



# Better mobile reception is here!

We have partnered with Telstra, State and Federal Governments for improved connectivity. New towers are being erected in Fosterville, Axedale, Goornong, Colbinabbin, Toolleen, Knowsley and Heathcote. Agnico Eagle Australia has made an investment of \$2.5 million into this project.

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### Exploration drilling

Planned for Kamarooka

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Scott shares about working at FGM

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The Good Neighbour Guide

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A summary of our activities

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## Update from the General Manager

From the desk of Lance Faulkner,  
Fosterville Gold Mine's General Manager.

### Welcome to the 1st edition of the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Newsletter for 2024.

The Summer/Autumn period is always a busy time for us with a range of events that quickly fill the calendar, including our favourite ... the annual Open Day. As you will read on page 8, this year the day was well attended, with over 1,000 people taking the opportunity to visit and find out more about our operations and our people.

We were pleased to again be part of the Bendigo Summer in the Parks program, supporting the City of Greater Bendigo and local community groups to hold an array of wonderful events and activities allowing family and friends to come together and enjoy all the great parks around the region. We hope that many of you were able to enjoy the local events in both Axedale and Goornong.

The wetter than normal Summer period saw Goornong facing some flooding during early January, resulting in community members calling on the support of BlazeAid – a volunteer-based organisation focused on helping communities in rural Australia after natural disasters. With up to 70 volunteers staying in caravans at the Goornong Recreation Reserve, the site's electrical facilities were pushed past capacity.

Thanks very much to Friswell Electrical, who quickly carried out an electrical upgrade at the Goornong Recreation reserve providing BlazeAid volunteers with the ability to run air conditioning, and other appliances, at the end of a hard day's work.

#### Seeking better ways to engage

This year, we are looking to introduce a new way of engaging with our neighbours and hope to build more collaborative relationships with those living closest to our operation. In February and March we held two information sessions to outline the process and we thank everyone who gave up their time to attend.

As you will read on page 14, our aim is to keep improving so that our neighbours feel heard and considered when it comes to the way we carry out our operational activities.

In addition to this, we have started holding weekly Coffee and Catch-up sessions at Rise & Grind Café in Axedale - we buy the coffee and are available to have a chat if you'd like to ask a question about our operation. Check out our Facebook page (or website) for dates and times of these, and other info sessions. Thanks to all those who have taken up the offer of a free coffee and thanks to all those who have stopped for a chat.

#### Supporting the next generation of miners

On page 17 you can learn about our 2023/2024 Vacation Student Program where we welcomed 17 university students to Fosterville over their summer vacation break, to gain practical knowledge, experience and exposure to working in a mine.

#### Sharkey's Pit backfill project underway

In the Summer 2023 edition, we shared information around the rehabilitation of Sharkey's Pit, an oxide open cut pit that was mined during the early 1990s. With approval from the City of Greater Bendigo, this project will require the temporary closure of Campaspe Road to allow for backfilling activities to progress.

As a result, Campaspe Road is now closed and we appreciate your patience as we carry out this rehabilitation project. We will provide updates as the project progresses, however, if you have any questions, please contact a member of the Fosterville Community Team.



#### Prepare for more bars ...

... on your phone indicating better mobile reception throughout the area. We have partnered with Telstra, State and Federal Governments for improved connectivity, with new towers being erected in Fosterville, Axedale, Goornong, Knowsley, Colbinabbin, Toolleen and Heathcote as part of the Regional Connectivity Program. The first base station in Fosterville was launched on 15 March.

#### Nearing public exhibition phase for the SOP

We anticipate that the public exhibition period for the Sustained Operations Project Environmental Effects Statement (EES) will be mid-year with final drafting of all studies and chapters of the EES documentation underway in Q1. Please read the Sustained Operations Project update on page 4 to find out what the public exhibition phase entails and to learn more about how you can have your say about this important project.

As always, the Fosterville Community Team is available to community members if there are any concerns or questions about our day-to-day operations.



*Top: Our favourite day of the year drew the crowds who enjoyed learning all about the mine. Pictured here from left are: Jess Mitrovic, Emily Krois, LJ Fleming-Marsh, Luke Krios, David Krois and Lachlan Krois.*

*Above: Thanks to Blaze Aid for helping the Goornong community to recover from the recent flooding.*

*Cover image: Steve Tinker, Telstra's Regional General Manager for Victoria, Lisa Chesters Federal MP and Ion Hann, Vice President, Agnico Eagle Australia at the opening of the new Fosterville mobile base station on Friday 15 March.*





# EES update

The Sustained Operations Project EES is about ensuring that the mine can continue to operate for at least the next 10 years.

## What is an EES?

An Environment Effects Statement – or EES – is a process that assesses the potential impacts of a development proposal and outlines how the impacts of the development will be minimised, should the project proceed.

The *Environment Effects Act 1978* in Victoria requires an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development. The purpose of the EES is to inform members of the public, the assessing and decision-making authorities of the potential environmental impacts of the project.

The EES process is managed by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). DTP convened a Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the Project, which consists of various regulators who have provided input throughout the EES process. Many large infrastructure projects in Victoria are required to undertake an EES.

## Why are Fosterville Gold Mine undertaking an EES?

The EES will assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the additional components required to sustain ongoing operations at Fosterville Gold Mine for the next 10 years.

In 2019 we commenced planning to advance our mining operations to previously unmined areas of MIN5404 and provide adequate additional storage space for mine generated waste products.

## IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- › Approval of the SOP will enable Fosterville Gold Mine to continue to operate in the same way it does now – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- › The project is about sustaining the current operations. Exploration and underground mining will continue into previously unmined areas of MIN5404 using the same methods, and the same types of equipment as current day operations.
- › Processing of ore will continue through the processing plant as per current day operations.
- › Maintaining current processing and mining operations will require additional waste storage and other ancillary services, such as waste rock storage, tailings storage and ventilation upgrades for the underground operations, along with ongoing water management options.
- › Each of these components will be delivered at various stages over the next 10 years.

## Contact us with any questions about the project

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more info



## MINING

- › **Underground mining development:** Extension of existing underground mining operations within Mining Licence 5404.
- › **Open pit cutbacks:** Cutbacks planned for three existing open pits – Farley's Pit, O'Dwyer's North Pit, and O'Dwyer's East Pit. No new pits proposed.
- › **Above ground waste rock dump:** Construction of a waste rock dump at the existing Harrier Pit.
- › **Vent shaft installations:** Two vent shafts planned. One to support northern underground mining infrastructure, and another in the southern half of MIN5404 to support existing mining infrastructure. Fans will be located underground.



