

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Environment & Community performance



Environmental Incidents

During the quarter, there were 11 low risk environmental incidents, all of which were minor spill events that were contained to the immediate operational area and cleaned up appropriately. There was also one high risk environmental incident reported.

- An offsite spill of Class B recycled water occurred from the Epsom Pipeline after a public road incident where agricultural equipment detached from a vehicle and damaged the pipeline on Huntly-Fosterville Road. FGM employees arrived at the scene, which was already under Victoria Police control, and observed water discharging into a roadside drain on public land. Coliban Water were contacted to temporarily switch off the pipeline for repairs. Due to the small spill volume and high water quality, environmental and infrastructure impact was negligible.

Environment and Community Activities

- Sustained Operations Project EES Ministerial Assessment completed and EES endorsed.
- Continued community and regulatory engagement in response to 3.4Mw MIS event on 05/11/2024.
- Completed Stage 3 of the surface ground vibration monitoring network expansion, which included the installation of x4 monitors (25 monitors installed in total).
- Commenced spray drift monitoring program for Robbins Hill Catenary Lines project.
- Held 12 community coffee and catchup engagement sessions in Axedale.
- Hosted multiple site visits, including GLAM, Boys to the Bush and DJAARA Djandak, and presented to the Golden Square Probus Club.
- Hosted ERC Induction Day for regulators, council members and community representatives.
- Hosted Q2 2025 ERC meeting and site visit (TSF5 and Additional Southern Ventilation Shaft sites).
- Continued Good Neighbourhood Guide development including workshop #4 and community information session.
- Held Community Grants presentation – Round 1 2025.
- Attended the CPP & FGM networking event.
- Attended the Trade and Tech Fair in Melbourne.
- Completed Exploration community engagement in Rochester, Elmore and Lockington.

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

- Bendigo Community Gala Ball
- Axedale Golf Club Pro AM
- Bendigo Easter Festival
- ANZAC day service – Wreaths placed in Axedale & Goornong.
- Barrie Winzar Memorial scholarship award.
- Bendigo Winter Night Shelter
- Bendigo Food Share – Food Cube Sponsorship
- Bendigo Fine Music
- Swimming Bendigo – Super series 3-year partnership
- Shine Bright - Axedale Bush Kinder Program sponsorship



Bendigo Easter Festival

Community Complaints

There were 45 community complaints from four different landholders recorded during Q2 2025.

Blasting

- Forty-one community complaints relating to ground vibration from blasting were received from four 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 and email 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 (MIS)

- Four community complaints, including one combined complaint relating to ground vibration from mine-induced seismicity were received from three different landholders.
- The location and magnitude of the MIS event was determined using the underground seismic monitoring system. The landholders who lodged the complaints were 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.

Complaint – Ground Vibration (not related to FGM)

- One complaint was received in relation to an event on 16/06/2025.
- Investigations confirmed FGM did not undertake any production or development firings at these times and did not register any ground vibration on the surface monitoring system. FGM did not register any seismic activity on the underground seismic monitoring system and based on this information, the investigation concluded this event was not related to blasting or mine-induced seismicity from FGM's operations.

Noise

- One new communication was received in Q2 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.

Environmental Monitoring update



Groundwater Monitoring

During Q2 2025, there were four high risk, and three moderate risk groundwater quality exceedances.

BGL95 (SE of Daleys Hill Pit) returned Antimony concentrations of 0.011 mg/L (April), 0.045 mg/L (May), and 0.015 mg/L (June), all above the ANZECC guideline of 0.009 mg/L, with concentrations peaking in May before declining. In addition, Manganese concentrations of 2.03 mg/L and 1.9 mg/L were recorded in May and June, respectively, above the ANZECC guideline of 1.9 mg/L.

As an investigative action following previous Manganese exceedances, the low flow pump was reinstalled in BGL95 prior to May sampling. The observed peaks in both Antimony and Manganese in May may be attributable to disturbance of the bore water column induced by replacing the low flow pump. Monitoring will be continued monthly to identify emerging trends as the water column stabilises.

In June, BGL117 returned an Arsenic concentration of 0.038 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline of 0.024 mg/L. This bore was installed in August 2024 and therefore water quality within the bore may still be still be stabilising and background levels have not yet been established. The bore will continue to be monitored monthly until water quality stabilises.

In May, BGL119, (E of Robbins Hill Pit) returned an Arsenic concentration of 0.026 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline of 0.024 mg/L. This bore was installed in August 2024 and therefore water quality within the bore may still be still be stabilising and background levels have not yet been established.

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.

Click here or scan the QR code for a map showing the location of groundwater monitoring bores



Surface Water Monitoring

During Q2 2025, there were two moderate risk exceedances recorded.

- In April, FWO12 (NW of John's Pit) returned an elevated Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration of 6,940 mg/L exceeding the ANZECC guideline of 5,000 mg/L. This result is outside the historical mean ± 1 SD, however the dam has a low risk of flowing off site, therefore it has been 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.

- In April, FWR24 returned an elevated Arsenic concentration 2.26 mg/L which is above the ANZECC guideline of 0.5 mg/L. Arsenic concentrations at this site have previously exceeded the ANZECC guidelines and the results are consistent with the variability of Arsenic at this location.

FWR24 is an operational dam that collects run-off from roads and drains around the Processing Plant. There is no risk of offsite release of water contained in FWR24 as any overflow is directed to Harrier Pit.

Ground Vibration Monitoring

During Q2 2025, there were a total of 561 development firings and 42 production firings.

- There were seven development firings and 41 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 10 mine-induced seismic events that were detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.

Noise Monitoring

During Q2 2025, FGM conducted 152 attended compliance noise monitoring sessions.

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

Air Quality Monitoring

During Q2 2025, there were eight Hi-Vol sampling results recorded above the Air Pollution Assessment Criteria (APAC) for PM₁₀ and one exceedance above the compliance limit of 4 g/m²/month for depositional dust exceedance.

- On 16/04/2025, PM₁₀ concentrations at HVAS2 (57.8 µg/m³) and HVAS3 (53.6 µg/m³) exceeded the APAC limit of 50 µg/m³. During this period, the region was impacted by burn-off activities on surrounding agricultural land, which contributed to reduced air quality at all monitoring locations. The lowest concentration was recorded at HVAS1, nearest FGM's site, confirming that these exceedances were not attributable to FGM.
- On 26/05/2025, PM₁₀ concentrations at HVAS1 (55.2 µg/m³), HVAS2 (58.6 µg/m³), and HVAS3 (81.6 µg/m³) exceeded the APAC limit of 50 µg/m³. Sampling coincided with an extreme weather event, with winds originating from South Australia impacting air quality across Victoria. The highest concentration was recorded at background monitoring site HVAS3, confirming the regional nature of the event.
- On 24/06/2025, PM₁₀ concentrations at HVAS1 (54.4 µg/m³), HVAS2 (55.2 µg/m³), and HVAS3 (54.7 µg/m³) exceeded the APAC limit 50 µg/m³. Elevated PM₁₀ concentrations were observed regionally during this period, including at background monitoring site HVAS3, indicating these exceedances were not attributable to FGM.
- In June, a depositional dust exceedance above the compliance limit of 4g/m²/month was observed at monitoring site FA15, south of Campaspe Road. The sample contained evidence of bird faecal matter and insects, as well as dust likely generated by vehicle traffic on the publicly accessible Goornong-Fosterville Road. No increase in dust deposition was observed at nearby monitor FA14, confirming the FA15 exceedance was localised and not attributable to FGM activities.

Looking for more information?

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