



# \$750,000 pledged to Rochester flood recovery

On 8 December 2022 a delegation from Fosterville Gold Mine visited Rochester to pledge \$750,000 in funding to support the Rochester community as they recover from the devastating floods that occurred in October and November this year.

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## EES progress update

Learn more about the  
scoping process

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## Thanks Maurie Sharkey!

Maurie calls it a day  
after 17 years

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How we manage and  
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Our list sponsorships and  
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## Update from the General Manager

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

### Welcome to the fourth and final edition of the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Newsletter for 2022.

The last few months have been extremely challenging for many in our community. The flood events which have impacted surrounding communities have been devastating. Members of the Fosterville Emergency Response Team and other volunteers assisted the emergency response authorities in performing swift water rescue, sandbagging and evacuating residents affected by flooding in Rochester, Newbridge, Echuca and Shepparton. They were also on hand to provide some assistance with the clean-up efforts in Rochester. We have been humbled by the incredible resilience of the Rochester community during this challenging time and will continue to look at various ways we may be able to support the town in its recovery efforts.

In September I was pleased to be able to attend the 2022 Fosterville Family and Friends Day after the event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. The weather was perfect, and many were in good spirits following the Cats' Grand Final win. This was my first year attending and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the many Fostervillians who had come together again to meet and share stories about Fosterville over the years. Everyone acknowledged the absence of our great friend Barrie Winzar, but his brother Ian did a great job organising what was a wonderful day.

*Bottom left: Delivering spare gumboots to and helping out with the flood clean-up in the township of Rochester.  
Below: Fosterville Family and Friends Day at the Winzar old mud brick home was a great opportunity to celebrate the townships rich history.*



Top: Lisa Chesters MP, Hon Chris Bowen MP and Lance Faulkner, General Manager of FGM.  
Left: Chris Bowen MP has a look inside the cabin of the Sandvik Battery Electric Loader with Pat Dillon, Senior Engineer: Innovation and Technology, on hand to answer questions.

During October, we welcomed the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Honourable Chris Bowen MP, and the Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters MP to site. Their visit coincided with the commencement of the Sandvik Battery Electric Loader trial at Fosterville Gold Mine. Whilst onsite the Ministers met with several employees to hear about the trial and the progress of initiatives that are part of our journey towards a sustainable mining future and the Agnico Eagle goal of Net Zero by 2050.

Hon Chris Bowen MP was also able to get a firsthand impression of the Sandvik LH518B loader from the operator's viewpoint and later said:

"We are all on this journey, and the technology is emerging, evolving and getting better every day. And it's not there yet, but here, these big investments show what we're capable of now and what we'll be even more capable of in the future".

During November we hosted the 29th Victorian Mine Rescue Competition (VMRC), with events held onsite and at the ISH24 Training Facility at Goornong. The competition saw teams from Victoria and New South Wales compete against one another to test their emergency response skills in a range of exercises including firefighting, first aid, search and rescue, rope rescue and team skills. The Bendigo region was well represented by teams from Mandalay Resources at Costerfield, OSCAR1 CFA Technical Rescue team and our own Fosterville Emergency Response Team. Well done to all the teams who competed and congratulations to the winners, volunteers, officials and sponsors who made the 29th VMRC such a success.

Finally, I would like to wish all those in our community a safe, healthy and happy festive season and hope that we can all enjoy the period with our friends and families.

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

*On the cover: In attendance at the Rochester funding announcement were (from left): Cr Paul Jarman, Rochester Ward Councillor; Brendan Martin, Chair of the Rochester Recreation Reserve Committee of Management; Lance Faulkner, Fosterville Gold Mine General Manager; Amanda Logie, Manager of the Rochester Community House; and Cr Rob Amos, Mayor: Campaspe Shire Council.*



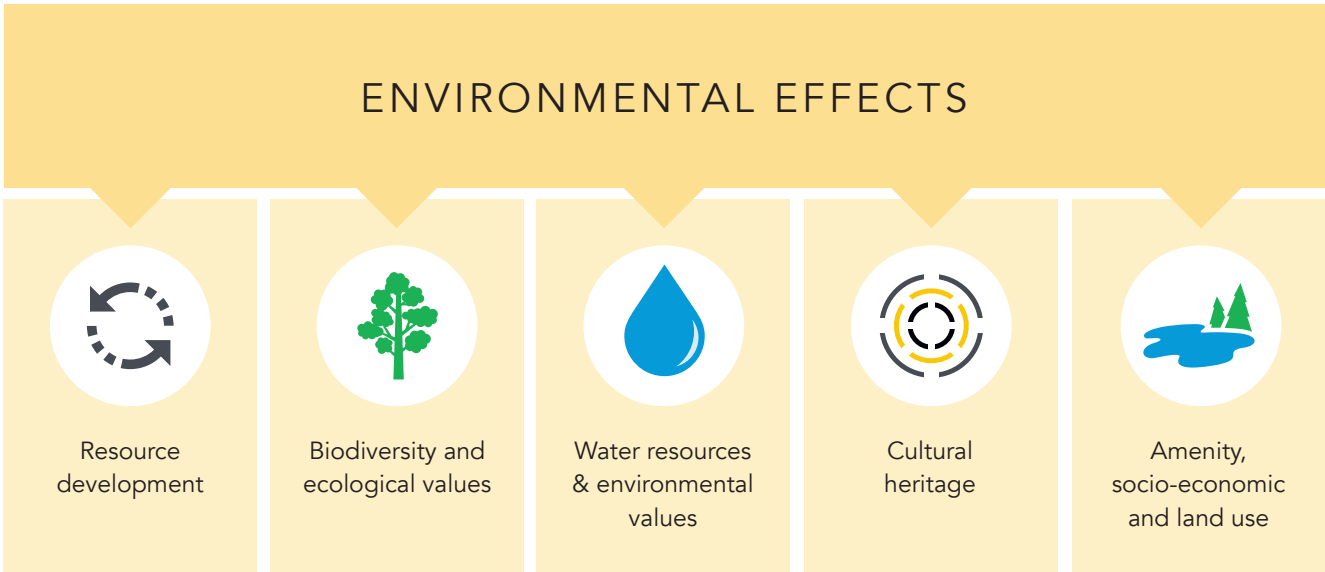
# Sustained Operations Project update

The FGM Sustained Operations Project team, together with lead consultants AECOM are preparing the documentation required for the EES to adequately address the scoping requirements.