## WATER MANAGEMENT

- › **Brine Evaporation Pond:** Construction and operation of a brine evaporation pond. This pond will receive brine from the mine water treatment plant, allowing the water to evaporate naturally.
- › **Aquifer Recharge (AR) Program:** Implementation of an AR program to manage surplus mine water resulting from the dewatering of underground mining operations. Treated mine water from the water treatment plant will be injected into the fractured rock aquifer in the north-western part of MIN5404.



## PROCESSING

- › **New Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs):** Construction and operation of two new TSFs within the existing compound. TSF5 will be adjacent to TSF1 and TSF4, while TSF6 will be located north of TSF1.
- › **Embankment raise of Hunt's Pit:** Increase in water storage capacity to serve as the decant pond for the newly constructed TSFs.
- › **In-Pit Tailings Storage:** Construction and operation of in-pit tailings storage in the open pit cutbacks of Farley's Pit, O'Dwyer's North Pit, and O'Dwyer's East Pit.
- › **Additional CIL Tailings Hardstands:** Construction and operation of CIL Hardstand 5 and CIL Hardstand 6, extending the existing CIL hardstand area.
- › **Transfer/Sale of CIL Tailings:** Possibility of transferring or selling carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings to a third party. The third party will be responsible for any treatment and tailings management beyond the MIN boundary.



## ANCILLIARY

Supporting infrastructure, including haul roads within the mining lease, borrow pit for construction materials and a combined services corridor for energy supply and water reticulation.

# HAVE YOUR SAY!

During the public review phase of the EES, everyone has the opportunity to have their say about the Sustained Operations Project by making a submission.

Before you make your submission, it is important to ensure you have a good understanding of the Sustained Operations Project, by reviewing the EES documentation.

If you have questions about the project, give us a call; attend one of our regular community information sessions; or visit one of our stands at the community events we attend.

## The public review phase

During the public review phase of the EES, you can make a submission to raise concerns or express support for the project. **Keep an eye on our website or social media pages for more information about when and how you can make a submission.**

## What is a public submission?

A submission is an opportunity for you to provide your view on the Fosterville Gold Mine Sustained Operations Project. Submissions are made directly to Planning Panels Victoria (PPV), who independently assess planning proposals and major projects across the state of Victoria. All submissions must be made in writing and be received by the closing date.

Any enquiries regarding the submissions, or the proceeding Inquiry and Hearing process should be directed to PPV.

## Making a submission

Submissions must be made in writing (online or letter form) and received by no later than the closing date for public review. All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission.

## After making a submission

The EES will be on public exhibition for 20 to 30 business days. Once submissions close, an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning will review all submissions. Information on the IAC process and timetable for the public hearings will be published as it becomes available at [www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au)

After the panel review hearings, the IAC will prepare a report with recommendations for the Minister for Planning. The Minister will then make an assessment of the environmental effects.

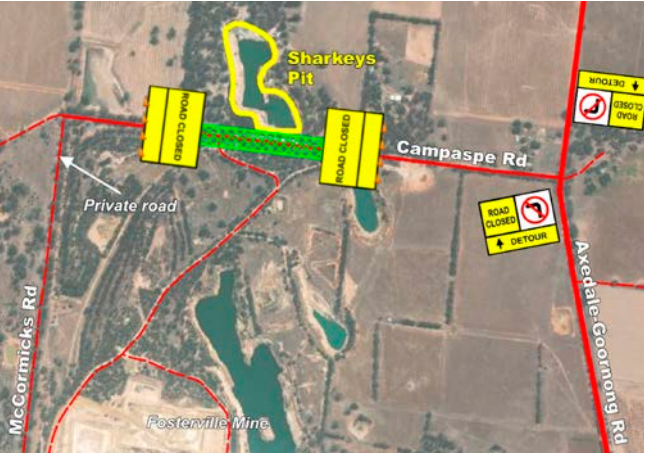


# Sharkey's Pit backfill update

As reported in the Summer edition, we are undertaking the rehabilitation of Sharkey's Pit – an oxide open cut pit that was mined during the early 1990s that is located on private property within mining licence MIN5404, directly north of Campaspe Road – with works already underway.

From 15 March, a section of Campaspe Road will be closed for the duration of the project to enable loaded haul trucks to travel safely across the road.

Earthmoving activities will occur during day shift hours only with up to four surface haulage trucks operating at a time. Targeted noise monitoring will be carried out to assess and manage potential noise impacts to community throughout the duration of the earthmoving activities.



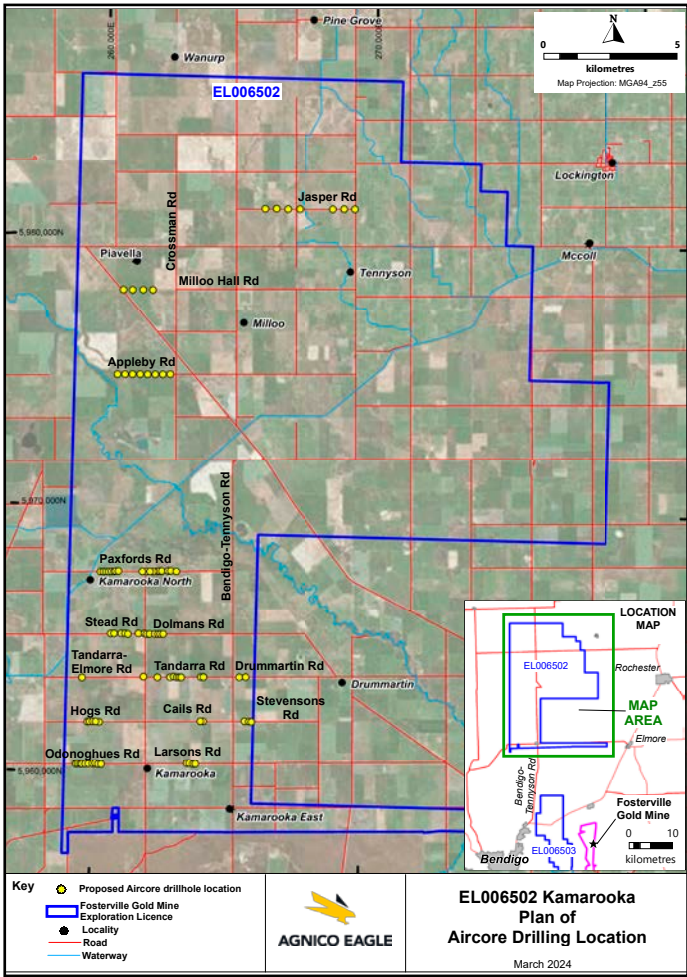
As works progress, we will continue to keep you updated regarding expected completion dates and any changes to road closure conditions. Please refer to the notification on our website for more details about this project.



