



Gold tram on the tracks

Bendigo Tramways and Fosterville Gold Mine recently launched the "Bendigo – Built on gold" tram which pays homage to the foundational role that gold has played in Bendigo's past and continues to have for the future.

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Latest aquatic survey

Results are in

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Getting rehab right

Back to the way it was or better

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Improved waste management

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Update from the General Manager

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

Welcome to the third edition of the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Newsletter for 2023. It has been a busy period with the completion of the TSF 1 wall raise and the continued work to progress the Sustained Operations Project. We were also fortunate to celebrate several important events, including International Day of Women in Mining, the individual achievement of our employees at the Victorian Women in Resources Awards and the commencement of our 2023 Apprenticeship Program.

Victorian Women in Resources Awards

Congratulations to Rachel Peng and Alia Melgin-Hill who were recognised at the 2023 Minerals Council of Australia Victorian Women in Resources Awards. Rachel, a Graduate Rock Mechanics Engineer, was named Exceptional Young Woman in Resources and Alia, a Process Plant Operator, was named Outstanding Australian Trade Operator or Technician. We are thrilled to have such exceptionally talented people working with us and proud to support the advancement of women in the mining industry. Rachel and Alia also represented Victoria at the BHP 2023 Women in Resources National Awards held in Canberra and while there met the member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters MP.

International Day of Women in Mining 2023

To recognise the International Day of Women in Mining (IDWiM 2023) on the 15 June; Agnico Eagle hosted an event at the Red Energy Arena in Bendigo.

IDWiM aims to empower women to share their passion for the mining industry and commemorate past achievements in gender inclusion while reinforcing the belief that "equity in mining is everyone's responsibility". Two excellent guest speakers Karissa Cameron, founder of Lead with Purpose, and Unna Goldsworthy, founder of the UNNA Movement, delivered inspiring keynote speeches to those that attended.

Overall, the event was a great opportunity for the wider mining industry to come together, celebrate the contributions of women to the sector, and recommit to working towards our Diversity and Inclusion vision.

2023 FGM Apprenticeship Program

In June we also welcomed four new apprentices as part of the 2023 apprenticeship program. Jett, Josh and Oliver will be completing their apprenticeships as Diesel Mechanics, and Charlie has commenced as an apprentice Electrician.

At the commencement of their employment each of our new apprentices attended site with their parents. This is a new initiative designed to familiarise the families with our site and the people they will be working with as they transition from school into the working world. We are looking forward to seeing how they develop their skills over the next four years.

Barrie Winzar Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that the 2023 Barrie Winzar Memorial Bursaries were awarded in April to Uazmin Hayes, who resides in Elmore and is studying Exercise Science, and Kai Xia, who lives in Rochester and is studying Dental Science. We are confident that Barrie would have been delighted with their selection as part of the scholarship program.



Top: The International Day of Women in Mining 2023 was held at Red Energy Arena in Bendigo.

Top-left: Rachel Peng, Lisa Chesters MP and Alia Melgin-Hill at the BHP 2023 Women in Resources National Awards in Canberra.

Right: New apprentices Jett, Josh, Oliver and Charlie with Lance on their first day at FGM.



Planning our future

Work on the Fosterville Gold Mine Sustained Operations Project is ongoing, and we will continue to keep the community informed as the Environment Effects Statement process progresses. However, if you have any questions regarding our future operations please reach out at any time.

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



Water monitoring update - Aquatic survey

Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) recognises the Campaspe River as an important river system. It sustains agricultural production, recreational activities, and aesthetic and biodiversity values of local, regional and national significance.

FGM first initiated aquatic surveys of the Campaspe River in 2011, and since this time, regular aquatic surveys have continued in the Campaspe River and the lower reaches of Axe Creek. The river health survey is undertaken by an external aquatic ecologist and is completed twice per year to account for seasonal variability.

The most recent surveys were undertaken in May 2022 and February 2023, with the later study delayed due to riverine flooding last Spring. The study area includes sampling five sites on the Campaspe River and one on the lower reach of Axe Creek, which discharges into the Campaspe River approximately five kilometres downstream of Axedale.

The key objectives of the survey are to assess the current river health by sampling aquatic macroinvertebrate and macrophyte communities and to create a robust biological monitoring dataset used to monitor the long-term health of the river system.

- The survey assessment includes measuring:
- › Water quality parameters (e.g. pH, EC, TDS);
 - › Macroinvertebrates populations (e.g. snails, worms, crayfish, clams);
 - › Macrophyte communities (e.g. aquatic plants) and
 - › Aquatic fauna diversity (e.g. platypus, fish, native water rat).

The 2022/23 survey results indicate that variations in water quality, macrophytes, macroinvertebrates and aquatic fauna were all within the range that could be experienced due to variations in season, climate and sampling.

The in-situ water quality results from the autumn and summer surveys indicated no significant ecological variation between the five Campaspe River monitoring sites. There were some differences in average water temperature and dissolved oxygen between the two seasons, with summer 2023 having higher temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen levels, which is to be expected due to seasonal variations. Axe Creek is an ephemeral watercourse, meaning it does not always naturally flow and, as such, had no flow during the survey period. As a result, it returned comparatively poorer water quality results, reflecting its lack of flows and impacts from stock (namely sheep), other animals, and shading.

A total of 49 macrophyte species were recorded during the last survey, compared to 31 species in 2021. Two new species were detected during the Autumn survey, including the macroalgae Stonewort and Blunt Pondweed. During the Summer survey, the aquatic vegetation was significantly lower than previously observed, likely due to vegetation being scoured away out of the river watercourse during the flooding.

A massive total of 1,662 macroinvertebrate specimens were collected during the survey, representing 45 families. Compared to the 2021 survey, there is a slight decrease in the number of individuals recorded; however, an increase in the number of families represented.