## STEP 1

### Identify which environmental effects are to be assessed

The scoping requirements outline the matters to be addressed in the EES and includes the assessment of specific environmental effects as detailed below:



## STEP 2

### Undertake technical studies

In order to meet the scoping requirements of the EES, the following technical studies are being undertaken:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Aboriginal cultural heritage impact assessment            | 8. Landscape and visual impact assessment |
| 2. Historic heritage impact assessment                       | 9. Land use planning impact assessment    |
| 3. Air quality / Greenhouse gas emissions impact assessments | 10. Noise impact assessment               |
| 4. Ecology impact assessment                                 | 11. Surface water impact assessment       |
| 5. Geotechnical impact assessment                            | 12. Traffic impact assessment             |
| 6. Groundwater impact assessment                             | 13. Social impact assessment              |
| 7. Ground vibration impact assessment                        | 14. Economic impact assessment            |

While the scoping requirements are intended to cover all relevant matters, the EES will also need to address other issues that emerge during the EES investigations, especially potential impacts and environmental issues relevant to statutory decisions that will be informed by the assessment.

## STEP 3

### Public review / exhibition

#### Public exhibition

Once the Minister is satisfied that the EES adequately addresses the scoping requirements, it is released for public comment – or public exhibition – for a period of approximately 30 business days (as per DELWP requirements).

#### Submissions

The public exhibition period allows members of the public to review the EES and provide written submissions on the project to Planning Panels Victoria. These submissions inform the panel in making its recommendations to the Minister for Planning and are a key opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the impacts of the project.

More information about the submission process can be found here: [engage.vic.gov.au/project/fosterville-sustained-operations-project-ees-draft-scoping-requirements/participate](https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/fosterville-sustained-operations-project-ees-draft-scoping-requirements/participate)

#### Inquiry

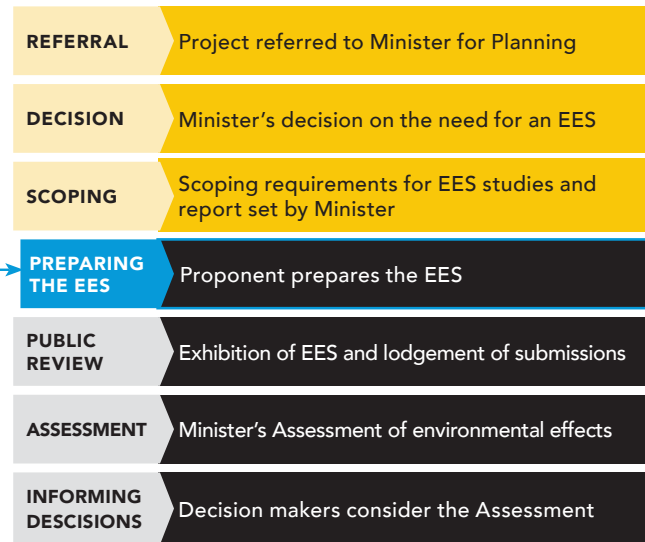
The Minister may appoint an inquiry to evaluate the effects of the project, having regard to the EES studies and public submissions. The inquiry may take one of three forms (depending on the complexity of the issues):

- › A desktop review of written submissions
- › A conference of submitters and review of submissions
- › A formal hearing, where the proponent and submitters are invited to speak and present expert witnesses.

It is anticipated that a hearing will be held for this project.

#### WE ARE CURRENTLY HERE

Final scoping requirements were issued by the Minister for Planning in September 2022. These provided the final scoping for the EES. The FGM Sustained Operations Project team, together with lead consultants AECOM are now preparing the required documentation.



## Want to know more?

Visit the FGM Sustained Operations Project Virtual Consultation Room (VRC): [fgm.consultation.ai](https://fgm.consultation.ai)

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Fosterville Gold Mine

# OPEN DAY

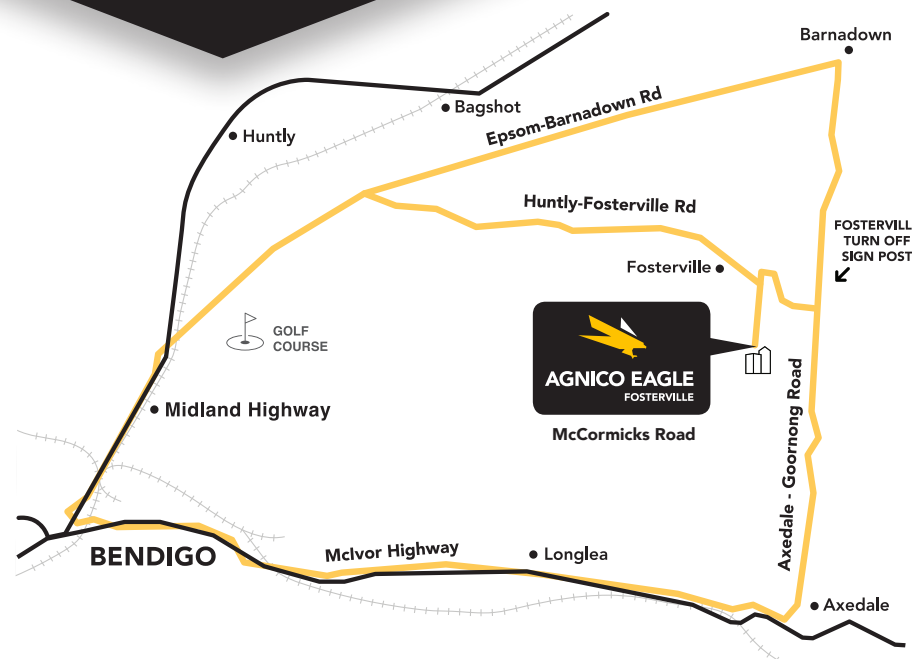
Would you like to know  
more about our operation?  
**Here's your chance!**

**4 March  
2023**

9.30am-2.00pm

## Activities include:

- › Guided site bus tours
- › Information displays
- › Gold panning
- › Exploration updates
- › Equipment displays
- › Free BBQ lunch
- › Face painting and more!