# Aircore drilling program planned

Fosterville Gold Mine is currently progressing regional exploration programs within the exploration tenement EL006502. These exploration programs are in the Kamarooka, Kamarooka North, Drummartin, Dingee, Tennyson and Milloo within the roadside reserves with the appropriate permitting and on private property.

Agnico Eagle Exploration geologists completed a Passive Seismic Survey along roadsides in late February. This was a quick non-invasive method to test the thickness of younger rocks and sediments that overlie the prospective basement rocks, causing minimal noise and physical disturbance. They will be returning to the area in early April for approximately 4-6 weeks to complete an Air Core (AC) drilling program on roadsides and private property. The aim of the program is to complete the first pass regional reconnaissance drilling that started in 2022, and was subsequently abandoned due to flood events experienced across Victoria. Opportunities for further reconnaissance and infill drilling within the EL006502 tenement will be assessed as FGM's geological interpretations advance. FGM will continue to engage with the local community if further work in this area is proposed.



A community information event will be held on March 23rd, 2024, 9am-12pm at the Kamarooka Recreation Reserve for any community members seeking more info.

# Wheel Cactus eradication

The Wheel Cactus, *Opuntia robusta*, is a Weed of National Significance (WONS) and a regionally controlled weed in our catchment. It is highly invasive and difficult to eradicate as it reproduces from seed and vegetatively from plant fragments. Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) is committed to the management of weed species on our operational site and properties and this includes an annual treatment program for Wheel Cactus.

Herbicide is directly injected into each wheel of the cactus, with the optimal period for treatment being from December through to March. After treatment each wheel is sprayed with paint as an indicator of herbicide injection. FGM staff conduct all direct injection works, and this season, we have treated approximately ten individual plants. Juvenile plants are also being mapped as they emerge ready for treatment.



FGM would like to offer assistance to neighbouring landholders to manage and reduce Wheel Cactus numbers on their property, with the intent to eradicate this invasive species from our region. Please contact the Community Team directly for more information regarding this program.





# A great day to share our passion with the community

Our annual Open Day, took place on 24 February, with over 1,050 people travelling from across the state to come and learn more about our operations as the largest producer of gold in the state.

"The opportunity to open up Fosterville Gold Mine to the public for a day each year, is something that everyone at the mine looks forward to, as we get the opportunity to share our passion for what we do, with the wider community, our friends and neighbours," said Lance Faulkner, General Manager at FGM.

And that passion definitely shone through as feedback from those who attended emphasised the friendliness and professionalism of the staff during their visit.

The main purpose of the day is to provide community members with a chance to not only physically see the mine, but also fill in any gaps in their understanding about how the mine operates.

"Things like safety, environmentally responsible practices and giving back to the community, are just as important to us at Fosterville, as the work we do to extract and process the gold; and our open day provides us with an opportunity to explain and demonstrate this," continued Lance.

Those who attended the day included over 75% of people who live in close vicinity to the mine and over 70% of whom don't have any previous or existing connection with the mine.

We would once again like to thank all of our business and community partners from across the region, who worked with us to make the day a resounding success! They include:

- › Deepcore Drilling,
- › Central Victorian Cranes,
- › Powers Country Express,
- › Mining Council of Australia (Victoria),
- › La Trobe University,
- › Federation University,
- › Hoare Bros,
- › Deleccas, and
- › The Axedale Events Committee (pictured above), who had the very important job of running the BBQ and drinks station for the day!





Scott supervising the development of the John's Pit cutback.

# Came for the work, stayed for the community

**Meet Scott Padgham, who for-the-most-part needs no introduction, as February 2024 marks his 20th year on site. Scott's current role is Processing Services Superintendent looking after the Day Services teams, but that's just one of a number of hats he has worn throughout his time at Fosterville Gold Mine. If you want a quick overview of the mine's modern history and development, Scott is the person to ask!**

## The early days

"When I arrived in February 2004, the mill wasn't yet built and everyone was wearing khaki ... but having come from Kalgoorlie, and before that Perth, I reckon the Kalgoorlie crew started the orange trend," he jokes.

"I am trained as a mining surveyor and was initially employed to manage the starter embankment on TSF1 (Tailings Storage Facility).

"Once the TSF1 construction did eventually start, it was a race to get it done before the mill was commissioned ... there was a bit of pressure at that point to say the least.

"We were all working 50-60+ hour weeks and things were pretty lean, but it was an exciting time. Back then, our current Vice President, Ion Hann, was the only one with a black ticket, so he would be called out at all hours to do underground operations shot firing.

## A little bit of this and a little bit of that

Scott's roles and responsibilities have been quite diverse, having moved between civil earthworks project management, open cut mine design management and supervision, and the survey team. He has also managed the majority of civil earthworks projects on site.

"When open pit mining finished in December 2007, I moved into the Processing Department to manage the Day Services team and, from 2007-11, was involved in the evaluation, design and scheduling of three open pit cutbacks – the Harrier, Johns and O'Dwyer South cut backs – which were mined in 2011-12.

I moved to the mining department as an open pit foreman, during this time, but when the cut backs finished in 2012, I moved back to Day Services and that's where I have been since," he explains.

## What do Day Services do?

Day Services look after the surface water management, and manage the tailings produced from the mill; as well as the civil and mining earthworks projects, environmental sampling and general site earthworks maintenance.

In his role, Scott also manages a number of contractors, large and small, on site and has looked after the surface haulage since 2007, managing ore to the ROM (Run of Mine) and transporting the waste to where it needs to go.

## Why did you choose to work at FGM?

Scott had multiple job offers but chose Bendigo because it looked like a good place to raise a family and allowed him to avoid FIFO (fly in, fly out).

"We moved to Bendigo when my son was two and my daughter had just turned one. Since then we have raised four children here and I have found Bendigo to be a safe, stable environment.

"My kids have done really well in Bendigo and I loved being able to get involved in their sporting endeavours and seeing them enjoy, and often excel, at them.

I also really enjoy working with all the people at the mine as everyone works hard and wants to do right by the company and the community ... it would be fair to say that I came here for the job, but I have definitely stayed because of the community," Scott reflects.

Below: Scott doing some survey on site back in 2006.



## What benefits does FGM provide to Bendigo?

When asked what he thinks FGM brings to the region, Scott says: "It's hard to quantify ... there are so many businesses that have benefitted from FGM from small hardware shops to large earth moving and engineering companies and everything in between.

"Things have evolved over time and improved so much, both in terms of the mine's contributions to the community, and its environmental approach.

"Everything we do is looked at through an environmental lense, with a focus on minimising, as much as we can, our impact on the local community.

