

ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Item	Details
Meeting date & time	8 November 2023, 11.01am –1.08pm
Meeting location	FGM Board Room and online
Present	Jude Holt (Chair), Lance Faulkner (General Manager, Fosterville Gold Mine), Will Wettenhall (Environment and Community Manager, Fosterville Gold Mine), Trudi Jackson (Senior Community Advisor, Fosterville Gold Mine), Oliver Hickson (Senior Environment and Community Advisor, Fosterville Gold Mine), Natasha van Leeuwen (Environment and Community Advisor, Fosterville Gold Mine), Wendy Campbell (Environmental Technician, Fosterville Gold Mine), Leigh Byrne (Community Officer, Fosterville Gold Mine), Steve Pugh (Senior Environment and Community Advisor, FGM), Fran Crossan (EES lead, Fosterville Gold Mine), Matt Farrington (Senior Rock Mechanics Engineer, Fosterville Gold Mine), Jacob McDonald (EPA) online, Ryan Straub (EPA) online, Rebecca Carlton (ERR), Joshua Watson (ERR), Lynley Strachen (GMW), Tim Norden (DEECA), Christine Jong (ERR) online, Robert Szymanski (ERR) online, Cr Greg Penna (Eppalock Ward, COGB) online, Frank Casimir (COGB), Ian Ralston (Community Representative), Ashleigh Neil (Community Representative)
Absent	N/A
Apologies	Cr Julie Sloan (Whipstick Ward, COGB), Jonathon Constable (Community Representative)
By invitation	Tim Jenkyn (Bushco), Denis Johanson (FOSSALS Inc.)
Observers	

Item number	Agenda item
1	Welcome, attendance and apologies
1.1	Chairperson Jude Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	Acknowledgement of Country and introductions
2.1	The Chairperson acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting was held – the Dja Dja Wurrung people, and paid respects to their Elder’s past and present. Each attendee then introduced themselves and the capacities in which they were attending.
3	Declaration of interests
3.1	No conflicts of interest declared.
4	Minutes, actions and matters arising since last committee meeting

4.1	<p>Confirmation of minutes from meeting on 2 August 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed for accuracy.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 2 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="308 365 1457 555"> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 365 627 416">MOVED:</td> <td data-bbox="635 365 1457 416">Ian Ralston</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 416 627 461">SECONDED:</td> <td data-bbox="635 416 1457 461">Will Wettenhall</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 461 627 506">AGAINST:</td> <td data-bbox="635 461 1457 506"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 506 627 555">OUTCOME:</td> <td data-bbox="635 506 1457 555"></td> </tr> </table>	MOVED:	Ian Ralston	SECONDED:	Will Wettenhall	AGAINST:		OUTCOME:	
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5	Information/project updates to ERC Members								
5.1	<p><u>MRSDA Legislation Update.</u></p> <p>Christine Jong provided an overview presentation of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Act 2023,</p> <p>Greg Penna asked if presentation could be forwarded on to share with other COGB councillors? Christine agreed and confirmed she would share with FGM to distribute to ERC committee members who request a copy.</p>								
	<table border="1" data-bbox="308 857 1457 958"> <tr> <td data-bbox="308 857 627 958">Action 202311- 01</td> <td data-bbox="635 857 1457 958">ERR to provide copy of MRSDA Legislation Update presentation to FGM for distribution to ERC members.</td> </tr> </table>	Action 202311- 01	ERR to provide copy of MRSDA Legislation Update presentation to FGM for distribution to ERC members.						
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	<p>Will Wettenhall highlighted that the EPA had undertaken a similar regulatory overhaul and introduced a statutory duty in the last couple of years and asked if there would be any collaboration with the EPA about lessons learnt and what worked well in this process. Christine said they are collaborating with the EPA and will continue to consult with the EPA to learn from their experience.</p> <p>Lynley Strachen asked if other authorities, who operate under different legislation, be expected to change to be aligned to the MRSDA? Christine said that there is a need for consultation with other co-regulator's, including the water authorities, to ensure everyone understands the changes, and this may involve possible amendments. Robert Szymanski added that DEECA are trying to minimise any changes for coregulators, however, as they work through the process, there may be a requirement to amend various Acts. Will Wettenhall acknowledged the question is worth discussing further, referring to the licencing requirements for FGM tailings storage facilities and the opportunity to streamline the process around what the current practices are with Goulburn Murray Water under the <i>Water Act</i>, and what is already regulated under the <i>MRSDA</i>.</p> <p><u>FGM Sustained Operations Project EES Update</u></p> <p>Fran Crossan provided an update on the Sustained Operations Project EES.</p> <p>Ian Ralston asked if FGM had an anticipated date for completion of all the technical studies and EES chapters. Lance said FGM are aiming to complete in Q4 2023. Ian also asked if the length of the EES process had impacted current mining operations? Lance said no, there has not been an effect on current mining operations. Ian then asked, once the EES is submitted for public exhibition will members of the ERC be able to get copies of the documents? Fran said that all documentation will be available for public viewing once it has been finalized and authorized for exhibition.</p>								

Frank Casimir asked does this mean that everything can be reviewed. Will Wettenhall said that once the EES documents have been assessed to be adequate by the Minister of Planning, then the documents will be on exhibition and open for public review and submission, which will be for approximately six weeks. FGM can't move forward until this process is complete.