Tickets are free but limited, and will be available for booking from 30 January 2023.



## For further information:

T: 03 5439 9000 | E: [fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com)



## Low frequency noise update

FGM continues to operate in compliance with all EPA notices issued in relation to low frequency noise emissions from the premises. This includes operating the surface ventilation fans at the reduced speed of 400 rpm between the hours of midnight and 6am every day, a modification that has reduced levels of LFN (and consequently the risk of harm to human health and/or the environment) as far as reasonably practicable, which has been accepted by the EPA Victoria.

During the quarter, work progressed on the following noise abatement projects and modifications to the surface ventilation system:

- › Commenced the fabrication of additional fan motor enclosure abatement, including bespoke acoustic cladding and louvres.
- › Design and planning with fan manufacturer for trial bench testing of new infrasonic resonance type silencers.
- › Continued planning for the installation of new fans underground, including additional underground and surface noise monitoring to establish performance criteria for the new fans.
- › Completion of an additional structural borne noise investigation to inform potential future abatement options.

FGM remains committed to advancing the low frequency noise abatement options that have been previously presented to the EPA and community, which include:

- › The installation of new fans underground, and
- › Modifications to the current surface ventilation system.

Installation of new fans underground remains the preferred LFN abatement solution, as the placement of the mechanical components of the ventilation system underground affords the advantage of the natural attenuation properties of the surrounding rock and airways. However, this solution involves significant underground and shaft development, which is dependent on additional regulatory approvals, and significant procurement timeframes, which results in an extended delivery timeframe.

In parallel, FGM continues to work with expert ventilation engineers, acoustic engineers, and the ventilation fan manufacturer to develop additional attenuation solutions on the surface ventilation system to abate LFN at targeted frequencies. This solution is highly conceptual and requires significant research and development to evaluate its feasibility, and would represent a world-first engineering outcome, if achieved.

FGM remains committed to being a responsible member of the local community, and our highest priority is the health and wellbeing of our people and our neighbours.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the information provided, please contact a member of the FGM Community Team on 03 5439 9000 or email [fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:fgm.community@agnicoeagle.com).

## 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 that concerns you, or you have questions you would 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.





## Rochester flood recovery

Continued from page 1

The funding – which has been awarded through the Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program – will be put towards repairs and upgrades to the Rochester Recreation Reserve and to assist the Rochester Community House to create a new home and fully resource their team so they can continue to provide vital support services to the community.

Ion Hann, Vice President for Agnico Eagle's Australian operations said: "As a business operating near Rochester, we have many friends and family who live in the area and have witnessed firsthand the devastation that has been caused by the floods, which is why we felt it important to find a way to support the community's recovery efforts."

Rochester Recreation Reserve serves as a social hub for the community where people gather to enjoy shared interests and one another's company, something which is so important in times like these.

"The reserve's facilities sustained substantial damage from the recent floods, but were also due for some upgrades, so Agnico Eagle's support has come at a

***"The reserve's facilities sustained substantial damage from the recent floods, but were also due for some upgrades, so Agnico Eagle's support has come at a perfect time,"***

come at a perfect time," said Brendan Martin, Chair of the Rochester Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

The Community House has been providing critical support and communication to the entire community since the flooding crisis began.

"We have a very dedicated team of staff and volunteers at the Rochester Community House who have been stretched to the limits due to Covid and now the floods," explained Amanda Logie, Manager of the Rochester Community House.

"This support from Agnico Eagle will make a world of difference to our team, making it possible for us to get more staff, which will give us a real boost as we head into 2023," Amanda continued.

"As an active member of the Central Victorian community, we look forward to seeing Rochester come back from this stronger and better than it was before and we, at Agnico Eagle, plan to continue providing support in any way we can," Ion concluded.

## Support flows for flooded communities

When it started raining in Victoria on Thursday, 13 October, we all expected there would be some flooding, however many of us didn't fully comprehend the scale of the crisis it would cause for our region.

At Fosterville Gold Mine, we were prepared for all eventualities that a significant rainfall event might bring, but the flooding that occurred in our surrounding communities was devastating and is still being felt.

Nevertheless, the resilience and response of our local communities to support one another in their time of need has been nothing short of inspiring.

Our FGM Emergency Response Team was involved with the immediate response efforts, while other members of staff chose to volunteer their services to support the Rochester, Newbridge and Echuca communities.

FGM Supply Officer, Anne Draper, was one of the volunteers who assisted with the recovery efforts in Rochester and shared her diary reflections from the experience (see below).

FGM has been looking at the many different ways we can support local businesses impacted by flooding in the longer term by buying local.

If you are able to support businesses in affected communities as well, it is such a simple but important thing you can do to help these resilient communities get back on their feet.



### Anne's reflections on the Rochester flood

Ann Draper, FGM Supply Officer, shares her experiences of volunteering in Rochester during the major flood event in mid-October 2022:

**Wednesday:** We started out from the relief centre which was located in the Presbyterian Hall. We had managed to rustle up as many spare gumboots as we could find and dropped them off at the Hall along with some hats and refreshments.

Our first job was to clean up along the river, collecting rubbish along the streets, which was a little overwhelming as we found people's photos among the debris. We went and helped an elderly couple and when we asked how we could assist the lady just started crying, all I could do was give her a hug and tell her everything will be ok.

Next, we were off to the hospital to pull up the carpets.

**Thursday:** Our first stop was to help a community member at her home, while standing out the front we spotted a Fosterville employee who lives in Rochester and waved him down. When he approached me and we said we are here to help, he fell into my arms and sobbed his heart out.

Next, we went off to clean up the community hall to be used as a base, it was a big job. We then spread out, some to the hospital and others assisted in people's homes to pull up damaged flooring, remove rubbish and do general cleaning.

In the afternoon, we headed back to the church where we bumped into Premier Dan Andrews.



**Friday:** We started off by taking a carload of cleaning products to the church and were then sent to wash out a warehouse, so the army could use it. Next stop was the garden centre, to pull out walls and floors and partly demolish the house next door. Then back to the hospital to join the ADF in ripping up floor tiles.

Over the three days, there was such a sense of people coming together. Everyone was equal.



# Maurie bows out after 17 years

This year, an inaugural member of the FGM Community Grants Committee, popular local, Maurie Sharkey, decided to call it a day after 17 years of volunteering on the committee.

