

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Environment & Community performance



Environmental Incidents

During the quarter, there were six low risk environmental incidents, all involving minor spill events that were immediately contained and remediated.

Environment and Community Activities

- Continued community and regulatory engagement in response to 3.4Mw MIS event on 05/11/2024.
- Completed Stage 2 of the surface ground vibration monitor network expansion, with installation of an additional 9 units, for a total of 21 units installed across Stages 1 and 2.
- Completed the MIN5404 Rehabilitation Bond review, including lodgement of the signed bank guarantee with ERR.
- TSF1 Raise 8 Licence to Alter approval received from GMW.
- Held 12 community coffee and catchup engagement sessions in Axedale.
- Hosted 2025 Annual Open Day with over 1500 visitors to site.
- Hosted multiple site visits, including Crusoe Secondary College, Boys to the Bush and DJAARA Bakaru Wayaparrangu Implementation Committee, and presented to the Bendigo View Club.
- Hosted Q1 2025 ERC meeting and site visit.
- Published and distributed Q1 community newsletter.
- Progressed appointment of x2 ERC community representatives.
- Continued Good Neighbourhood Guide development.

We also continued considerable community engagement presence and sponsorship at the following community events:

- Phoenix FM Open Day.
- Rochester Recreation Reserve New Lighting Tower Launch.
- Huntly Family Fun Day.
- Bendigo Sports Star Awards.
- Bendigo Ford Fun Run.
- Bendigo Health Gala Ball Launch.
- Be.Bendigo Partnership Launch.
- Rochester Youth: A Voice in Flood and Recovery Launch
- Bendigo Pride Festival Launch
- LEAD Loddon Mallee Community Leadership Program Launch
- Bendigo Pride in the Park
- Axedale Quickshear

Community Complaints

There were 40 community complaints from six different landholders recorded during Q1 2025.

Blasting

- 39 community complaints relating to ground vibration from blasting were received from six different landholders. All complaints were lodged in relation to FGM production firings.

Investigations confirmed that all ground vibration results were well below surface vibration limits. All landholders who lodged a complaint were contacted via phone by the FGM Community Team to discuss their complaint, provide additional information regarding the event (e.g., surface vibration results and firing location), and to discuss blasting and ground vibration management.

Mine Induced Seismicity

- One community complaint relating to ground vibration from mine-induced seismicity was received.

The location and magnitude of the mine-induced seismic event was determined using the underground seismic monitoring system. The landholder who lodged the complaint was contacted via phone and email by the FGM Community Team to discuss their complaint, provide additional information regarding the event (e.g., magnitude, location, surface vibration results), and to discuss FGM's ongoing management of MIS.

Noise

- One new communication was received in Q1 2025 relating to an ongoing noise grievance that was first lodged in November 2023.

FGM have completed extensive (internal and external) acoustic investigations into the noise complaint and provided a detailed third-party acoustic report to the landholders and the EPA. EPA confirmed receipt and have not requested any further action or information.

In response to this communication, the landholder was contacted via phone to discuss the ongoing noise complaint, and to confirm investigations into noise levels at the time of their complaint were consistent with those presented in the acoustic report.



Pride in the Park 2025.



We expanded our ground vibration monitoring network.



The FGM team running our gold panning activity at Axedale Quickshear.

Environmental Monitoring update



Groundwater Monitoring

During Q1 2025, there was one high risk, and two moderate risk groundwater quality exceedances.

- In February and March, BGL95 (SE of Daleys Hill Pit) returned Antimony concentrations of 0.012 mg/L (moderate risk) and 0.013 mg/L (high risk), respectively, above the ANZECC guideline of 0.009 mg/L.

As an investigative action following the Manganese exceedances in Q4 2024, the low flow pump was removed from BGL95 and the bore purged in January, February, and March 2025 to address bacterial growth. No further Manganese exceedances have occurred since purging began. However, elevated Antimony concentrations have been observed, which may be attributable to disturbance from the purging process. The low flow pump will be reinstalled in Q2 2025, and monthly monitoring will continue as the water column stabilises.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code for a map showing the location of groundwater monitoring bores



- In March, BGL119 (E of Robbins Hill Pit) returned an Arsenic concentration. This bore was installed in August 2024 and has been sampled a total of six times since installation, as such, baseline water quality is still being established.