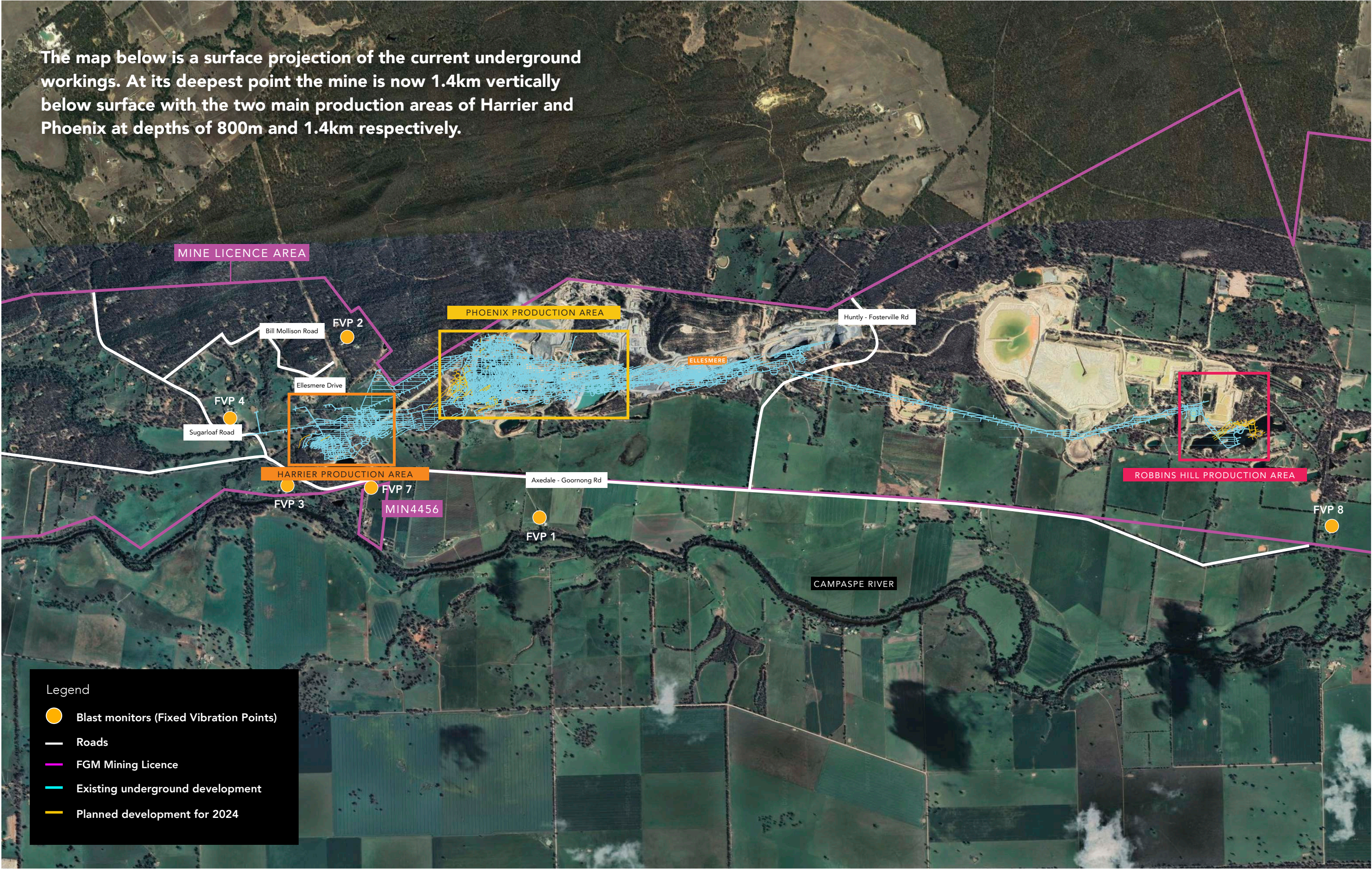
"And FGM is a massive supporter of the community, you'll be hard pressed to find someone who hasn't noticed the positive contribution the mine continues to make," Scott concludes.





# Mine development update

The map below is a surface projection of the current underground workings. At its deepest point the mine is now 1.4km vertically below surface with the two main production areas of Harrier and Phoenix at depths of 800m and 1.4km respectively.







# A new approach to engagement – The Good Neighbour Guide

**As an organisation we are committed to making a positive contribution to the community, and we aim to create a sustained positive legacy in the areas in which we operate.**

Recently Fosterville Gold Mine hosted two community information sessions to outline a new approach to how we engage with our closest neighbours. Over the past few years, we recognise that there has been growing uncertainty around our operations, and the impact on those who are living closest to our site. We have also observed an increase in community complaints and feedback from our neighbours, especially in relation to ground vibration and noise.

Over this period, we have adapted our engagement practices and sought new opportunities to engage and provide transparent and relevant information. However, we also recognise that we don't always get it right, and we continue to reflect and evaluate how we can do better as neighbours.

In 2024, we will introduce a new approach to how we engage with our neighbours, and develop a framework for the community that provides certainty and guidance on how Fosterville will effectively manage the impacts of our operation.

The development of this framework will be done in collaboration with our neighbours and we anticipate the process to take the majority of 2024.

The success of this framework, called the 'Good Neighbour Guide', will be dependent on the establishment of a core working group comprising of neighbours willing to contribute to the process. We will also be reaching out to all our neighbours at various stages throughout the process.