To mark the occasion, Maurie attended the last Community Grants awards ceremony in November where FGM's General Manager, Lance Faulkner paid tribute to the community insight that he contributed to the committee over the years.

As a long-term resident of the Bagshot-Goornong area, Maurie was quick to recognise the strength and importance of community organisations in regional communities and said that he was glad to have been able to contribute over the years.

"You won't find it written anywhere but living in a rural area comes with an accountability and an acceptance to be involved in making things happen in your community," explained Maurie.

FGM is now taking expressions of interest from community members who would be interested in being part of the Community Grants Committee. More information about this can be found at: [fgmcommunity.com.au/community-grants-overview](http://fgmcommunity.com.au/community-grants-overview)



Maurie and Lance at the Fosterville Community Grants presentation.



## Community Grants Program Committee Expressions of interest

Fosterville Gold Mine invites community-minded individuals interested in contributing towards uplifting community organisations around Central Victoria, to apply to join the FGM Community Grants Committee.

The committee meets on a bi-annual basis to review the Community Grant applications, assess them against FGM's social responsibility strategy and award the grants to those that most clearly align with the strategy.

Participation in the Community Grants Program is voluntary.

For more information and to apply please visit the Community Grants page [fgmcommunity.com.au/community-grants-overview](http://fgmcommunity.com.au/community-grants-overview) or contact the FGM Community Team on 5439 9000.



The second round of Community Grants recipients for 2022.

## More grants, more positive impact

The second round of FGM Community Grants for 2022 were handed over by Lance Faulkner, FGM General Manager on Friday 11 November. At the handover ceremony, Lance said: "Being able to present these grants is definitely a highlight of my job here at the mine as I get to meet the inspiring people behind the many community-focused organisations in our region."

FGM is committed to having a positive impact on the communities in which we operate, and these projects were selected as they aligned with FGM's social responsibility pillars.

"The Community Grants Program Committee, selected these projects as they will have a positive impact on the ongoing social, sustainable and educational wellbeing of the community," explains Trudi Jackson, FGM Senior Community Advisor.

Tracey Moss from Eaglehawk Community House said, "A massive THANK YOU to Fosterville Gold Mine for all your support and understanding,"

### Congratulations to the following successful applicants:

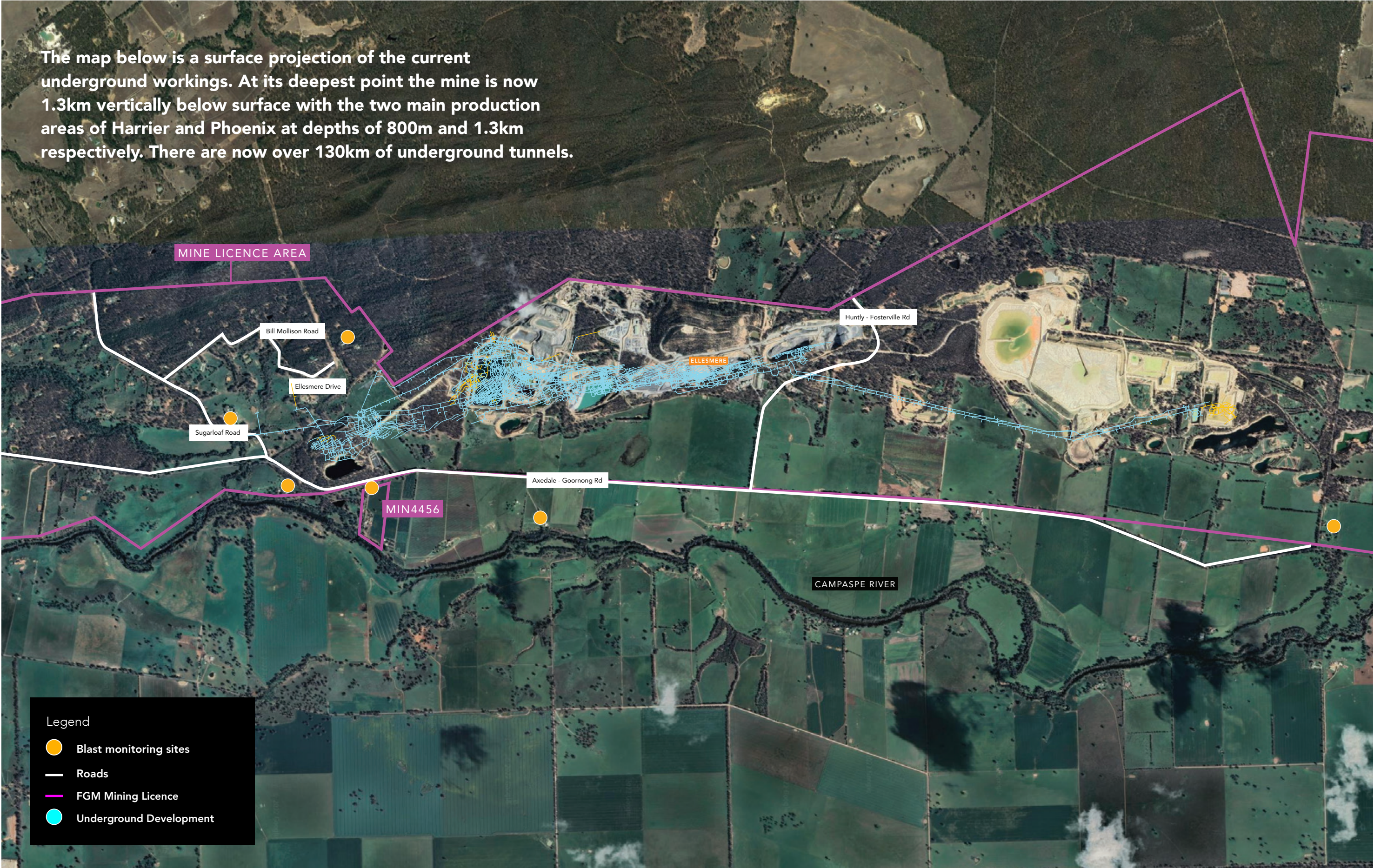
- › Rochester Basketball Association
- › Victorian SES Heathcote Unit
- › Bendigo LEGO Users Group
- › Eppalock Primary School
- › Eaglehawk Community House
- › Bendigo Camera Club
- › Golden Square Primary School
- › Goornong Recreation Reserve
- › Elmore Football Netball Club
- › Bendigo Steam & Oil Preservation Group
- › Dingee Bowls Club

# CONGRATULATIONS!



# Mine development update

The map below is a surface projection of the current underground workings. At its deepest point the mine is now 1.3km vertically below surface with the two main production areas of Harrier and Phoenix at depths of 800m and 1.3km respectively. There are now over 130km of underground tunnels.





