



Good Neighbour Guide Reference Group

Meeting summary

Date: Tuesday 23 September 2025

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Location: Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM)

Attendees:

Neighbouring residents: 16

FGM representatives: 5

1. Introductions

2. Fosterville Gold Mine Operational Updates

Tailing Storage Precinct

- TSF (Tailings Storage Facility) 1 raise 8 is nearing completion, with the facility now at its maximum height.
- At the conclusion of TSF1 raise 8, construction of TSF4 raise 3 will commence, also bringing that facility to its maximum height.
- A Work Plan Variation (WPV) for a new tailings storage facility (TSF5) has been submitted to Resources Victoria. Once approved, construction is expected to commence in late 2025.
- Some discussions were had regarding Gunyah Creek and potential impacts to downstream properties as a result of construction of TSF5. Concern was raised that TSF5 may reduce the natural floodplain and potentially lead to more channelised flood flows.

Action – FGM to provide more information regarding Gunyah Creek at the next GNG meeting.

- A question was raised around the capacity of TSF5 and if it would be enough for the next 10 years of operation.
- TSF5 & TSF6 will provide more capacity than what is required for the next 10 years of operation.

McCormicks Waste Rock Dump Extension (WRDE)

- McCormicks WRDE is nearing capacity.
- Rehabilitation of the lower lift has been completed.
- Rehabilitation included planting 4,500 tube stock and additional seed spread.
- All plants were propagated from seed collected at Fosterville.
- Rehabilitation of the middle and upper lifts is planned for winter 2026.
- Some discussion was had regarding plant browsing by rabbits and kangaroos.
- Revegetation success is monitored and if required, infill planting will be completed.

Southern and Northern Ventilation Shafts

- A Work Plan Variation has been submitted to Resources Victoria for the construction of a southern ventilation shaft.
- Pending approval, FGM expect to commence construction works in late 2025.
- Planning has also commenced for a northern ventilation shaft.
- The northern ventilation shaft will also require a Work Plan Variation once a suitable location has been determined.
- Geotechnical drilling is currently underway to assess the suitability of two proposed locations.
- The anticipated start date is in early 2026.

3. First Party Offsets

The Sustained Operations Project EES Ecology Impact Assessment identified unavoidable impacts to nationally significant ecological communities: Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands, and fauna habitat for Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater under the EPBC Act 1999.

FGM is awaiting Federal Government approval of the Sustained Operations Project EES, EPBC referral, which is expected in Q4 2025.

FGM is working through the process of securing a first party offset, which comprises of 21 parcels of land which are already owned by FGM and will be managed in accordance with Trust for Nature covenant and regulatory requirements.

Management of these parcels will include weed and pest control, planting, and annual ecological surveys. Fencing will be installed along road boundaries along with posts to demarcate internal boundaries.

The following points were also discussed:

- Birds are not expected to disappear from the area; the offsets will be providing secure areas for habitat.
- FGM is progressing the installation of nest boxes, and these will be incorporated into the offset management. Nest boxes will be a combination of man-made boxes and natural hollows from the trees which will be removed.
- Clarification that the fencing will only be on the road facing boundaries of the blocks included in the offset. The type of fencing will be determined by Trust for Nature. The boundary lines which adjoin other blocks will be demarcated with posts only.

4. Property Value Monitoring and Community Impact

The Good Neighbour Guide (GNG) details the following commitments:

- Complete annual market research of property values in local area
- Present findings annually
- GNG revision triggered if negative impact to property prices identified

FGM commissioned a Property Market Research report in April 2019 and another report in January 2023. These Property Market Research reports focused on Fosterville, Axedale, Goornong and Barnadown and determined the average sale price and growth trends of the local market.

Property trends were then compared to the broader region with both reports indicating local area data is closely aligned with the urban/regional areas of Bendigo.

Discussions were had to decide what future steps will be taken:

- Re-engage the same consultant to prepare a new report for 2026.
- Engage a second property market consultant to prepare a report for 2026 as a comparison to the first report.
- The previous reports and future reports to be published on the FGM Community website, with the permission of the author.

5. Property Occupation and Maintenance Program

- An overview of properties owned by FGM and their current use was provided:
- Commercial, agricultural and lifestyle properties for community use are managed by FGM, with maintenance the responsibility of the lessee.
- Residentially leased properties, FGM employee housing, vacant lifestyle properties are managed by PH Property.
- There are four houses which are uninhabitable.
- A map was shown depicting the properties owned by FGM and the property use.

Action – Provide map to attendees and publish on FGM website.

6. Community Survey

Fosterville Gold Mine will be completing a community survey over the next month.

The 'Local Voices' Survey will be completed by Voconiq's who specialise in community surveys.

FGM will be provided a summary of the results, which does not include identifiable details.

Results would also be available on the Voconiq's website, which FGM will also share.

A recommendation in the minister's assessment of the Sustained Operations Project EES was that FGM consult the community around undertaking a stress and anxiety survey. FGM requested feedback on whether the Local Voices survey would be an appropriate platform for questions regarding stress and anxiety.

The majority of attendees considered this an appropriate method and it was decided stress and anxiety questions would be included in the survey.

7. Neighbourhood Enhancement and Beautification Program

FGM is looking to establish the Neighbourhood Enhancement and Beautification Program, and some dates were discussed for the first meeting.

8. Close out

Feedback was requested on dates for the next Good Neighbour Guide Reference Group meeting and topics of interest, including the option for a tour.