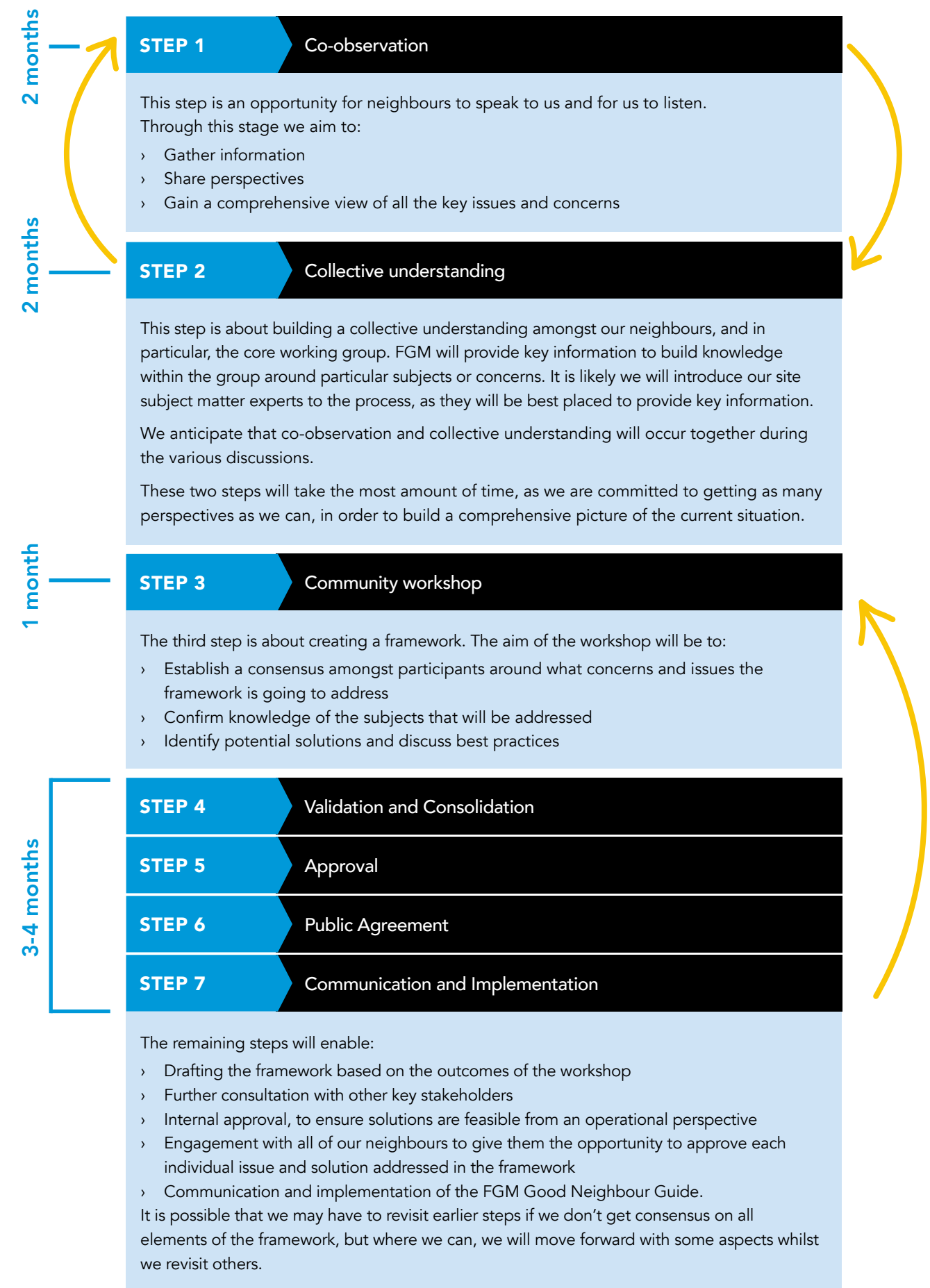
## What is the aim of a Good Neighbour Guide?

The aim of the Good Neighbour Guide is to create a deeper collective understanding of the issues and impacts from our operations, and to work with our neighbours to develop solutions.

An outline of each step involved is shown on page 15.

## Interested in finding out more or being involved?

As we work through this process, we will be reaching out to many of our neighbours seeking your feedback and input on the Good Neighbour Guide framework. If you were unable to attend one of our community information session and would like to know more about this approach or be a part of the working group please get in contact with any member of the FGM Community Team.





# Putting wellbeing first at St Peter's

In our post-Covid world so much has changed and none more so than the worlds of our children, a significant number of whom are finding the school environment a bewildering, sometimes scary place. At St Peter's Primary School, the Principals and teachers are facing this challenge head-on with passion and enthusiasm.

Their tireless efforts were recently recognised at the Bendigo Sports Star Awards (BSSA), where they were awarded the 2023 Fosterville Gold Mine Healthy Schools Award.

## Tackling the aftermath of Covid

Co-Principal Jen Roberts, speaks frankly about the challenges that Covid has left in its wake: "What we are seeing is that many children have returned to school having missed two years of education, and more importantly, socialisation; so we're finding children at Grade 4 still exhibiting behaviours we'd expect in Grade 2," she explains.

Add to that, the lower socioeconomic backgrounds of many of the children at St Peter's – some of whom are grappling with complex trauma – and it is no surprise that the children are struggling to learn.

"We are fortunate to have been part of a research project with La Trobe University for the past six years, so we had access to some excellent data to help us work out the areas in which we needed to put in extra effort," said Jen.

"And through Catholic Education Sandhurst, we also started a Behaviour Support Team with advice from a behavioural analyst in the USA; both of these initiatives provided the basis upon which we worked out the supports needed," she continued.

Since then, the school teaching staff have worked collaboratively to introduce a long list of supports and programs aimed at not only supporting the students while at school, but also recognising their home life challenges and offering support there too.

"There's so many complex things that we're dealing with on a regular basis, that it requires a holistic view and that's what we've got here at St Peter's," says Co-principal, Jeremy Darmody.

"It could be as simple as making sure kids have something to eat before they start their school day, to running Mental Health Month program which teaches children about the "Five ways to wellbeing"; signing families in need up to the "One Box" Food Share program and helping children regulate their emotions with our wellbeing dogs, Lexi and Oreo," he enthuses.

And support for teachers is also a must! With teacher burnout a major concern, the school has introduced a "Reflective Circles" activity which enables staff to share their challenges and support one another on a regular basis.

## Recognition is a reward in itself

"The news that St Peter's had won the BSSA Healthy School's award was a wonderful recognition of all the hard work and dedication that has gone into making St Peters the best it can be for our students, however, the \$3,000 prize, was the cherry on top," said Lauren White, Sustainability Coordinator at St Peter's.

"Fosterville is thrilled to have been able to support St Peter's through the Healthy Schools Award and congratulates the team at St Peter's for the care and passion that they put into their work each day," said Lance Faulkner, General Manager of FGM.

Lance Faulkner with St Peter's Primary School staff – Jake Wilkinson, PE Co-ordinator; Lauren White, Sustainability Co-ordinator and Karli Price, Mental Health in Primary Schools Practitioner – at the Bendigo Sports Star Awards gala event.



# Vacation students count themselves lucky

Another Vacation Student Program has successfully wound up, with 16 enthusiastic students from eight different universities, as well as one candidate from Queens University in Canada, ticking it off their to do lists.

The students represented a multitude of disciplines including Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Geology, Surveying, Computer Science, Commerce and of course various types of Engineering (mining, civil, chemical and mechanical).

The opportunity allowed the students to familiarise themselves with the practical application of their chosen disciplines, soaking up the knowledge of our experienced mining, processing, geology, commercial, environment & community and underground crews.

We caught up with aspiring geologist, Tad Willmott, who wrapped up his second summer with the Fosterville Gold Mine Vacation Program, to find out what the experience meant to him ...