# FGM committed to promoting careers and opportunities in mining

Throughout 2022, Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) in collaboration with the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) Victoria Division has provided site tours aimed at secondary school students looking for a career in Victoria's resources sector.

FGM welcomed over 150 students from Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Cohuna, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn, Shepparton and Echuca to site.

The three-hour visits included: a tour of the new core shed facility; a stop at the Ellesmere Pit lookout where students were able to get up-close with the surface haulage fleet and underground drilling vehicles; a Q&A session with Engineering, OHS and Environment and Community staff; and a guided tour of the processing plant.

## Vacation students

In early December 2022, students from 7 different universities across 4 states commenced vacation work at Fosterville Gold Mine. Over the next three months, students will gain valuable on-the-job experience with some of the industry's best mining professionals. The students will be working in a wide range of roles in Processing, Geology, Mining, Environment & Community, Surface Maintenance, Fixed Plant and Commercial.



Craig Peters showing the students around the Remote Operations Centre



Felicity Adcock at the Tomorrow Bound Expo

## Gold Industry Group education sessions

After two years of ongoing school disruptions, Fosterville Gold Mine was finally able to visit a number of local primary schools to deliver some hands-on STEM sessions to our youngest learners. Enthusiastic employees visited Elmore Primary School, Lightning Reef Primary School and Eppalock Primary School presenting to students from Prep right through to Grade Six. The STEM sessions have been designed by the Gold Industry Group and teach students about gold, and its relevance through interactive STEM activities.

## School incursions

To provide an insight into modern-day mining staff from Fosterville Gold Mine visited secondary school students at Victory Christian College, Girton Grammar, and Marist College during 2022. The focus of these incursions was to talk about the various stages involved with establishing a new mining operation and what must be considered when moving from exploration to mining.

## Careers expo's

The Human Resources Team had a busy year attending several careers fairs both locally and interstate. These events were a great opportunity to engage with students considering possible pathways into the mining industry either through university studies, TAFE or apprenticeships. Expos attended included the Trades Fit Careers Expo in Melbourne, a unique event aimed at girls and non-binary students in years 8-12, Tomorrow Bound, a careers expo for Central Victorian students, La Trobe Bendigo Open Day and the AusIMM Student Chapter 'Students Meet Industry' nights at Monash University and the Royal Yacht Club of Hobart.



Vacation Students 2022-2023



Luke Rebecchi and Claudia Bowman at the Monash University



## Paige Ryan – Light Vehicle Apprentice

*Hi Paige, tell us a bit about yourself and your journey to Fosterville Gold Mine?*

Hi, I'm 18 and have had a passion for cars most of my life, I drive a GQ Patrol and love it. I started out at Bendigo Mazda doing a school-based apprenticeship where I later found out I had a much larger passion for cars than I thought. I then came to FGM with my school for a tour and thought when I'm older I would love to work here, so I pushed harder and harder for my resume to be seen. Soon enough I received an email saying come in for an interview and then a call saying I got the job.

*Do you recommend VCAL as a good pathway for students looking to get a trade?*

I think VCAL was a good way to get an apprenticeship as they are really great with helping young people to get jobs, find out what they like and what their passions could be.

*How important was the school tour at Fosterville in helping you decide to pursue a career in the mining industry?*

I think the tour at FGM was really helpful, I saw the working environments and how things operate. I think it was the final push that made me really want to be a part of FGM, we got to ask questions and I found the workers really helpful!

*You are the first female apprentice to start in the Light Vehicle workshop, how have you found joining the team and how did they make you feel part of the team?*

I'm really glad that I was chosen for this position as I'm loving it. The team I've been working with have been wonderful, the guys I'm working with haven't really worked with a female in this field before so I take my hats off to them for being amazing with me. Most of them have taken me under their wings and I think I fit in quite nicely!

## Community Partnership Program update

Felicia Binks and Tim Bithisel recently visited the NETschool campus at Bendigo Senior Secondary College, to see the great results of the 'Create it!' program which has been funded by the CCP.

NETschool mentor, Emma Smart, said the funding to purchase the equipment had made a huge impact on learners' skills and confidence.

"The learners are building skills for life," she said. "It's given many the opportunity and confidence to lead a program and build a business, something that wouldn't have seemed possible otherwise."



Felicia Binks & Tim Bithisel with students and teachers at NETschool.



# Water monitoring and management at FGM

**Water monitoring helps us identify and assess potential impacts to surface or groundwater systems in the vicinity of FGM's mining operations, or to nearby groundwater users and associated aquatic ecosystems. Groundwater and surface water is monitored and managed in accordance with our mining licence conditions and the relevant water quality limits. Regular monitoring ensures any changes in water levels or water quality are identified and investigated.**

FGM is a non-discharge site and therefore maintains a comprehensive surface water management system, which captures all runoff from operational areas through a network of dams, drains and pits. These water bodies are sampled routinely and during significant rainfall events. Natural surface water flows from upstream of the mine site are diverted through dedicated diversion drains to ensure it remains unimpacted by the operation.

Monitoring of groundwater within and surrounding FGM's site is conducted to understand potential changes in groundwater levels and water quality.

## Where is monitoring completed?

FGM undertakes routine water sampling at designated monitoring locations, including dams, pits, drains, groundwater bores, and at locations beyond the area of influence, such as the Campaspe River and Axe Creek.

## What water quality limits are used?

Water quality is compared against the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZECC Guidelines) to identify any water quality exceedances. If exceedances are identified, the water quality data is assessed against historical trends, climatic conditions, and operational activities to determine potential contributing factors and further investigative actions.

## What monitoring methods are used?

Water sampling is typically undertaken on a monthly or quarterly basis; however some sites are sampled more frequently. Water samples are also taken during and after significant rainfall events, when the creeks and drains are actively flowing.