BGL119 is located approximately 750 m to the East of Robbins Hill Pit near the mining licence boundary. Water levels in nearby bore BGL55 (500 m East of Robbins Hill Pit) located to the west of BGL119, has remained stable and shows no indication of dewatering impacts due to mining. This bore will continue to be monitored to identify background levels and any emerging trends.

FGM's groundwater monitoring data is routinely reviewed by a third-party hydrogeologist and incorporated into the site hydrogeological model. The exceedances were presented in detail during the ERC meeting for external comment, and do not present a risk to community or the environment.

Ground Vibration Monitoring

During Q1 2025, there were a total of 503 development firings and 40 production firings.

- There were 6 development firings, and 36 production firings that registered on the surface vibration monitoring network. No ground vibration results attributable to FGM firings registered above 5 mm/s during the reporting period.
- There were 3 mine-induced seismic events that were detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.

Noise Monitoring

During Q1 2025, FGM conducted 148 attended compliance noise monitoring sessions.

No noise exceedances were recorded during the day, evening or night periods.

Surface Water Monitoring

During Q1 2025, there was one moderate risk exceedance recorded.

- In January, a sample from FWO12 (NW of John's Pit) returned an elevated Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration of 6,590 mg/L, exceeding the ANZECC guideline of 5,000 mg/L. This result is outside of the historical mean ± 1 SD, and the dam has a low risk of overflowing offsite, therefore it is classified as a moderate risk event.

FWO12 is an operational dam that receives mine water from John's Pit for use in the watercart for dust suppression on site, which is likely to have influenced the elevated TDS concentrations.

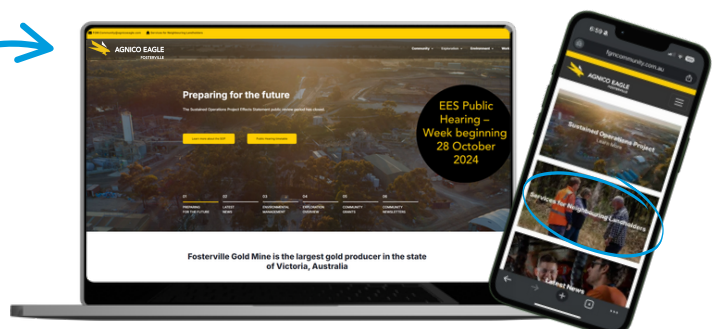
Air Quality Monitoring

During Q1 2025, there were eight Hi-Volume sampling results recorded above the Air Pollution Assessment Criteria (APAC) for $PM_{2.5}$.

- On 05/01/2025, $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations at HVAS1 ($27.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), HVAS2 ($26.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and HVAS3 ($29.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) exceeded the APAC limit of $25.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Elevated $PM_{2.5}$ levels were observed regionally during this period, associated with strong, shifting winds and high temperatures. The highest concentration was at background monitoring site HVAS3, indicating these exceedances were not attributable to FGM.
- On 27/01/2025, a $PM_{2.5}$ concentration of $27.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was recorded at background monitoring site HVAS3. HVAS1 and HVAS2 recorded elevated results but remained below APAC limits. This exceedance was attributed to a regional weather event.
- On 02/02/2025, $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations at HVAS1 ($27.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), HVAS2 ($26.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and HVAS3 ($29.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) exceeded the APAC limit during a regional event with strong winds. The highest concentrations were at HVAS3, indicating the exceedance was not attributable to FGM.
- On 06/02/2025, a $PM_{2.5}$ concentration of $26.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was recorded at background monitoring site HVAS3. HVAS1 and HVAS2 recorded elevated results but were below APAC limits. Regional air quality was affected by bushfire smoke from Victoria and Tasmania, confirming the HVAS3 exceedance was not attributable to FGM.

Services for Neighbouring Landholders

It is now even easier to access the various services we offer to our neighbours. These include SMS blast notifications, baseline building inspections, ground vibration monitoring and rainwater tank sampling. Head to our website at fgm.community.com.au



Looking for more information?

- fgmcommunity.com.au
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