



# Community News 2022

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Lance Faulkner

---

*Welcome to the first edition of the Fosterville Gold Mine community newsletter for 2022. With great pleasure we can announce the successful completion of the merger between Kirkland Lake Gold and Agnico Eagle, a Canadian gold mining company that was founded in 1957.*

---

Recognised globally because of its leading environmental, social and governance practices Agnico Eagle is a mature, long term, industry leader and this merger is the joining together of two companies that share the same goals and values.

Fosterville Gold Mine has been through several changes of parent company and with each new owner it has had minimal impact on day-to-day work at the site level, other than providing the advantages of being part of a larger, stronger company with increased financial capacity.

The most noticeable change will be that the Kirkland Lake Gold brand will be phased out and replaced by the Agnico Eagle brand.

Continued →

Continued

Agnico Eagle is committed to responsibly operating high-quality, low risk, sustainable mines that are not only great places to work, but also committed to being genuine supporters of the communities within which they operate. This fully aligns with our existing commitment and ongoing support of Central Victorian organisations delivering services to the community.

To this end, we feel extremely privileged that Fosterville Gold Mine is able to support a number of fantastic community events including:

- Dare to Imagine Da Vinci's Machines exhibition at the Discovery Centre (22 February – June);
- Bendigo Pride Festival 2022 (18 March – 3 April);
- 150th Bendigo Easter Fair (15 April – 18 April); and
- The O'Keefe Challenge (29 April – 1 May)

2022 also marks the 17th year of the Fosterville Community Grants Program that looks to support community groups or activities that benefit the communities surrounding the Fosterville mine.

The site low frequency noise investigations are ongoing, and we have continued to work with the Environment Protection Authority following their issuing of remedial notices in November and December that required investigation and improvements, and modification to the operating conditions of the surface ventilation system.

Our site investigation work is targeting practical opportunities to implement improvements to minimise low frequency noise. We will take the necessary steps to ensure our operations are, and remain, in compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements.

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



**Lance Faulkner**  
General Manager

## NOISE INVESTIGATIONS

### Update

Following on from low frequency noise investigations undertaken by both Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria in late 2021, the surface ventilation fans have been operating at a reduced speed between the hours of midnight and 6:00am. Reducing the fan speeds (from 920 rpm to 400 rpm) has resulted in a measurable reduction in low frequency noise, and in December 2021, this change in operational conditions was accepted by the EPA upon issuance of a notice to FGM.

FGM is now working with expert ventilation engineers, acoustic engineers, and the vent fan manufacturers to develop a long-term low frequency noise abatement solution. While this work is being completed, the ventilation fans will continue to operate at the reduced speed of 400 rpm between the hours of midnight and 6.00am every day. FGM will continue to provide updates to the community as this work progresses.

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

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the information provided, please contact a member of the FGM Community Team.

**Phone:** 03 5439 9000

**Email:** fgm.community@kl.gold

## MEET THE TEAM: ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY

*Fosterville Gold Mine's Environment and Community (E&C) team is dedicated to minimising our impact on the environment and engaging with and supporting our local communities.*

### The team currently consists of 10 people:

#### Will Wettenhall

Environment & Community Manager



**Q: Why do you think your team is so essential to FGM's success?**

**A:** At FGM, we are committed to responsible mining practices and strive to leave a positive and long-lasting legacy on the environments and communities in which we operate. The E&C team plays a key role in achieving this vision.

As a support department, the E&C team are fortunate to be involved in all operational aspects of the business, with our mandate being to:

- advise and inform decision-making to ensure potential environmental and community impacts from our activities are minimised;
- implementing industry leading environmental management and monitoring practices to maintain regulatory compliance; and
- Building trusted and transparent relationships with community through effective and respectful stakeholder engagement.

**Previous experience:**

Stawell Gold Mine and environmental consulting.

**Outside of work:**

Will enjoys 4WDing, camping, watching AFL and spending time with family and friends.

#### Trudi Jackson

Senior Community Advisor



**Q: Given your experience working at different mines around Australia, how do you think FGM compares to other mines in terms of their E&C approach?**

**A:** Fosterville Gold Mine operates in an environment which brings unique challenges and opportunities. The biggest difference I have noticed is that in every decision made at FGM, consideration for community is a focus and priority. Fosterville Gold Mine also provides generous support to local community organisations and the accessibility of this support sets FGM apart.

**Previous experience:**

Qualified engineer who has worked in engineering and geology roles all over Australia.

**Outside of work:**

Spending time with family and friends, bushwalking and travelling.

**Jack Bowen**

Senior Environment & Community Advisor (Projects & Approvals)



**Q: What are your thoughts about the culture at FGM and how does the community at large play into that?**

**A:** FGM employees are part of the community as the majority of us live in the region with our families. I think this certainly creates a positive and proud culture; one that considers the wider community and what positives the mine can bring.

**Previous experience:**

Has travelled all over Australia working in environmental management, defence and regulation.