Surface water samples are collected using an extendable pole that can reach out into open water bodies, whilst groundwater samples are collected from dedicated monitoring bores using pumps. When sampling groundwater, the water level is measured, then the water is purged and sampled.

Water is collected by appropriately trained personnel and tested for a range of parameters in the field and laboratory. Some common testing that occurs includes pH and electrical conductivity. Samples are sent to a NATA accredited laboratory for testing of analytes, including metals, salts, and nutrients, and the results are entered into an environmental database.

Results from the monitoring program are presented to the regulators (Earth Resources Regulation, Environment Protection Authority Victoria and Goulburn Murray Water) and are discussed with key stakeholders and community representatives at FGM's quarterly Environmental Review Committee meetings.



Routine surface water sampling.



The Activated Sludge Tailings Effluent Remediation (ASTER) Plant.



Coir log sediment traps minimise sediment flow into dams and drains.

## On-site water management

FGM is a non-discharge site, meaning the site is not permitted to discharge any impacted surface water or groundwater beyond the premises boundary. Mine water is pumped from underground to keep personnel and equipment dry, and the management of this mine water is an integral part of FGM's operation. FGM collects, treats and reuses or stores all the water that is pumped from underground.

FGM adopts several water treatment technologies as part of the operation. This includes purpose-built water treatment facilities, such as the Mine Water Treatment Plant and the ASTER Plant.

The Mine Water Treatment Plant (MWTP) treats mine water that has been pumped from underground. The mine water goes through a pre-treatment stage first which involves ferric chloride precipitation to remove metals from the water, and ionic filtration and exchange to remove sulphates and nitrates.

The Reverse Osmosis Plant further treats water by passing it through semipermeable membrane cartridges under osmotic pressure to remove ions, molecules and larger particles from the solution. A by-product of the process is the generation of a concentrated saline solution called brine. This brine is stored in lined evaporation dams on site.

The Activated Sludge Tailings Effluent Remediation (ASTER) Plant degrades residual cyanide species (including thiocyanate) contained in process water stored in a lined dam. The ASTER plant, like the BIOX technology used to extract gold at FGM, uses several bacterial species, which are kept warm and fed phosphate and molasses to further degrade trace compounds allowing the water to be reused in the Processing Plant.

## Erosion and sediment controls

FGM implements erosion and sediment control measures around operational areas, including waste rock dumps, tailings storage facilities, haul roads and laydown areas. Sediment traps, such as coir logs and silt fences, are used to minimise sediment flowing into dams and drains during significant rainfall events. Sediment controls are regularly inspected before and after significant rainfall events and additional controls are implemented, where required.

## Hydrogeological reviews and modelling

Data collected during the groundwater monitoring program is used to build and calibrate a groundwater model. The model is developed and regularly updated by an appropriately qualified hydrogeologist to monitor and predict changes within the aquifer due to the ongoing progression of underground mining. This model is a key tool for understanding the groundwater systems and responses in the area.

The model enables FGM to understand the drawdown of groundwater in the direct vicinity of the underground mine workings, which is limited to a narrow area around the main fault lines, with levels quickly recovering within the surrounding area of the mining lease.

If you would like to know more information about water monitoring please contact the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Team at **FGM.Community@agnicoeagle.com**.



# Excitement at Elmore Field Days

It was fantastic to see the return of the Elmore Field Days in October after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. Despite the wet weather large crowds enjoyed browsing the more than 1,000 exhibitors showcasing all aspects of farming life from AgTech, stock feed and silo sales to farmer health checks.

FGM was delighted to be a major sponsor, as well as supporting the Safe Snake Victoria Exhibit. Throughout the event, Safe Snake Victoria conducted demonstrations around venomous snakes and had a range of wildlife on display including snakes, crocodiles, wallabies, goannas and lizards.

Our own team was also on-hand to provide information about our operations, exploration activities and career opportunities in the resources sector. We were able to show off our brand new Sandvik Battery Electric Loader and Rokion nine-seat personnel carrier currently being trialled onsite.

Those who visited us at the outdoor site had the opportunity to enter our photo competition, with a daily prize of some fantastic farming Lego sets, as well as the grand prize, a half-ounce gold medallion valued at over \$1,200! Congratulations to Lindsay who took home the major prize and thank you to everyone that came along to visit our stands and support Elmore Field Days.



## Environment & Community Snapshot - Q3 2022

Each quarter, the FGM Environment and Community team provide a detailed report to the Environment Review Committee. Please find below the key information and highlights from the Q3 report for 2022.

### Activities update

Key environmental and community activities completed during Q3 2022 include:

#### Environmental activities:

- › Continued acoustic support for the vent fan low-frequency noise abatement program during modifications to the deflector and silencers and ongoing regulatory engagement.
- › Completed revegetation of the bushland adjacent to the security gatehouse.
- › Submitted annual National Pollutant Inventory report.

#### Community engagement activities:

- › Launched the Battery Electric Vehicle trials at Central Deborah Gold Mine.
- › Hosted the Ground Vibration community information session in Axedale.
- › Held the TSF community information session in Goornong.
- › Published and distributed Q3 community newsletter.
- › School tours/presentations at Eaglehawk Secondary College, Marist College, Elmore Primary School, Victory Christian College, Cohuna Secondary College and Goulburn Valley Grammar.
- › Community engagement presence at AFL Central Victoria Junior Grand Finals event.



Revegetation of bushland adjacent to the security gatehouse



Daniel Lawrence and Natasha van Leeuwen presenting to the Elmore Primary School students



Will Wettenhall and Leigh Byrne attending the AFL CV Junior Finals





## Environmental monitoring update

### Noise monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was conducted at noise monitoring sites in accordance with the 2022 noise monitoring schedule. Equivalent sound level (Leq) was measured using a calibrated noise meter for a period of 30 minutes at each monitoring location for compliance assessment, with peaks, lulls and field observations noted.

During Q3 2022, FGM conducted 152 compliance noise monitoring sessions, no exceedances above the respective noise limits for the day, evening and night-periods were recorded.

