



Good Neighbour Guide Reference Group

Meeting summary

Date: Tuesday 17 February 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM)

Attendees:

Neighbouring residents: 16

FGM representatives: 6

1. Introductions

2. Fosterville Gold Mine Site Tour

Fosterville Gold Mine provided a site tour to view the location of Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) 5 and the Northern Ventilation Shaft.

3. Near Mine Exploration

FGM provided an overview of the Geology department structure which includes exploration, resource development, resource definition and mine geology.

- The Near Mine Exploration team is responsible for all exploration activities within mining licence MIN5404.
- The Regional exploration team, LODE, is responsible for all exploration activities within Exploration Licences or EL's.
- An overview of the local geology and mineralise structures was presented.
- FGM recently acquired EL007795 from S2 Resources.
- EL007795 surrounds MIN5404, and FGM will undertake exploration in this EL as per commitments outlined by S2 Resources in their application to Resource Victoria.
- An update was provided on 2026 exploration plans within MIN5404, including diamond drilling from underground drill platforms and surface diamond drilling on both FGM owned property and private property, with agreement of the landholder.

Discussion

- Does Agnico Eagle provide the results of exploration to the public.
 - Exploration results are commercially sensitive
 - Once approved by the board they are released to the public via Agncio Eagle quarterly and annual updates.
 - If the exploration is completed on private property, feedback on the exploration is provided to the landholder.

- What do the results of the S2R exploration activities on EL007795 indicate?
 - S2R completed vertical drill holes, where as FGM complete arching drill holes which slice through the fault zones east-west, so the results have been hard to compare and consolidate.
- How does rehabilitation of drill holes prevent groundwater aquifers from mixing?
 - All drill holes are grouted to one metre below surface.
 - Grouting creates an impermeable zone which water cannot pass through.
 - The remaining one metre is back filled with native soil from the site.
- FGM avoids drilling in the Campaspe Deep Leads, as it is difficult to drill through.
- Discussion was had regarding residents' observations and concerns around groundwater and the reduction in GMW allocations.
- Residents have noticed a reduction in mine induced seismic events.
 - FGM explained that since the 3.4Mw in November 2024, FGM has changed the mine plan and scheduling.
 - Stopes sizes have been reduced, and adjustments have been made to the mining sequence, all aimed at minimising large stress variations.
 - FGM are continuously evolving the mine plan to ensure that MIS is reduced as far as practicable, however it is an impact that will always be part of mining at depth.

4. Closure and Rehabilitation

FGM must comply with all government regulatory requirements, including the development of a Rehabilitation Plan prepared in accordance with the regulatory guideline Preparation of Rehabilitation Plans – Guideline for Mining and Prospecting Projects.

Agnico Eagle also have a corporate standard for Closure which is applied to all their operations. These plans are regularly updated to reflect changing regulatory requirements.

The FGM Rehabilitation Plan comprises of domains. The domains include – Infrastructure; Overburden/Waste Rock Dump's (RWD)/Heap Leach facilities; TSFs; and Open Pits.

There is Completion Criteria which is used to define successful rehabilitation, ensuring land is left safe, stable and non-polluting. The completion criteria address a range of aspects and align with relevant regulatory guidance. It includes Physical elements like stability, surface water quality, and erosion; and Biological aspects like vegetation coverage and diversity; and pest and weed presence.

Relinquishment is achieved when completion criteria are being consistently met and signed off by the relevant government bodies.

There are four stages for mine site closure and rehabilitation

1. Decommissioning, demolition and disposal of infrastructure.
2. Assessment, treatment and/or disposal of any contaminated land.
3. Earthworks and revegetation.
4. Monitoring and validation.

TSF Capping trial

FGM are commencing a TSF capping design trial which will assess suitable capping thicknesses and revegetation trials to achieve the best post mining land use.

- FGM request recommendations from neighbouring landholders for species of pasture and grasses which would be beneficial to trial.

Final land use

Final land uses aim to return the site to a similar vegetation function and structure as existed prior to mining operations. These land uses include agricultural land, native bushland and open pits.

Rehabilitation Bond

A rehabilitation bond is a financial security which must be provided by an operator prior to work commencing. The bond reflects the estimated rehabilitation costs using Resource Victoria's bond calculator. The Bond is in place to ensure that rehabilitation can be undertaken by the regulator should the operator be unable to meet their rehabilitation obligations.

Discussion

- Who is responsible for Closure and Rehabilitation?
 - FGM is responsible for the Closure and Rehabilitation of the site.
 - The process will be overseen by FGM including the monitoring and validation process.
- What is DJAARA's involvement?
 - FGM will consult and collaborate with DJAARA to incorporate their knowledge into the Closure and rehabilitation of the site.
- How often is the Rehabilitation bond updated?
 - The Bond is reviewed and updated with each Work Plan Variation. It is also reviewed every two years.
- There was discussion regarding the evaporation ponds proposed in the EES and the comparison to the Woodvale ponds associated with Bendigo Mining.
 - The evaporation ponds at FGM are proposed for the northwest corner of Robbins Hill.
 - A Work Plan Variation (WPV) would be required for these ponds to be constructed.
 - Closure and rehabilitation of this infrastructure documented in the WPV would outline mitigation for air borne dust.
- Discussion regarding dust from TSF facilities and groundwater contamination.
 - FGM complete regular monitoring of dust and groundwater and described some of the mitigation measures used on site.
 - These results are reported to regulators through the Environment Review Committee.
- Environmental monitoring data collected by FGM is presented to the Environment Review Committee (ERC), a snapshot of this is published in the FGM Community newsletter.