During the fauna surveys, three species of fish, three species of crustaceans and a family of four platypus were recorded at Rocky Crossing on the Campaspe River. There was also extensive evidence of Rakali (native water rat) through observing shell middens consisting solely of Pea Mussel located on the river's edges.

The aquatic surveys completed indicate seasonal variations in the aquatic biota of the river and that the composition of the aquatic biota is dynamic and impacted by a range of other factors, including agricultural and urban impacts, river regulation from Lake Eppalock, flooding, and erosion.

FGM will continue to monitor the health of the Campaspe River in the vicinity of its operations to assess the condition of this important river system. The survey team completed the first river survey in July 2023 and will conduct the second survey this Spring.

1. Diverse macrophytes:

In the latest survey, 49 macrophyte species were found, a significant increase from 31 in 2021. Notably, two new species, Stonewort and Blunt Pondweed, were discovered in the Autumn survey.

2. Rich macroinvertebrate life:

1,662 macroinvertebrates were collected, representing 45 families. While there was a slight decrease in individual numbers compared to 2021, there was an increase in the number of unique families identified.

3. Abundant aquatic fauna:

During fauna surveys, Rocky Crossing on the Campaspe River revealed three fish species, three crustacean species, and a family of four platypus. Evidence of Rakali (native water rat) was also abundant through shell middens filled with Pea Mussel shells along the river's edges.



Sustained Operations Project update

The FGM Sustained Operations Project (SOP) team and lead consultants, AECOM, have continued their work on preparing the documentation for the Environment Effects Statement (EES) to address the scoping requirements in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and other regulatory agencies. We therefore remain in the preparation stage.

Once the preparation phase is complete, DTP and FGM will provide at least two weeks' notice of the EES documentation release and the commencement of the public review period.

In the meantime here is a recap on what the components of the project are:

- › Underground exploration and mining
- › Open pit mining cutbacks (extensions)
- › In-pit tailings storage facilities within existing pits
- › Harrier waste rock dump
- › Tailings Storage Facilities
- › Carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings hardstands
- › Brine evaporation pond
- › General ancillary works
- › Excavation of the CIL tailings, loading and transporting off-site to an external facility
- › Hunt's Pit embankment
- › Aquifer recharge within the bedrock aquifer (this is the only new component that is being proposed).

Learn all about the project now!

There is no need to wait for the public review period to access all the details about the SOP.

- › Check out this easy to understand **project fly through video** to see all the components of the project.
- › Visit the Virtual consultation room: <https://fgm.consultation.ai/> - which offers lots of information about every aspect of the project.
- › Sign up to email updates fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com or ask a question through our website
- › Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
- › Look out for updates via newsletters, email and our website.
- › Request a one-on-one meeting with a member of the FGM Environment and Community team.



The SOP Project Flythrough provides a visual and easy to understand overview of the project.

Shine Bright Axedale Bush Kindergarten

In 2022, the Shine Bright Axedale Kindergarten partnered with FGM to reestablish the Axedale Bush Kinder Program. The unique program provides access to the bush once a week for three- and four-year-old kinder groups. The highly successful program has continued in 2023, and Fosterville is proud to have continued its support for this fantastic initiative.



Jessica Beckingsale, Educator at Shine Bright Axedale Kindergarten, has provided her thoughts on the program over 2023:

Axedale's Bush Kinder program has provided and continues to give the children an incredible opportunity to experience, explore and connect with Country and all it offers. While engaged in natural play on Dja Dja Wurrung land, the children awaken all their senses as they respond to what they see, hear, feel, and smell, fostering curiosity, imagination and inquiry-based learning.

Over the duration of Bush Kinder, the children have continued to contribute to creating a Humpy – a small, temporary shelter made from tree branches, bark, and leaves, traditionally used by Indigenous Australians. This humpy has withstood the wind and the rain and has become an excellent space for imaginative play, trial and error, problem-solving, social development and gross motor skills.

The ever-changing environment surrounding the Bush Kinder site exposes the children to the various seasons and the impacts this has on the trees, bushes, and wildlife. Most recently, the children observed the wattle as it began to bloom, noting that it looks like "pom poms" and identifying the beautiful yellow colour.

As the children explore Country, we engage in ongoing intentional teaching surrounding respect and care for Country and the importance of this. This learning came into play when the children observed a variety of insects and minibeasts, creating a home amongst the fallen leaves, branches, and bark. The children collected their magnifying glasses and observed the little critters from a distance to avoid disturbing them. As they watched, they discussed the colours, the number of legs, if they were big or small, and asked questions about what each insect was doing.

The children utilise the fallen tree branches in various ways, such as obstacles to balance on, a seat to sit on as they pretend it is a car or use it as a campfire for cooking.

The learning during Bush Kinder plays a significant role in supporting future generations to become environmentally friendly and sustainable adults, meanwhile fostering important traits such as resourcefulness, critical thinking, and innovation.

We look forward to continuing our Bush Kinder program for many years and sincerely thank Fosterville Gold Mine for its essential role in allowing this program to happen.

Getting environmental rehabilitation right

On 20 July, we hosted a community information session at the Axedale Hall presented by Pat Harton, Senior Environment and Community Advisor (Projects and Rehabilitation). The session was designed to provide an opportunity for local community members to learn about current and future rehabilitation activities at FGM, and ask questions of our team.

During the session Pat provided an update on current and future rehabilitation planning including:

OUR REHABILITATION APPROACH

FGM has an approved Rehabilitation Plan, prepared in accordance with the regulatory guidelines that is routinely reviewed and updated as the site changes, as rehabilitation methods and technologies evolve, and as progressive rehabilitation is completed onsite.