### Groundwater monitoring

During Q3 2022, there were five groundwater quality exceedances:

- › The July sample from BGL91 recorded an Arsenic concentration of 0.061 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L.
- › The September sample from BGL96 recorded an Antimony concentration of 0.036 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.009 mg/L.
- › The September sample from BGL97 recorded an Antimony concentration of 0.033 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.009 mg/L.

- › The July sample from BGL59 recorded an Arsenic concentration of 0.065 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L.
- › The August sample from BGL59 recorded an Arsenic concentration of 0.069 mg/L, above the ANZECC guideline value of 0.024 mg/L.

These bores will continue to be monitored to identify any anomalous results or emerging trends that require further investigation.

### Air quality monitoring

All depositional dust monitoring results were compliant during Q3 2022, except for two total insoluble solids results above the criteria located at site FA13 (west of Axedale-Goomong Road) and FA16 (background monitoring location located south of the site).

These exceedances were attributed to sample contamination from bird droppings, which were observed in the sample bottles at the time of collection.

Two additional Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitors (AAQMs) have been installed around the surface TSFs. These monitors provide real time dust measurements up- and down-wind of the TSF1 lift works. These monitors enable FGM to proactively monitor and manage activities to mitigate potential air quality impacts.



Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitor located on TSF 4

### 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.

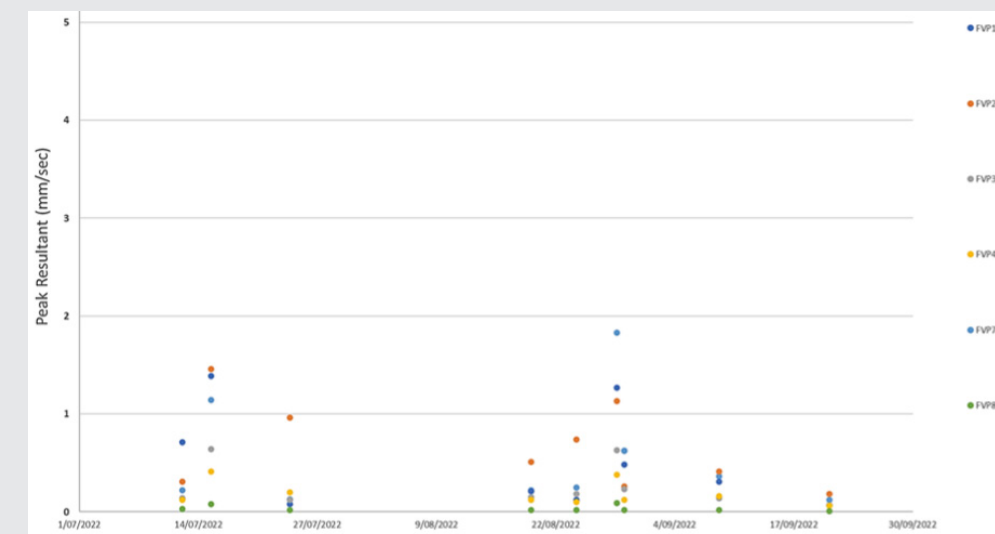
FGM's ground vibration limits are:

- › 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.

During Q3 2022, there were a total of 17 production firings and 412 development firings. All ground vibration results were well below regulatory blasting limits during the reporting period.

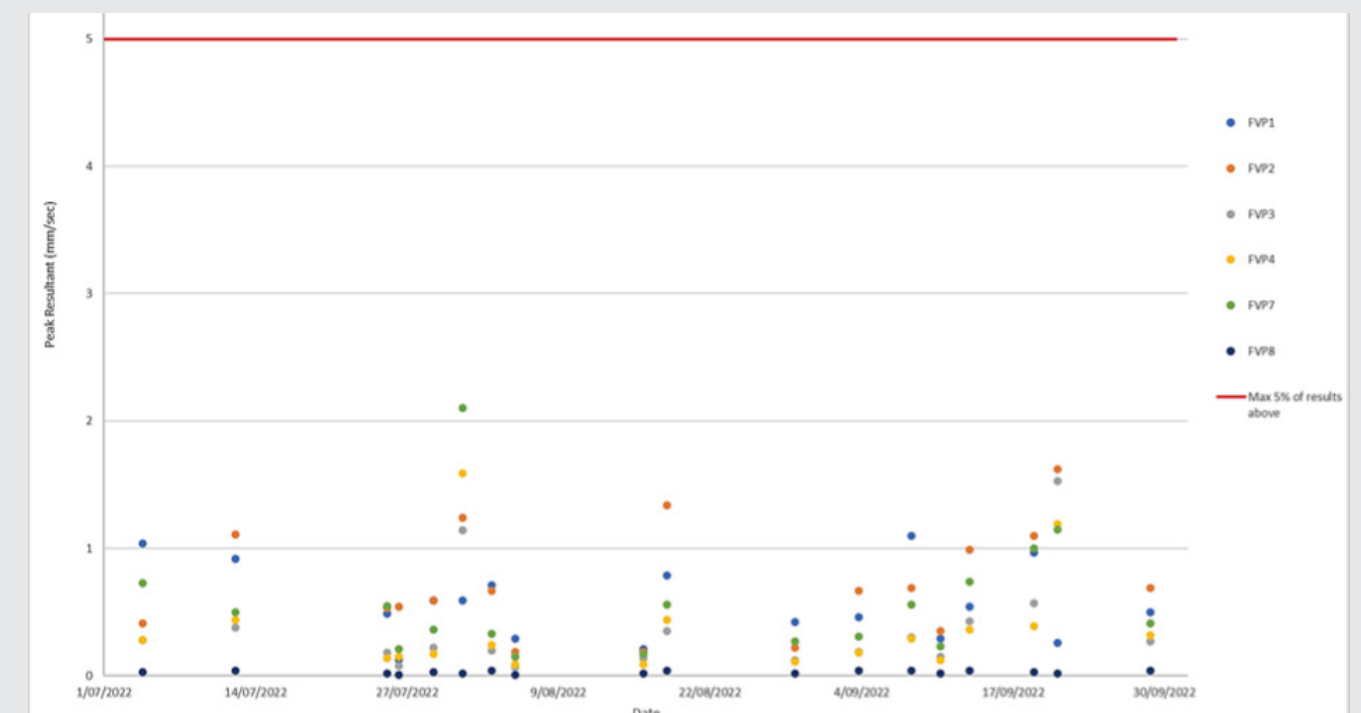
Mine induced seismicity is a phenomenon whereby mining activity redistributes the existing stress regime underground. The stress release may be felt or heard as vibration or a rumble on the surface.