## The reward of hands-on learning

Hailing from the University of Tasmania with majors in geology and psychology, 21-year-old Tad's journey from a rock-collecting kid to a knowledge-hungry scholar is nothing short of inspiring. His adventure underscores the reward of diving into what you love and discovering the wonders of hands-on learning along the way.

Tad lights up talking about his time at FGM, saying, "You know, we geologists don't usually do Summer gigs like the engineers, but getting out there and really getting into the nitty-gritty of it all – that's where the true magic of learning is."

He's also buzzing with excitement about his upcoming backpacking trip across Canada, seeing it as the ultimate "gap year" filled with exploration, adventure, and, of course, more rocks.

## A sensible approach

Determined to carve out a career in the resources sector, Tad is keenly aware of its impact and potential for positive change.

"The world's shift to renewable energy means we'll need more metals. We need more copper, more cobalt, more lithium, more everything. And we need to be as sensible as possible about how we go about digging that up to ensure that we don't mess up the planet," he said.

"I want to be a part of that. I want to be part of the brains behind making that work."

The Fosterville Gold Mine Vacation Program is a gem for undergraduates undertaking a tertiary qualification in a relevant discipline, like geology. It's all about getting some real-life experience in the field, which is golden for understanding what you're getting into.

This program's been a game-changer for Tad, meshing perfectly with his studies and setting him up for all the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in his career.



*"I want to be a part of that. I want to be part of the brains behind making that work."*



## Brooke is taking the LEAD in her community



Brooke Jones and Will Wettenhall at the LEAD LMCLP launch.

Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) is once again providing a scholarship for a local community member to participate in the LEAD Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program which has been running annually since 1998.

This is the fifth year that FGM has provided a scholarship, to support a community-minded individual to develop their leadership skills.

The successful participants were announced at the program's launch on Friday 23 February and this year's FGM scholarship awardee is Huntly resident, Brooke Jones.

"We are very pleased to provide Brooke with the opportunity to participate in this program; it is passionate, community-minded people like Brooke who help make our communities the connected and caring places we call home," said Will Wettenhall, Environment and Community Manager at FGM.



## Environment & Community Snapshot – Q4 2023

Each quarter, the FGM Environment and Community team provides a detailed report to the Environment Review Committee. Please find below the key info and highlights from the Q4 report for 2023.



### Activities update

Key environmental and community activities completed during Q4 2023 include:

#### Environmental activities:

- › Fieldwork component of acoustic camera assessment at Processing Plant completed.
- › Drill rig acoustic study and field measurements undertaken to inform response to EPA Prohibition Notice 00001694.
- › External audit of the 1080 fox baiting program completed by Agriculture Victoria.
- › Completed rabbit fumigation on FGM owned properties.

#### Community engagement activities:

- › Awarded the second round of FGM Community Grants.
- › Volunteer assistance at 2023 Rochella Music Festival.
- › Hosted multiple site visits, including Axedale Primary School, East Loddon P-12 and La Trobe University IT students.
- › Held multiple community coffee and catch-up engagement sessions at Axedale coffee shop.
- › Attended the official opening of the Goornong Primary School Outdoor Learning Space.
- › Continued significant community engagement presence and sponsorship at community events including Elmore Field Days, Eaglehawk Children's Festival, Strathfieldsaye CFA Open Day, Lego Mania Challenge for International Day of People with Disability, and LEAD Loddon Murray LMCLP 2023 graduation.



Acoustic Camera Assessment at the Processing Plant.



(Left to Right) Janelle, Wendy, Les & Ellie on hand at the Elmore Field Days.



Goornong Primary School Staff and Students celebrating the new Outdoor Learning Space.



## Fosterville Gold Mine Community Grants – applications now open

The Community Grants Program aims to support initiatives which actively contribute to the growth of our local communities both now and into the future.

Members of the Quarry Hill Croquet Club with "Goldie", their new turf lawnmower that was purchased as a result of the Fosterville Community Grant they received. ▶



Applications open Friday 23 February 9am and close Monday 25 March at 5pm

W: [fgmcommunity.com.au](http://fgmcommunity.com.au) E: [fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com)





## Environmental monitoring update

### Noise monitoring

During Q4 2023, FGM conducted 152 compliance noise monitoring sessions. No exceedances were recorded above the respective noise limits for the day, evening and night periods.

### Surface Water Monitoring

During Q4 2023, there were six moderate risk surface water quality exceedances:

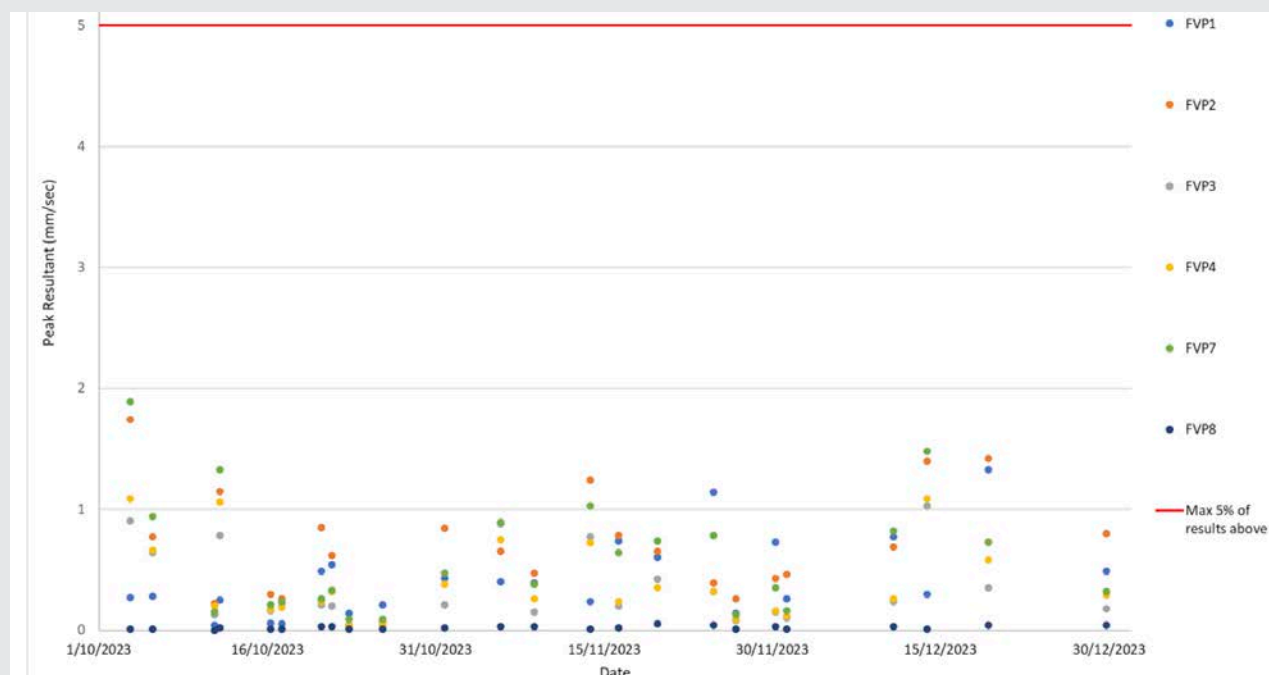
- › The October sample from FWR22 returned a Total Lead concentration of 8.13 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline of 0.1 mg/L. The dam was inspected in October for potential sources of contamination and the laboratory retested the initial water sample, which subsequently confirmed the results. The dam was resampled on 22/11/2023 and returned a Total Lead concentration of 0.012 mg/L below the ANZECC guideline of 0.1 mg/L, confirming that the exceedance was anomalous.