The plan includes information relating to:

- › proposed post-mining land uses and landforms,
- › rehabilitation objectives,
- › closure criteria,
- › stakeholder engagement, and
- › post-rehabilitation risks.

What will be rehabilitated?

The Rehabilitation Plan encompasses all aspects of FGM's site. The plan divides the site into rehabilitation domains, which group similar features/infrastructure that require common activities as part of rehabilitation works. These domains are the foundation of the Rehabilitation Plan, enabling us to implement a standardized and consistent rehabilitation approach to similar landforms or infrastructure.

How will the site be rehabilitated?

The post-mining rehabilitation concepts presented in our Rehabilitation Plan are designed to achieve safe, stable and sustainable landforms and rehabilitation outcomes. Post-mining land uses aim to return the majority of FGM's site to a similar vegetation function and structure that existed prior to disturbance by FGM's mining operations.

To ensure consistent and effective rehabilitation outcomes, FGM's Rehabilitation Plan documents SMART closure criteria.

Completion criteria will incorporate aspects ranging from physical elements (e.g., stability, drainage, erosion and suitability of rehabilitation materials to support vegetation growth) through to biological aspects (e.g., vegetation establishment and growth) and post-closure management.

S SPECIFIC

M MEASURABLE

A ATTAINABLE

R REALISTIC

T TIME-BOUND

There are four typical phases of mine closure and rehabilitation, that generally apply to each rehabilitation domain at Fosterville Gold Mine. These include:

- › Decommissioning, demolition and disposal of infrastructure and services.
- › Assessment, treatment and/or disposal of any contaminated land.
- › Earthworks and revegetation including establishment of final landforms, surface water drains, ripping and soil amelioration, and revegetation.
- › Monitoring and validation to assess rehabilitation success and progress towards SMART closure criteria.

When does rehabilitation occur?

At FGM there are two key phases of rehabilitation:

1. Progressive rehabilitation: occurs during the operational phase, as operational areas/features become available (e.g., McCormicks Waste Rock Dump capping and revegetation, Rehe's Pit backfilling, and TSF embankment hydroseeding)
2. Post closure: occurs once mining operations cease. There are critical elements of the site that will be required for the life of mine and will not become available for rehabilitation until mining ceases (e.g., processing plant, underground portals and associated infrastructure).



THE REHABILITATION BOND

A rehabilitation bond is a financial security provided by mine operators prior to works commencing to ensure that site rehabilitation can be undertaken by the regulatory department should the operator be unable to meet their rehabilitation obligations. Fosterville Gold Mine's rehabilitation bond is held in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee.

Earth Resources Regulation is responsible for setting and reviewing rehabilitation bonds for the mining industry in Victoria. Bonds are regularly reviewed by the Department to ensure they remain at appropriate levels during the life of the operation. Fosterville Gold Mine also routinely reviews its rehabilitation liability to ensure estimated costs are commensurate with site rehabilitation objectives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON REHABILITATION

FGM has a long history of stakeholder engagement regarding rehabilitation and closure. Initial rehabilitation strategies were discussed and agreed upon by relevant stakeholders during the 1996 EES process.

Engagement regarding mine rehabilitation planning is a continuous and often complex process, involving multiple stakeholders with varied views and preferences with respect to rehabilitation outcomes and end land uses.

Some of the key stakeholders that FGM consults with regarding rehabilitation planning include:

- › Local government
- › State government and regulators
- › Private landowners
- › Crown land managers
- › User and special interest groups
- › Community
- › Traditional owners

For further information regarding closure and rehabilitation please visit fgmcommunity.com.au or contact a member of the FGM Community Team on 03 5439 9000 or fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com.

Environment Review Committee – Community Representative Update

The Fosterville Gold Mine Environment Review Committee (ERC) was established over 25 years ago and consists of a group of stakeholders who review the environmental performance of the Fosterville operation.

Membership includes representatives from Goulburn Murray Water (GMW), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Earth Resources Regulator (ERR), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA), City of Greater Bendigo (COGB) and the local community.

The purpose of the ERC is to facilitate effective two-way communication and build knowledge to promote better understanding of the Fosterville mining operation between key stakeholders.

The scope of FGM's ERC includes, but is not limited to, the following aspects:

- › Operational updates on aspects including health and safety, mining and production, projects and approvals, and exploration.
- › Review of environmental performance against regulatory requirements and licence conditions, and due consideration of community expectations, where appropriate.

Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) recently appointed two new community representatives, Ashleigh Neil and Jonathan Constable, who will join existing community representative, Ian Ralston as members of the ERC.

Jonathan Constable

Jonathan is a Mechanical Engineering student with a deep love of nature and a passion for innovation. He is committed to discovering new sustainable technologies to enhance mining operations and reduce environmental impact. Jonathan is an active

local community member, engaging with young families and participating in events promoting conservation and sustainability.

