking part. Also involved will be LaTrobe University paramedicine students, as well as Bendigo Tech STEM school ambassadors who will host an emergency bots exercise with mine rescue teams.

If you happen to be in and around Bendigo between 23 and 25 August 2024, we encourage you to view some of the rescue simulations which will be held at the Central Deborah Mine between 7.30 am and 4 pm. Other scenarios will take place at the Fosterville Gold Mine but are not accessible to viewers.



Spectators watch in awe at the 2023 Victorian Mine Rescue Competition.

| DATE | TIME | VENUE | ACTIVITY |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Friday 23 August | 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm | All Seasons Resort Hotel 171 McIvor Highway, Bendigo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening • TECH school emergency bots exercise |
| Saturday 24 August | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | Central Deborah Gold Mine 76 Violet Street, Bendigo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ropes rescue • Skills • Fire |
| Sunday 25 August | 7:30 am – 4:00 pm | Central Deborah Gold Mine 76 Violet Street, Bendigo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ropes rescue • Skills • Fire |



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

Registering your business details in our supplier database will ensure our Procurement team know how you can help when relevant scopes of work are needed.



DID YOU KNOW?

The ionic clays in China and Myanmar are currently one of the only sources of the rare earth elements Dysprosium and Terbium – essential to produce the permanent magnets needed for emerging clean energy technologies.

If approved for development by the Victorian government, the Goschen deposit will be an alternative source of global supply for these critical rare earths.

Out and about in the community

Mallee Machinery Field Days

The Mallee Machinery Field Days is over for another year and VHM was once again at the 2024 event to engage with the community and answer questions about the Goschen Project. Questions and interest came from farmers, students, teachers and business operators who were keen to learn more about the Project, how mining is undertaken, how land is rehabilitated, exploration activities and how these are regulated, and one of the most common areas of interest, business and job opportunities that will result from the Project being developed.



Finals fever

There are just a couple of games to go before the Golden Rivers and Central Murray Football-Netball (CMFNL) commence the Finals season play-offs and VHM will be on the sidelines cheering for all football and netball teams that make it through to the Finals.

For the past three years it's been VHM's privilege to sponsor both Leagues, and this year, ramping up our support to include the AFL Central Vic/CMFNL

Come and chat with us

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

Sunday 1 September: Swan Hill Market
Friday 4 to Saturday 5 October: Swan Hill Show
Monday 7 October: Kerang Show



VHM's Joel Reither and Vesna Rendulic at Mallee Machinery Field Days.



Central Murray A Reserves 2023 footy premiers.

Junior Girls Competition, and as naming rights sponsor for the CMFNL Under 12 Football.

Members of the VHM team will attend the Golden Rivers presentation night in early September and we look forward to meeting as many players and supporters as possible at this special event. We will also be spectating at both the Golden Rivers and Central Murray grand finals to cheer on the netballers and footballers who will be vying to win the coveted trophies for each of their respective grades.

We wish the best of luck to all players in both Leagues for these last few games of the 2024 season and we look forward to celebrating with the community during the Finals season.