- › The November and December samples from FWO28 returned Total Arsenic concentrations of 0.968 mg/L and 1.08 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline of 0.5 mg/L. Additionally, the October, November and December results returned pH concentrations of pH 9.13, pH 9.34 and pH 9.09, above the ANZECC guideline of pH 6 - 9. The dam was inspected, and it was identified as having low water levels due to evaporation over the summer months, which has resulted in the elevated Arsenic and pH concentrations. This trend, with Arsenic and pH concentrations peaking in the summer period, has been observed consistently since monitoring began in December 2017. This dam will continue to be monitored monthly to identify any additional corrective actions.

### Ground vibration monitoring

Blast and ground vibration monitoring is undertaken in accordance with Australian Standard Explosives AS 2187.2:2006 – Storage and Use – Use of Explosives. FGM's ground vibration limits are:

- › The maximum level of ground vibration must not exceed 5 mm/s on more than 5% of blasts fired within a 12-month period.
- › The maximum level of ground vibration must not exceed 10 mm/s at any time.



Blasting ground vibration monitoring results for October - December 2023. During Q4 2023, there were a total of 19 production firings and 496 development firings. All ground vibration results were well below regulatory blasting limits during the reporting period.

### Air quality monitoring

#### Depositional dust monitoring:

During Q4 2023, all depositional dust monitoring results were compliant, except for the November depositional dust sample from site FA13 (located 50m west of Axedale-Goornong Road). This sample showed a total insoluble solids concentration of 4.7 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month, exceeding the indicator objective of 4.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month.

Field observations made during sample collection noted the presence of bird droppings and insects in the bottle. The elevated levels at FA13 were linked to contamination from insects and bird droppings.

#### HVAS monitoring:

All HVAS monitoring results were compliant during Q4 2023.

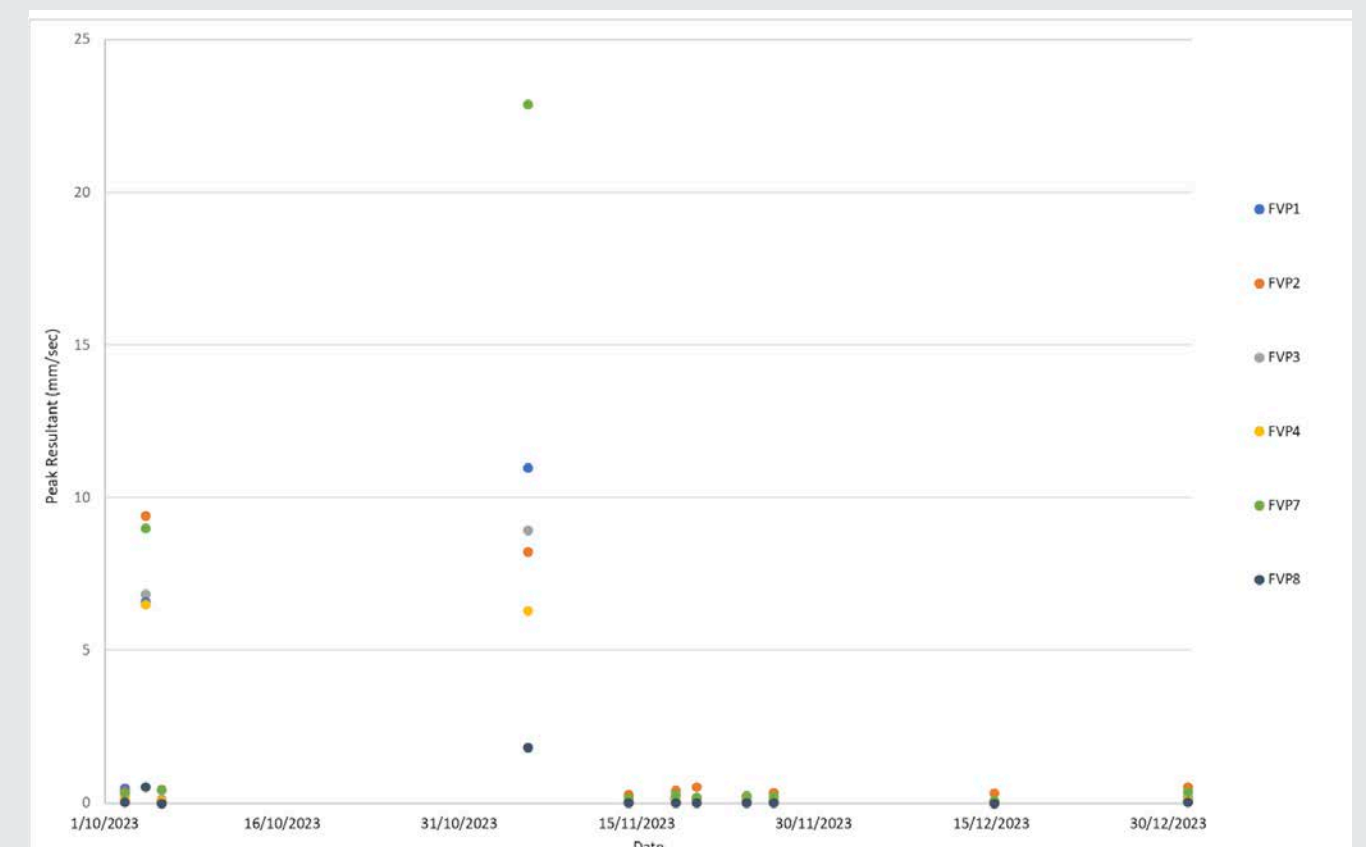
### Groundwater monitoring

During Q4 2023, there was one moderate risk groundwater quality exceedance:

The November sample from BGL61 recorded an Antimony concentration of 0.023 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.009 mg/L. The bore was resampled in December to confirm the exceedance and returned an Antimony concentration of 0.008 mg/L below the ANZECC guideline, suggesting the November sample result may have been anomalous.