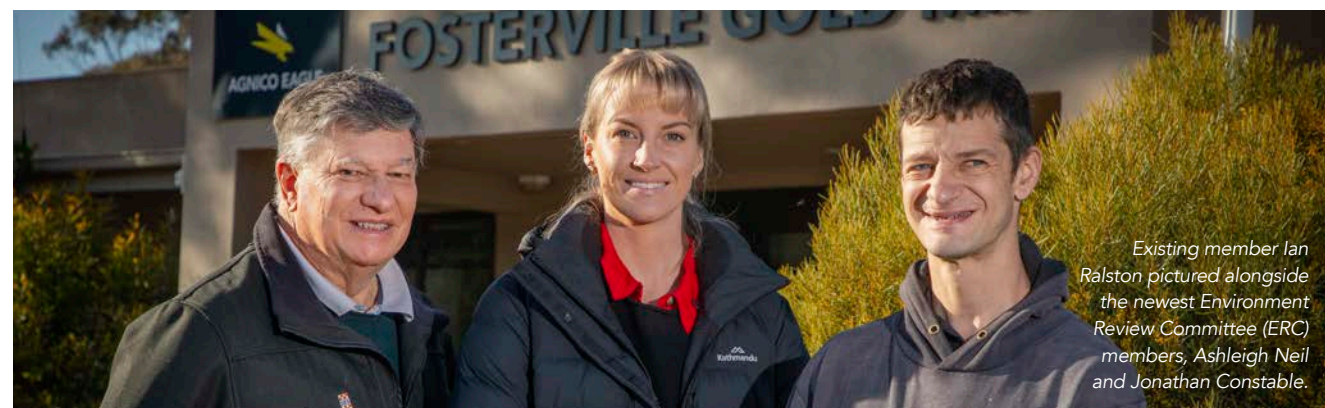
Ashleigh Neil

Ashleigh is an environmental scientist with extensive experience in mining and drilling operations. As an environmental consulting and monitoring expert, Ashleigh is well-equipped to assess Fosterville Gold Mine's performance from an environmental standpoint, ensuring that it aligns with broader community interests. She is committed to open communication and community networking, promoting effective two-way communication between the mine and its stakeholders.

Ian Ralston

Ian has been associated with gold and coal mines for more than fifteen years. He is a passionate advocate for environmental awareness and sustainability, demonstrated by his previous work rehabilitating mangroves and using environmentally sustainable practices at his property. Ian is well-connected within the Bendigo community through his involvement with various organisations, including the Victoria State Emergency Service and La Trobe University. He joined the ERC in 2021.

All three members bring diverse expertise and a shared commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement, which will aid Fosterville Gold Mine's ongoing efforts to ensure responsible and sustainable mining practices.



Existing member Ian Ralston pictured alongside the newest Environment Review Committee (ERC) members, Ashleigh Neil and Jonathan Constable.

Waste transfer facility boosts safety and sustainability efforts.

Waste transfer facility opens for business

In July, FGM completed commissioning our new waste transfer facility. This purpose-built facility has been in development for some time. It consists of a raised central area with angled concrete bays on either side for hook-lift bins, allowing various wastes to be dropped off in one location.

Establishing this facility is intended to benefit FGM staff, contractors, and the environment. By allowing bins to be loaded from an elevated working height rather than from ground level, the structure helps to eliminate or reduce some of the manual handling risks to our staff. The facility was designed with a one-way traffic system, with light vehicles and pedestrians separated from hook lift truck movements, further improving safety.

The raised driveway between bays also allows for better monitoring of waste segregation, helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and maximising recycling opportunities.

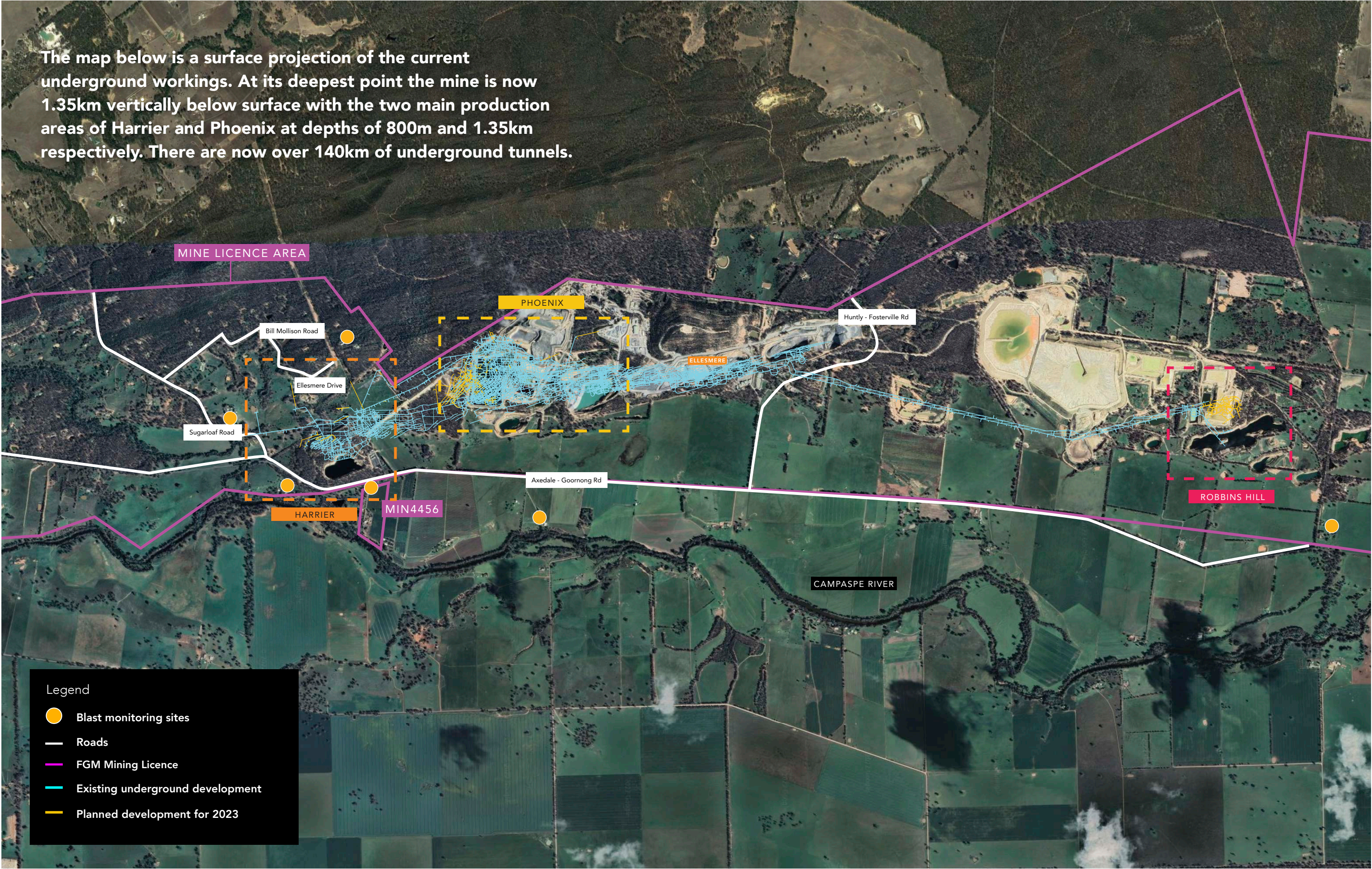
The facility also accommodates larger bins, improving efficiency and reducing the number of vehicle trips required for bin changeovers.