Lynley Strachen referred to the SOP video presentation stating that it gives the impression that TFS5 & TSF6 are proposed to be the eastern side of TFS1. Will confirmed that this is not the case, and they are the western side of TFS1.

Ashleigh Neil asked if it is likely, that once consultation is complete and a work plan is approved, will this work plan need to be changed to account for the MRSDA amendments? Will Wettenhall said that it will be time dependent (work plan submission post EES decision). Will also said FGM will not be seeking a single work plan variation for all the SOP project components, as some projects are required sooner than others. Lance added that the amended legislation will have to consider existing work plans. Rebecca Carlton said that the MRSDA team is relatively new, and they have a lot to pick up from the development of the changing of legislation.

Lynley Strachen said that the MRSDA presentation gave the impression that all the regulations will cover mining and quarries, but it seems that at FGM there is a lot of innovation which she can't see how regulations can cover everything that can potentially happen. Will Wettenhall said the model the EPA are currently regulating under is a preventative risk management model.

Axe Creek Protection Project - as per presentation.

Tim Jenkyn (Bushco), Denis Johanson (FOSSALS) provided an update on the Axe Creek Protection Project.

Lynley Stachen asked if the platypus conservation society had identified historical sites or potential sites for platypus habitat? Tim Jenkyn said the society did a quick assessment to identify some potential sites, however after inspecting the area some better sites, closer to Strathfieldsaye, where identified where there are permanent pools of water. Lynley commented that if the pools of water were not deep enough, she would expect the water may become too hot in the summer. Tim said the leaks of water are very important and don't rely on surface water in some locations. Pools of permanent water have groundwater and surface water inputs.

Lynley asked about the fish restocking and noted that the Campaspe River has barriers that restrict fish coming up stream, so fish have to be brought in, or come from Lake Eppalock. Tim said the dams being chosen for restocking are close to waterways with overflows into the creek.

Lynley also asked about the Blackwood which is a cooler climate tree, and she expected the Axe Creek would be its most northern extent. Tim explained that it does go up further into Blackbox country along the Loddon system into Serpentine.

Mine Induced Seismicity (MIS) – 2.5ML event

Will Wettenhall introduced Matt Farrington (Senior Rock Mechanics Engineer) to the ERC to answer any questions relating to the 2.5 ML MIS event on Sunday 5 November at 6.50pm. Will informed members that FGM is still in the process of reviewing the event and may not have answers to all questions but will take any questions that cannot be answered immediately on notice.

Ian Ralston asked if the event took place under his property, or was it away from his property, and was interested to hear more about the event? Matt Farrington pointed to the location on a map and said the event occurred 1.25km underground, in the Swan area of the mine.

Matt said in terms of surface vibration, it was slightly less than a similar event the previous year, in 2022. FVP1 recorded a PPV of just under 11mm/s and a PPV of 16 mm/s in 2022. The largest surface response was recorded at surface monitor FVP7, which recorded a PPV of 22.9 mm/s compared to the event in 2022 which recorded a PPV of 24.7 mm/s. Ian asked what was the magnitude of the event was on the Richter scale? Matt said that the 2022 event was a 2.5ML, and this event was picked up as the same. Matt highlighted that that even if the magnitude of an event is the same the energy released may be different.

Ashleigh Neil said that a comment often made about FGM MIS events is that the impact is much greater than what they should expect from events of these magnitude, and this is based on information published online. Matt explained that there is different information relevant to earthquakes, which are generally much deeper, compared to FGM MIS events which are closer to the surface. Matt also explained that FGM's underground seismic monitoring system is designed to pick up smaller events so results may vary relative to Geoscience Australia's data. Matt also explained the FGM are currently in discussions with Geoscience Australia to understand if FGM can use some the data from Geoscience Australia combined with FGM's local data to get a more complete estimation of Magnitude. However, as far as the impacts go, the PPV is what is relevant to the effects to people and infrastructure.

Will Wettenhall said there is an ongoing education piece regarding MIS that FGM are working through. It is a highly technical subject and to-date FGM have published both fact sheets and a newsletter article describing PPV and Magnitude measurements in the context of MIS. Commentary that compares MIS events to earthquakes is not correct but requires FGM to assist the understanding of this.

Ian Ralston said when a house shakes people don't know if its and earthquake or a mine induced seismic event. Will appreciated and understood this and advised that FGM are aiming to have information available online to the community as soon as possible, referring to the event on Sunday 5 November where information was published on the FGM Community website within 15 minutes.

Ian Ralston asked if FGM shared to the Axedale Our Town Our Future Facebook page? Trudi Jackson said that after FGM shared online, within minutes the post was shared to the AOTOF page. Trudi said our approach is to use the FGM website and Facebook page and direct people to these platforms to ensure that accurate information is being provided. Joshua Watson asked if there was an appetite to create an automated process to report these events. Trudi said that it is currently a manual process, but FGM is doing a lot of work in the background to look at the processes involved. At the moment we focused on getting the information to community in a timely but accurate manner.