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 February ERC meeting for external comment, and do not present a risk to community or the environment.

Mine induced seismicity is a phenomenon whereby mining activity redistributes the existing stress regime underground. The stress release may be felt or heard as vibration or a rumble on the surface.



Seismic ground vibration monitoring results for October - December 2023. There were 11 mine-induced seismic events that were detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.



## Social responsibility update

The fourth quarter of 2023 was full of many great events and community activities. Fosterville was pleased to support the following community events and programs.

### Sponsorships and donations

During Q4 2023, contributions were made to the following organisations as part of FGM's sponsorships and donations program.

- › Axedale Events – Sponsorship of the 2024 Axedale Quick Shear
- › Rosalind Events – Sponsorship of the 2024 Bendigo Ford Fun Run 2024
- › Bendigo Tennis Centre – Year three of three-year partnership
- › City of Greater Bendigo – Sponsorship of Fun Loong Day
- › Great Cycle Challenge – Sponsorship of employees raising money for Kids Cancer Charity
- › MND Golf Day/Big Freeze – Raising funds for MND
- › Goornong Recreation Reserve - Donation
- › Cancer Council Victoria – Sponsorship of the 2024 Relay 4 Life
- › Bendigo Pony Club – Sponsorship of outdoor seating at the Goornong Recreation Reserve
- › Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise – Sponsorship of the 2024 Huntly Family Fun Day
- › Eaglehawk Dahlia & Arts Festival – Sponsorship of the 2024 Festival
- › Bendigo Sports Star Awards – Sponsorship of the 2024 Bendigo Sports Star Awards
- › Bendigo Toyota Golf Day – Sponsorship of charity golf day
- › Eaglehawk Community House – Sponsorship of the Eaglehawk Children's Festival
- › Bendigo Pride Festival – Sponsorship for the 2024 event



Natasha Van Leeuwen, Trudi Jackson, Leigh Byrne and Scott Padgham at this year's Bendigo Pride Festival Pride in the Park event.



We were proud of our staff team who participated in the 2024 Bendigo Ford Fun Run.



It was great to sponsor and be part of the Huntly Family Fun Day again this year.



We once again were a sponsor of the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival.

## Environment and community performance

### Environmental incidents for Q4

There were fourteen low risk environmental incidents, all of which were minor spill events that were contained to the immediate operational area and cleaned up appropriately.

There were no moderate risk or high risk environmental incidents reported during Q4 2023.



### Community complaints

During Q4 2023, FGM received a total of 31 community complaints from 13 different landholders.

*\*One combined complaint relating to blasting and mine induced seismicity*

Mine-induced seismicity **18\***

Eighteen complaints relating to ground vibration from mine-induced seismicity, including one combined complaint relating to blasting and seismicity, were received from twelve landholders and were associated with four separate events. The location and magnitude of the mine-induced seismic events were determined using the underground seismic monitoring system. Information regarding the seismic events was provided to landholders via email, where follow up was requested, advising of magnitude, location and ground vibration results from FGM's surface vibration monitoring system.

The MIS event on 05/11/2023 was originally recorded on FGM's underground seismic monitoring system as 2.5Mw magnitude by the Institute of Mine Seismology (IMS), however variance with the magnitude reported by Geoscience Australia led to an investigation and review of the data from FGM's underground seismic monitoring system and the surface vibration monitoring system. Following the integration of the additional data the event was reclassified from 2.5Mw to 3.1Mw. This event reclassification and the investigation process was communicated to all landholders who lodged a complaint, and all neighbouring landholders via written correspondence. Information regarding the event reclassification was also posted to the FGM website and social media platforms

Blasting ground vibration **12\***

Twelve complaints relating to ground vibration from blasting, including one combined complaint relating to blasting and seismicity, were received from three different landholders. Eleven complaints were lodged in relation to FGM production firings with one complaint lodged in relation to an FGM development firing. Investigations confirmed all surface ground vibration results were well below regulatory limits. When requested, the FGM Community Team followed-up with landholders to provide additional information, including surface vibration results, firing locations, and to discuss blasting and vibration management.

Noise **1**

One complaint relating to noise was received from a neighbouring landholder. Immediate investigations of the plant and equipment located to the south of the operation were conducted. Observations could not identify any noise similar to what was described by the landholder. This feedback was provided to the landholder.

Other **1**

One complaint relating to the 1080 Fox Baiting program. A neighbouring landholder contacted FGM regarding this baiting station, raising concerns this would present a danger to domestic animals. After this conversation, FGM removed the bait station from this property and advised the landholder of the action taken.

### Regulatory and engagement notices

FGM continues to operate in compliance with the EPA remedial notices issued in relation to low frequency noise (LFN) emissions from the premises in Nov 2021.

Notice	Issue date	Status
EPA Prohibition Notice 00001694	29/11/2021	In effect – Restrictions to surface drill rig operating hours remain in effect.



## Follow us everywhere



@fostervillegoldmine\_



facebook.com/AEMFosterville



Fosterville Gold Mine



### OUR COMMITMENT TO ENGAGEMENT

FGM appreciates the level of concern some community members have regarding FGMs operations, which is why we are committed to meaningful and open engagement, and the provision of evidence-based information.

On occasion information from our engagement activities or materials can be misrepresented, resulting in misleading information being relayed by others within the community.

If you come across information which concerns you, or you have questions you'd like answered regarding our operational activities and future plans, we encourage you to reach out directly to the FGM Community Team. We will do our best to answer your questions and provide you with accurate information to assist your knowledge and understanding.

## Sign up for SMS blast notifications

**Blasting is an essential part of the gold mining process.**

As FGM's underground mine advances, nearby residents may feel ground vibration from some firings. We monitor ground vibration using a network of blast monitors (geophones) to ensure we are compliant with the vibration limits detailed in FGM's Mining Licence.

In order to keep the community informed, FGM has implemented an SMS Blast Notification System which sends residents SMS notifications in advance of planned production firings.

FGM usually undertakes production firings between 6:30am-7am and 6:30pm-7pm. However independent development firings may also be conducted at other times.



To receive blast notifications please contact the **Community Team via the contact details below.**

### Did you know?

We are currently undertaking an Environment Effects Statement as part of our Sustained Operations Project, which aims to ensure that the mine can continue to operate for at least the next 10 years.

Scan for  
more info



## Contact us

If you wish to receive this newsletter via email or would like to be removed from the distribution list contact us below.

### Fosterville Gold Mine

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Working together.

Caring for community.

Making our home better for everyone.

# That's gold!



Agnico Eagle Fosterville acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungurung Peoples of the Kulin Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.