Our waste transfer facility caters for general waste, timber, metals, poly pipe, and tarpaulin, some of our most common waste streams. Liquid wastes and hazardous materials are managed in separate areas with dedicated controls to protect staff safety and the environment.

We have also introduced a clothing recycling program for used protective garments such as shirts and pants that are issued to our staff. Textile Recyclers Australia receives end-of-life uniforms for shredding and processing into fibres. These fibres are then spun into yarn, breathing new life into the materials that otherwise would have been discarded in landfills. This innovative process reduces our dependence on virgin textiles and minimises the environmental impacts associated with their production.

Mine development update

The map below is a surface projection of the current underground workings. At its deepest point the mine is now 1.35km vertically below surface with the two main production areas of Harrier and Phoenix at depths of 800m and 1.35km respectively. There are now over 140km of underground tunnels.





Bendigo's gold story on a tram

On Thursday 3 August, Bendigo Tramways and Fosterville Gold Mine officially launched the "Bendigo – Built on gold" tram which pays homage to the foundational role that gold has played in Bendigo's past and continues to have for the future. The newly wrapped tram sparkles gold in the sun and recognises that gold is still as important to the Bendigo region's prosperity today, as it was in the past.

Former manager of Central Deborah Gold Mine (which now operates as a tourist attraction), the late Ray Beer, remembered the Bendigo of his childhood in the 1940s and 50s as "streets that literally flowed with gold".

"The streets around Bendigo were all dirt back then. After a good rain, in just about any gutter, you could pan for gold. We used to do well out of it too, enough to buy our drinks, lollies and comic books. For those of us who came from large families we would give a bit back to our mothers," Ray recalled.*

While the Bendigo skyline is no longer defined by poppet heads, the influence of the gold rush is still evident in the city's broad boulevards, ostentatious public buildings and iconic gardens. The city of Bendigo is built on gold and the unique geology of the Bendigo region continues to bring prosperity to the region.

In the same way that the original gold rush brought prosperity to Bendigo, Fosterville Gold Mine's success has continued a legacy of prosperity for the broader region, with over 800 people employed at the mine and millions of dollars invested into community-led initiatives through the mine's social responsibility program.

Lance Faulkner, who presented alongside James Reade, CEO Bendigo Heritage Attractions, was also keen to highlight that: "Modern mining is very different in terms of scale, technology and environmental management".

"As an organisation we are determined to meaningfully and consistently give back to the communities in which we operate, while at the same time minimising our impact on the environment, so that we leave a positive legacy once mining ceases," said Lance.

"It has been a privilege to partner with Fosterville Gold Mine to introduce the 'Bendigo – Built on gold' tram as a key part of our Vintage Talking Tram fleet. The transformation of Tram No. 880 included refurbishment by our skilled workshop team. We believe this tram will be an icon which the Bendigo community can be proud of, and one which will drive visitation to the city," explained James.

"We are thrilled to have partnered with Bendigo Heritage Attractions on this project linking Bendigo's rich history of mining in the past to the present day and thank them for making it a reality," Lance concluded.

The launch was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with representatives from over 30 of our community partners at the historic Central Deborah Gold Mine, which was the perfect backdrop for the occasion.





Fosterville Family and Friends Day

The annual Fosterville Family and Friends Day will be held on Sunday, 1st October, at 11:00 am.

This event will be held at the Winzar's old mud brick remnant on Main Street, Fosterville. Attendees will be able to delve into the town's history and listen to captivating stories.

While tea, coffee, a warm fire, and a hot plate will be provided, participants are encouraged to bring their lunch.

It's a wonderful occasion to connect with loved ones and celebrate the vibrant community of Fosterville.



Meet FGM's ambitious diesel mechanic apprentice, Oliver Duffy.

Meet apprentice diesel fitter Oliver Duffy

After only a few months as an apprentice diesel mechanic at FGM, Oliver has already made an impression with his strong work ethic and a passion for learning. He is one of four apprentices who commenced at Fosterville recently.

Oliver is a Bendigo local who lives with his parents and has two older brothers and three older sisters. He completed his schooling at Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) and chose a vocational education and training pathway (VET), focusing on VET engineering and VET technology.

In 2022, during his final year at BSSC, he did his work experience at FGM and impressed his supervisors with his dedication, skill, and unwavering enthusiasm. It was then that Oliver confirmed his ambition to turn his work experience into a lifelong career in the mining industry.

Oliver approached FGM's Human Resources (HR) team to express his interest in an apprenticeship. His determination and eagerness to learn left a lasting impression, and he successfully applied to the 2023 program.

"Felicity from HR was fantastic in helping me sign up and complete all the paperwork," explained Oliver.