Lynley asked if there were any visible cracking on the ground as a result of the event. Matt said at that level of vibration you would not expect to see any sort of damage.

6	Update on actions arising from the previous minutes
6.1	<p>The actions arising from the previous meeting were reviewed.</p> <p>Action 202305-01 Provide update to ERC regarding progress of MOU for maintenance of McCormicks Road – No further updates to report – Carry Over</p> <p>Action 202302-01 Pink Tailed Worm Lizard Study – FGM to provide deidentified report to DEECA – Report still to be finalised by consultant (Q4 2023) - Carry Over</p> <p>Action 202308-01 ERR to provide update to ERC members on <i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act</i> reforms – Complete</p> <p>Action 202308-02 Additional information on the Axe Creek Rehabilitation Project to be provided to Ian Ralston – Complete</p>
7	Official business on the agenda
7.1	Quarterly Environment and Community Report
	<p><u>Environmental activities and incidents</u> <i>As per presentation – Oliver Hickson</i></p> <p><u>Noise monitoring</u> <i>As per presentation – Oliver Hickson</i></p> <p><u>Air quality monitoring</u> <i>As per presentation – Natasha van Leeuwen</i></p> <p><u>Surface water monitoring</u> <i>As per presentation – Natasha van Leeuwen</i></p> <p><u>Groundwater monitoring</u> <i>As per presentation – Natasha van Leeuwen</i></p> <p><u>Community</u> <i>As per presentation – Leigh Byrne</i></p> <p>Will Wettenhall informed the ERC that the 1080 baiting program was complete.</p> <p><u>Exploration activities</u> <i>As per presentation – Leigh Byrne</i></p>
7.2	Quarterly Operations Report
	Lance Faulkner presented on Q3 2023 operational results.
8	Regulatory Updates
8.1	COGB – Frank Casimir had no updates but advised members that a new CEO and Director of his team have been appointed.
8.2	EPA – Jacob had a question regarding surface water sample contamination and how it happened? Natasha explained that FGM completed an investigation, and it is likely that the Lead Acetate preservative inside the blue Cyanide sample bottle had leaked and contaminated the samples. The water sampling procedure and the different sampling bottles and the preservatives contained within the sampling bottles was discussed with the water sampling technicians. Additional mitigative actions have also been put in place to minimize the risk of sample contamination during handling and/or processing.
8.3	ERR – Rebecca Carlton acknowledged that her team has received a briefing from FGM around mine induced seismicity and remain in ongoing discussions with FGM.

8.4	DEECA – Tim Norton informed the group of the rebranding and reallocation of department groups. Tim advised this would likely be his last ERC meeting after 6 years on the committee, following a restructure in the Department.
8.5	GMW – Lynley advised GMW were waiting the Licence to Operate application for TSF1 Raise 7 (full height) now that construction activities were complete. Will acknowledged the comment and committed to following up with the team to understand its status.
8.6	Community representatives – No update
9	Other Business
9.1	<p>Lance Faulkner noted Tim Norton’s service to the ERC over the last 6 years and wished him all the best with future endeavours.</p> <p>Ian Ralston also asked about a fire in the area and if it was on mine property. Will Wettenhall said that it was a registered burn on a neighbouring landholder’s property.</p> <p>Ian also asked about fire season and bush readiness program and if FGM owned properties are to be slashed before summer? Trudi said that there is a program about to begin which will tidy up the FGM properties.</p> <p>Ian also asked about the light pollution at FGM and if there has been any progress. Will said that in terms of physical works there has been limited progress, but FGM has completed an area inspection around site and is evaluating opportunities and the work required to reduce light emissions from our operation.</p> <p>Greg asked for an update on LFN to provide to councillors and the presentation on the Axedale Regeneration Project to share with his colleagues. Will said there is limited updates regarding LFN and that FGM is still working through the tender evaluation process for the installation of the ventilation fans underground. FGM is also working through a suite of infrastructure and underground development processes, some of which are part of the EES. Current timeline of installation is still estimated to be in 2026. Ian asked if there were any improvements with adjustments of the baffling, Will said yes, several adjustments were implemented, which assisted in the revocation of the prohibition notice.</p> <p>Jacob McDonald flagged a dust report that EPA recently received which he will discuss with FGM offline.</p>
9.2	The Chairperson summarised the actions arising from this meeting, see Schedule 1 .
10	Next meeting
10.1	<p>Date/time: 7 February 2023, 11:00am</p> <p>Location: FGM Board Room, Fosterville, VIC, 3557</p>
11	Meeting closure
11.1	The meeting concluded at 1.08pm .

SCHEDULE 1

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action ref.	Action description	Assigned to	Due date
202305-01	Provide update to ERC regarding progress of MOU for maintenance of McCormicks Road	COGB/FGM	February 2024
202305-02	Pink Tail Worm Lizard Survey – Deidentified report to DEECA	FGM	February 2024
202311-01	ERR to provide copy of MRSDA Legislation Update presentation to FGM for distribution to ERC members.	ERR/FGM	February 2024