5. Community Perception Survey

Agnico Eagle engaged VoconIQ to complete a Community Perception Anchor survey. VoconIQ are a social research and engagement company, facilitating programs developed from research conducted within the CSIRO.

The survey closed Monday 8 November, with 156 responses received, and 40 of these from neighbouring communities. Community was notified of the survey through letters, emails, adverts in the FGM Community newsletter, school newsletters and town newsletters.

FGM presented some the key results from the survey, highlighting responses from Near Neighbours, which includes the townships of Axedale, Goornong, Muskerry, and Barnadown. These results will be sent out to neighbouring landholders and published in the FGM Community Newsletter.

\$5,000 was shared to participating community groups for every survey completed.

A 'Pulse' survey will be completed at the same time each year as a touch point for how the community perceives the Company.

Discussion

- There is an interest in the Traffic impact assessment of the EES and the number of trucks FGM have attending site.
 - Large trucks are a regularly observed noise source in the area, especially during the nighttime.
- The 'Pulse' survey will be a shorter survey than this initial 'Anchor' survey. VoconIQ's is engaged by many industries globally. FGM's results can be measured against the mining industry.

Action

- *Distribute Community Perception Survey results.*

6. Good Neighbour Guide Updates

Property Valuation Monitoring Program

- Preston Rowe Paterson (PRP) have completed a property valuation report for 2026.
- Second Valuer has been engaged.

Action

- *Results from both reports will be presented at the May GNG meeting.*

Neighbourhood Enhancement & Beautification Program

- First meeting held 30 October 2025.
- Minutes of the meeting are on the FGM Community Website.

Property Maintenance & Occupation Program

- The four properties which have been assessed as uninhabitable will be demolished in 2026.
- If anyone has identified any concerns regarding FGM owned properties, please contact the FGM Community team.

7. Ground Vibration Monitoring

- Results of all the ground vibration events which register on the surface ground vibration monitoring network are now published on the FGM Community website.
- This includes events from production and development firings, and mine induced seismicity.
- A ground vibration report explainer is also available on the website to assist with how to read these event reports.
- FGM has produced a short explainer video about Mine Induced Seismicity with this video also published on the website.

8. General Business

- Does FGM understand the emissions from the ventilation shafts, including noise and what this could look like for the Northern ventilation shaft?
 - FGM complete regular emissions testing at the southern vent shaft.
 - What is getting emitted is what FGM employees are breathing underground.

Action – present summary information from emissions and noise testing results at the next GNG reference group meeting.

- Employee behaviours in the neighbourhood after they have finished work is concerning. This includes alcohol consumption, and littering.
 - FGM have been working through ways to address these behaviours.
 - FGM is committed to regular roadside clean up days and this action sits with the GNG Neighbourhood Enhancement & Beautification program.

- Was the roadside slashing which has been completed on the Huntly-Fosterville Rd and Axedale-Goornong Rd organised by FGM?
 - FGM approached City of Greater Bendigo Council (COGB), and an arrangement was agreed upon, where FGM funded and assisted to coordinate this initiative with a COGB contractor. This project also sits within the Neighbourhood Enhancement & Beautification Program and FGM are working with COGB to schedule this work in annually.

9. Follow up from previous meeting

FGM to provide response to the Gunyah Creek mouth location within the EES documentation

- The flow path associated with Gunyah Creek in the EES documentation was determined using VicMap Watercourses, which provides visual representation of the alignment of water courses and this service is maintained by DEECA.
- In the surface water impact assessment, it states that '*VicMap waterways are generally displayed in figures and maps as 'Waterways' and are included in some maps within this report*'. Defining the flow path using the Government provided information is an appropriate method for an impact assessment.
- The commentary which referenced that Gunyah Creek was a tributary of the Campaspe River was incorrect in the EES documentation, Gunyah Creek flows adjacent to Campaspe River, but it is part of the Bendigo Creek catchment.
- No changes will be made to the EES documentation now as the process has been finalised and Ministerial endorsement received, however these details will be updated as per the work plan variations process.

FGM to provide response to where water runoff from the TSF facilities goes during rainfall events.

- There is a series of runoff dams around the current TSF facilities and water levels in these dams are kept as low as possible to capture rainfall.
- During rainfall events this water is then managed via pump and pipe infrastructure which allows for water transfers within the mine water circuit.
- All new surface infrastructure requires Work Plan Variation and as part of the design of these facilities, surface water containment is considered and planned to ensure the risk of discharge from site is eliminated.

10. Close out

Feedback was requested regarding topics of interest for the next GNG meeting, and the value of the TSF precinct and Northern Ventilation Shaft tour.

2026 Dates for the Good Neighbour Guide Reference Group Meeting

- Tuesday 19 May 6pm
- Tuesday 18 August 6pm
- Tuesday 17 November 6pm

Good Neighbour Guide Natural Environment and Beautification Program

- Thursday 26 February 6pm