"My mum and dad were also able to attend my site induction, meeting my supervisors and being able to participate in a site tour," he continued.

Since commencing, Oliver has worked with experienced mentors in the Heavy Vehicle workshops.

"I have been lucky to have a number of experienced team members help me find my feet at work; the team-first attitude has been great," he said.

Oliver's aspirations extend beyond his apprenticeship at FGM. Inspired by his grandfather's wise words – "buy land because they ain't making any more of it" – he dreams of owning his own property one day. In the long term, Oliver also wants to work on an offshore rig, further expanding his skillset and experiencing new challenges.

Oliver Duffy's journey as a first-year apprentice diesel mechanic at FGM is filled with ambition and determination, and we are proud to have him as part of our team.

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.

Applications open Friday 25 August 9am and close Monday 25 September at 5pm

E: fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com

W: fgmcommunity.com.au



Honeyeater Bushland Reserve in Junortoun was supported by FGM to extend a wetland for an endangered toadlet.





FGM and BASS representatives join forces in a groundbreaking partnership aimed at strengthening Bendigo's community and infrastructure.

New partnership announced!

FGM is thrilled to announce a three-year partnership with the Bendigo Agricultural Show Society (BASS). This exciting partnership marks a significant commitment from FGM to support local community events and infrastructure.

"FGM is thrilled to be partnering with the BASS to strengthen our community ties, enhancing local infrastructure, and contributing to the vibrant culture and events that are on offer in the Bendigo region," said Trudi Jackson, FGM Senior Community Advisor.

FGM's sponsorship aligns with several key goals of our social responsibility strategy, including strengthening community groups' capacity to hold local events, improving regional infrastructure and resources, and fostering new relationships within the community.

"We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Fosterville Gold Mine," said Executive Officer Ian Furze of The Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc. "This is one of the most significant relationships we have entered into during the 164-year history of the Society."

Ian further explained, "FGM is a major employer and contributor to our community, and we welcome their support."

The 2023 Bendigo Agricultural Show will mark the first year the event has been held since 2019 due to last year's cancellation to accommodate those displaced by floods. The showgrounds host over 100 events annually, attracting more than 500,000 visitors. Events include the weekly Sunday Market, the Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Groovin' the Moo music festival, the Bendigo Swap Meet, the Bendigo Agricultural Show, Caravan & Camping Leisure Roadshow, and various other exhibitions, conferences, and industry expos.

"Our aim is to support community organisations such as the BASS to create long-term economic benefits and leave a positive legacy in the region for many years to come," Trudi explained.



Environment & Community Snapshot – Q2 2023

Each quarter, the FGM Environment and Community team provide a detailed report to the Environment Review Committee on the environmental performance of FGM's operations. Please find below the key info and highlights from the Q2 report for 2023.

Activities update

Key environmental and community activities completed during Q2 2023 include:

Environmental activities:

- › EPA Prohibition Notice PN-00001711-2 revoked, removing restrictions on surface ventilation system.
- › Audit of Class B Reclaimed Water Environment Improvement Plan completed by Coliban Water.
- › Introduced clothing recycling program for FGM issued uniforms.

Community engagement activities:

- › Continued community engagement phone calls and landholder meetings regarding low frequency noise trial and SOP EES.
- › Community engagement presence and sponsorship at the following community events:
 - Bendigo Easter Fair.
 - Axedale Golf Day.
 - Bendigo Pride Festival and Glamaganza Ball.
 - O'Keefe Challenge.
 - Bendigo Business Excellence Awards Nominations Launch.
 - Kangaroo Flat Family Fun Day.
 - Axe Creek Protection Project launch event.
 - Greater Bendigo Climate Summit.
- › Hosted Rushworth Secondary College as a part of the MCA school tours program.
- › Presented to Marist College Year 12 Environmental students.
- › Awarded community grants allocations for Round 1 2023.



FGM's new Uniform Recycling program with the first uniforms off to be recycled.



Volunteers from the Strathfieldsaye Community Enterprise at work on the Axe Creek Protection Project which will see riparian (river bank) rehabilitation and native fish enhancement works carried out along 25km of Axe Creek over the next two years.



Representatives from Goldfields LLEN and EPlus Architecture who were finalists in the Community-minded category with Oliver Hickson from the FGM Environment and Community team.



Environmental monitoring update

Noise monitoring

During Q2 2023, FGM conducted 144 compliance noise monitoring sessions, no exceedances above the respective noise limits for the day, evening and night-periods were recorded.

Air quality monitoring

High Volume Air Quality monitoring:

All air quality monitoring results were compliant during Q2 2023, except for one exceedance at HVAS 1 that recorded a 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration of 25.6 µg/m³, which is above the APAC of 25 µg/m³. Elevated PM_{2.5} results were recorded at all three HVAS sites. Including background monitoring site HVAS3.

Field observations made at the time of sample collection noted visible bush fire smoke present throughout the broader region. The exceedance has been attributed to hazard reduction burns that were impacting ambient air quality on a regional level.

Surface water monitoring

During Q2 2023, there were four moderate surface water quality exceedances:

- › The April and May samples from FWO14 and FWO28 recorded arsenic concentrations above the ANZECC guideline of 0.5 mg/L. Following the mobilisation of sediment and runoff into the dams during the significant rainfall events last year, evaporation over the Summer period resulted in low water levels, leading to elevated arsenic concentrations. FWO14 and FWO28 are operational internal runoff collection dams, so there is no risk of offsite release.
- › Sampling completed in Q2 shows the total arsenic concentrations in FWO14 and FWO28 trending downward toward the historical mean as water chemistry stabilises post the 2022 flood event, with no exceedance recorded in June.