There were 9 mine-induced seismic events that were detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.



Left: Mine-induced seismicity monitoring results for July - September 2022.

Below: Blasting ground vibration monitoring results for July - September 2022 from FGM firings.





## Social responsibility update

The third quarter of 2022 was full of many great events and community activities. Fosterville was pleased to support the following community events and programs.

### Sponsorships and donations

- During Q3 2022, contributions were made to the following organisations as part of FGM's sponsorships and donations program.
- › Bendigo Sports Star Awards – sponsorship of Bendigo Sports Star Awards 2022-2023

› Shine Bright - Axedale Kindergarten Bush Kinder Program

› Axedale Golf Club – Multi-year sponsorship

› Elmore Field Days – Sponsorship of the reptile display and awareness stand

› Bendigo Winter Night Shelter - Sponsorship of RAT tests and Public Liability Insurance.

› Bendigo Comedy Festival – Sponsorship of the opening night of the festival.

› Bendigo Yacht Club – Sponsorship of Ice Break Regatta.

› Mia Mia CFA – Sponsorship of two gazebos.

› Summer In the Parks – Program of events from December 2022 to February 2023.

› Bendigo Symphony Orchestra – Scholarship for a regional performer.

› El Disaster Mallee Run – Sponsorship of 2022 event.

› Lifeline Central Victoria – Hello for Hope Donation



Natasha van Leeuwen and Trudi Jackson at the opening night of the Bendigo Comedy Festival.



The Bendigo Yacht Club held a regatta on Lake Eppalock to encourage new people to give sailing a try. FGM was thrilled to be a part of the day.



FGM sponsored the Safe Snake Victoria stand at Elmore Field Days in November.

## Environment and community performance

### Community complaints

During Q3 2022, FGM received a total of sixteen community complaints from five different landholders and/or community groups.

Blasting ground vibration 14\*

All of these complaints were related to FGM production firings. Investigations confirmed all results were well below ground vibration limits.

Ground vibration (non FGM) 1

Investigations confirmed FGM did not undertake any blasting at or around the time indicated and did not register any ground vibration on the surface monitoring system. FGM did not register any seismic activity on the underground seismic monitoring system.

Noise 1\*

The complaints were investigated and there was no evidence of increased mine-related noise or any atypical operational activities during the timeframes nominated by the landholder. This information was provided in a response to the landholder and regulators.

\*one combined complaint for both noise and ground vibration from blasting

Other 1

One community complaint was received regarding driver behaviour on public roads, including Huntly-Fosterville Road and Epsom-Barnadown Road. The landholder raised concern regarding safety and the use of high beam lights whilst employees are travelling to and from the site. FGM continue to engage with the workforce around responsible driver behaviour.



### Environmental incidents

There were 14 low to minor incidents recorded and no high or moderate-risk environmental incidents during Q3 2022.

### 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/Dec 2021.

On 27/09/2022, ERR completed a compliance audit of FGM's surface tailings storage facilities (TSF1 and TSF4).

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	In effect – Modifications to surface ventilation system operating conditions applied and remain in effect.

Summary of EPA Remedial Notices



## Follow us everywhere



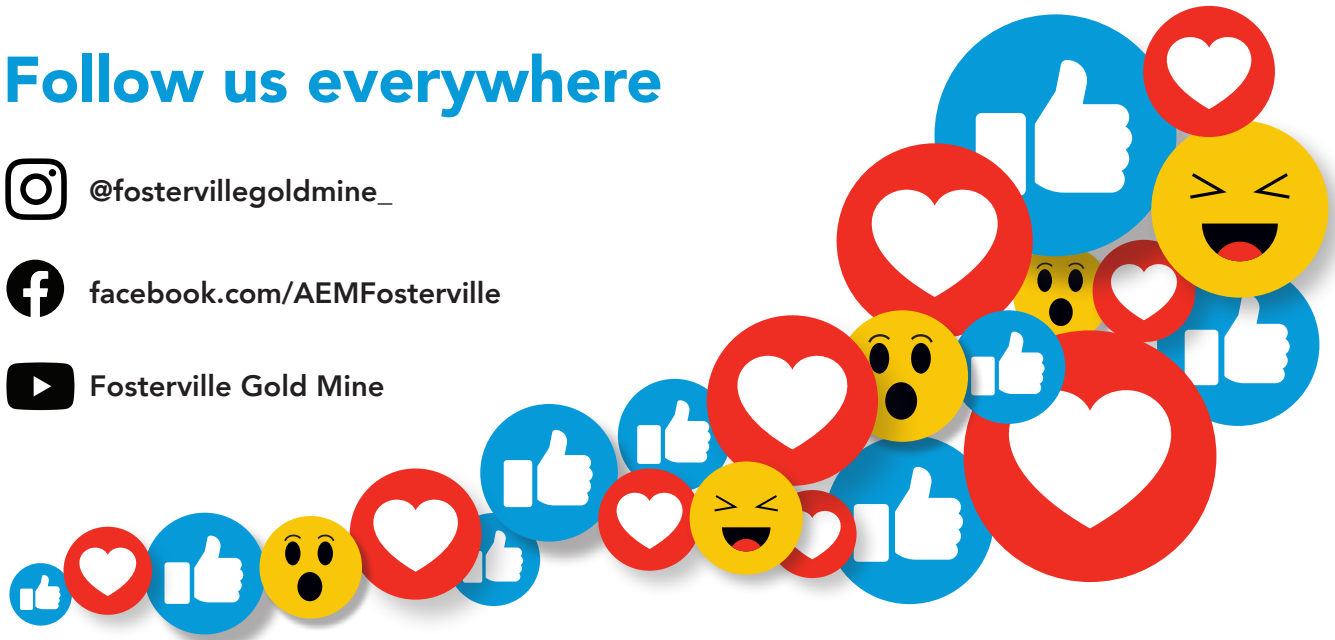
@fostervillegoldmine\_



facebook.com/AEMFosterville



Fosterville Gold Mine



## 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.

### Fosterville Gold Mine

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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.