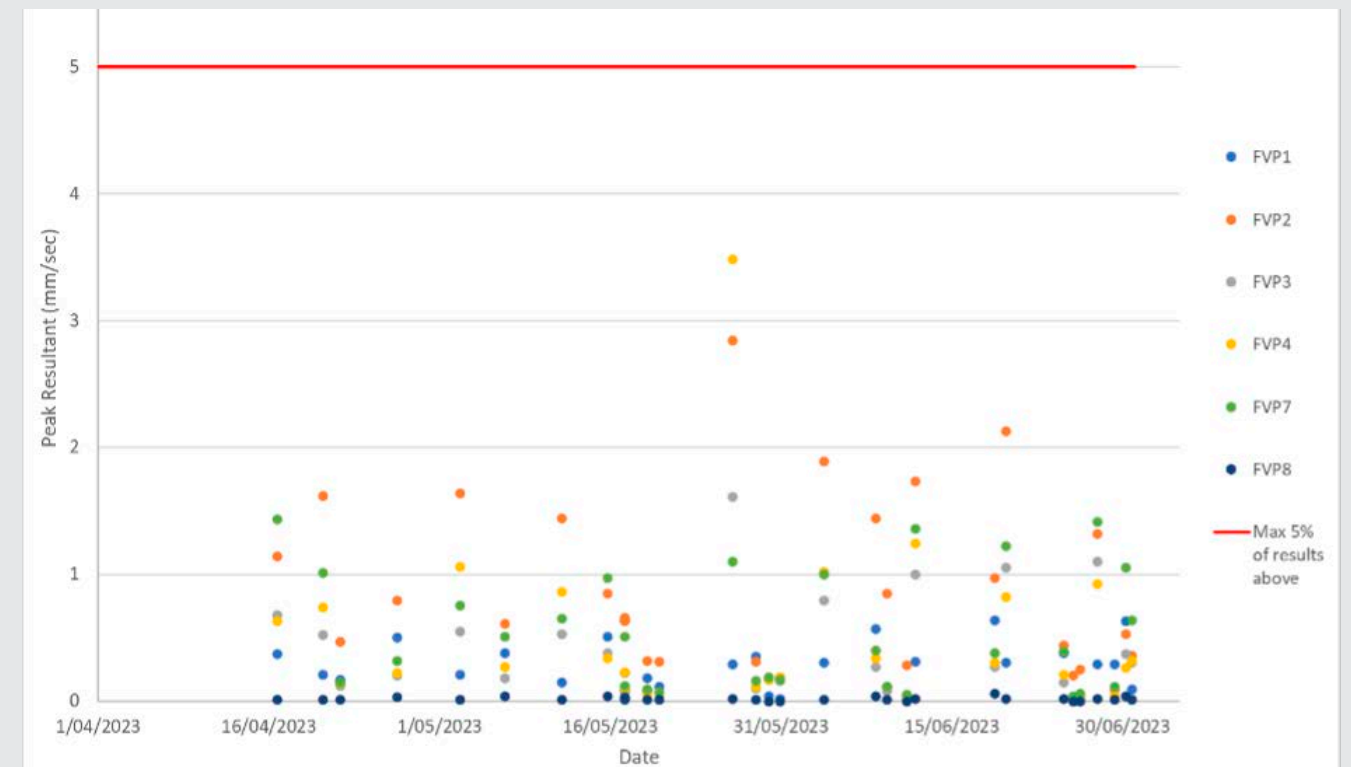
FGM will continue to monitor all surface water monitoring sites in accordance with the monitoring schedule to identify any emerging trends or results that require further investigation.

Groundwater monitoring

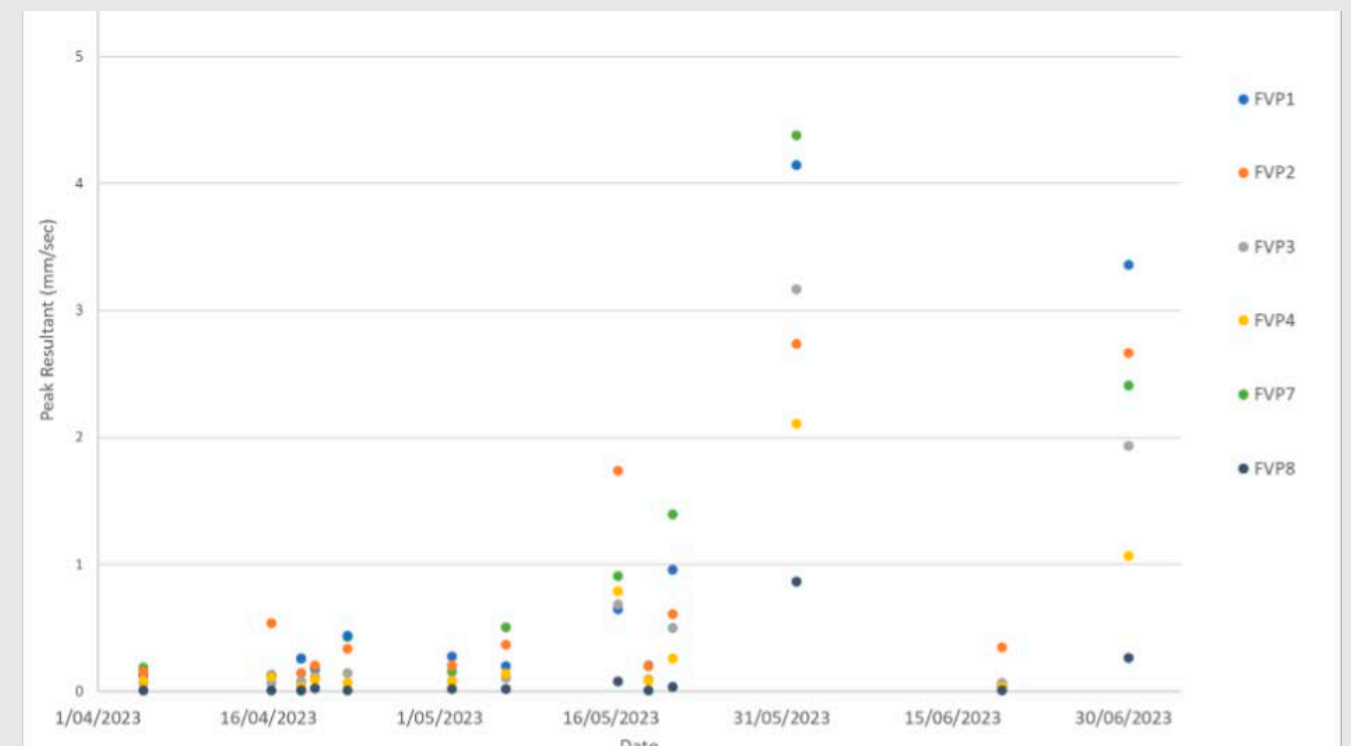
During Q2 2023, there were three moderate groundwater quality exceedances:

- › The May sample from BGL91 recorded an arsenic concentration of 0.072 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L. BGL91 was installed in 2019 and background water quality conditions within the bore have not yet been established. This bore will continue to be monitored to identify any emerging trends that require further investigation.
- › The May sample from BGL93 recorded an arsenic concentration of 0.025 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L. In the past 12-months, repairs have been made to this bore following sampling difficulties that arose in 2019 and as such, background water quality is still being established. Subsequent samples collected in June were below the ANZECC guideline for arsenic and trended towards the historical mean. This bore will continue to be monitored monthly to identify any emerging trends.
- › The May sample from BGL95 recorded an arsenic concentration of 0.224 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L. Arsenic concentrations in this bore have been historically variable and consistently above the ANZECC guideline since installation in 2020. Arsenic concentrations in the June sample trended towards the historical mean. This bore will continue to be monitored monthly to identify any emerging trends.

Groundwater monitoring data is routinely reviewed by a third-party hydrogeologist and incorporated into the site hydrogeological model. These exceedances were presented in detail during the August ERC meeting for regulatory review and comment, and do not present a risk to community or the environment.



Blasting ground vibration monitoring results for April to June 2023. During Q2 2023, there were a total of 25 production firings and 487 development firings. All ground vibration results were well below regulatory blasting limits during the reporting period.



Seismic ground vibration monitoring results for April to June 2023. There were 13 mine-induced seismic events that were detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.

Social responsibility update

The second 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 Q2 2023, contributions were made to the following organisations as part of FGM's sponsorships and donations program.

- › Elmore Field Days.
- › Royal Flying Doctors Service
- › O'Keefe Marathon - Sponsorship of the Half Marathon.
- › Laanecoorie Gold Bash.
- › Bendigo Sports Star Awards - Major sponsors of Sports Star Awards 2023-2024.
- › Kangaroo Flat Family Fun Day
- › FGM Community Grants – Round 1 2023.
- › Bendigo Heritage Attractions - Sponsorship of Tram 880 'Bendigo Built on Gold'.



FGM has continued its sponsorship of the Royal Flying Doctor Service which provides patient transport to those who live far away from the medical services they need.



FGM will once again be a major sponsor of the Elmore Field Days, on from 3-5 October 2023.



Melani & Tash assisting with Bling your Hard Hat at the Kangaroo Flat Family Fun Day.



FGM employees welcome a friendly visitor at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show.

Environment and community performance

Community complaints

During Q2 2023, FGM received a total of 27 community complaints from 10 different landholders and/or community groups.

Blasting ground vibration 19

Nineteen complaints relating to ground vibration from blasting, were received from six different landholders. All complaints were related to controlled production firings. Investigations confirmed all surface ground vibration results were well below regulatory limits.

Mine-induced seismicity 9

Nine community complaints relating to ground vibration from mine-induced seismicity, were received from seven landholders and were associated with three separate events. Information relating to the events, including the results from FGM's underground seismic monitoring system, was provided to landholders.

Noise 3

Three community complaints relating to noise were received from two different landholders. Investigations, including attended noise monitoring at the landholders properties, were undertaken and feedback provided to each landholder. In both instances, the source of the noise could not be identified or attributed to FGM's operations.

Other 2

Two community complaints were received regarding driver behaviour on public roads nearby the FGM site. FGM continue to engage with the broader workforce around responsible driver behaviour and considerations for community when arriving and leaving site.



Environmental incidents

There were three low risk incidents recorded, and no high or moderate risk environmental incidents during Q2 2023.

Regulatory and engagement notices

On 29 May 2023, the EPA revoked Prohibition Notice PN-00001711-2 on FGM's surface ventilation system, confirming that compliance with the notice requirements had been achieved. The notice revocation removed restrictions to fan speed between midnight and 6.00 am, with FGM resuming normal underground activities in June.

FGM continues to operate in compliance with the EPA Prohibition Notice PN-00001694 issued in relation to low frequency noise emissions from surface drill rigs. This notice restricts the operation of the surface drill rigs in the southern part of mining licence MIN5404 between 10:00pm and 7:00am.

Notice	Issue date	Status
EPA Prohibition Notice 00001694	29/11/2021	In effect – Restrictions to surface drill rig operating hours remain in effect.
EPA Prohibition Notice 00001711-1	03/12/2021	Revoked – Notice revoked on 29/05/2023 by EPA Victoria as compliance with the notice requirements had been achieved.

Summary of EPA Remedial Notices

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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**.

Contact Us

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

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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.