**Outside of work:**

Enjoying the Bendigo lifestyle with his family and having access to Melbourne's great sporting events.

**Oliver Hickson**

Senior Environment and Community Advisor (Compliance)



**Q: Compliance is a buzz word that often encompasses a lot of important things ... can you briefly explain in laymen's terms what you are responsible for on a daily basis?**

**A:** Compliance means more than just meeting our legislative requirements. It means continuously improving our environmental programs so that we achieve the highest possible outcome for our environment and exceed evolving community expectations. My primary responsibility is ensuring these programs, such as air quality and noise monitoring, are designed and operated to the best industry practise.

**Previous experience:**

Studied geology, specialising in floodplain and aquifer dynamics. He has experience assessing environmental impacts from mine induced subsidence and enjoys working in environmental roles.

**Outside of work:**

After moving to Victoria in 2020, Oliver enjoys working in the garden and riding his motorbike.

**Leigh Byrne**

Community Officer



**Q: As the newest member of the team, what are your first impressions of FGM's E&C activities?**

**A:** The E&C team's commitment to community events and enhancement programs within the region is significant. FGM also plays a part in infrastructure improvements and historic preservation. Since joining the team it has been great to learn more about the environmental activities, including noise monitoring and air and water sampling, which the team completes on a daily basis.

**Previous experience:**

Joined in Jan 2022. Wealth of experience in community engagement, marketing and logistics.

**Outside of work:**

Enjoys watching sport and spending time with family and friends.

**Leslie Riddell**

Environmental Technician



**Q: What has inspired you to move away from your initial career and into the environmental field?**

**A:** The environmental field was a great fit for me as I have a strong interest and passion for environmental management and the role encompasses my love for the outdoors and physical tasks. My interest in working at Fosterville came after positive feedback from friends who had worked in the mining industry and had a high regard for the FGM operations.

**Previous experience:**

Over 20 years' experience in customer engagement but has decided to change career paths into the environmental field and is currently studying towards a degree in Environmental Science.

**Outside of work:**

Lots of studying and assignments and spending time outdoors.



**Natasha Van Leeuwen**

Environment & Community Advisor

**Q: What do you find most satisfying about your job?**

**A:** I am enjoying gaining new skills and improving my technical knowledge especially within the area of water monitoring.

**Previous experience:**

Environmental role at Stawell Gold Mine.

**Outside of work:**

Enjoys taking her fluffy white Japanese Spitz 'Lou' walking, and supporting Collingwood.



**Phillip Rossmannith**

Environment & Community Officer

**Q: As a new recruit, what are you most excited about doing in your new role?**

**A:** I am excited to be helping increase the mine's sustainability processes, as well as supporting the multiple projects underway at FGM.

**Previous experience:**

Studied geology and environmental science at university and most recently worked as an environmental consultant.

**Outside of work:**

Recently married and has a pet blue heeler, Roger. He loves cooking and cycling.

## Fran Crossan

EES Project Lead



**Q: Many people are sceptical about mining companies talking about their commitment to environmental sustainability. What are your thoughts on this?**

I can't speak for other mining companies, but I know here at FGM our commitment to environmental sustainability is at the forefront of what we do.

As an environmental scientist and the Environment Effects Statement (EES) Project Lead, it's great to help inform decision-makers by providing constructive feedback.

Being involved in the Sustained Operations Project provides the opportunity to influence decisions and ensure we are making informed decisions based on scientific data and specialist advice.

### Previous experience:

Relocated from Ireland in 2015. Worked as an environmental consultant and has been seconded to support the Environment Effects Statement for the Sustained Operations Project.

### Outside of work:

Fran lives in Melbourne but stays in Bendigo during the week and enjoys exploring the local surrounds.

## Wendy Campbell

Environmental Technician



**Q: What environment goals are you hoping to achieve?**

The goal I'm hoping to accomplish is to carry out our environmental monitoring programs and E&C projects to benefit our broader landscape of today and encourage positive change and environmental value for the future.

### Previous experience:

Worked for the NCCMA and in the agriculture sector.

### Outside of work:

Enjoys playing hockey, exploring natural areas and socialising with family and friends.

## TAILINGS AND TAILING STORAGE FACILITIES



Aerial image of FGM's TSF1 and TSF4 facilities

### What are Tailings?

- Tailings are the materials left over following the processing of mined ore to separate the valuable minerals from the host rock.
- Tailings are not the same as waste rock. Waste rock is the material that surrounds the orebody and is displaced during mining but is not processed.
- Processing involves the crushing and grinding of the mined ore into fine particles and then mixing with water and other agents to facilitate the extraction of the valuable minerals.
- At Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM), the tailings mixture is dewatered to the extent possible and then either combined with a binding agent to create paste fill used to backfill underground voids or stored in a Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).

### What is a Tailings Storage Facility?

- A TSF is a purposely designed, engineered and managed structure to permanently store mine tailings.
- FGM's TSFs are built and operated to specifications that are tailored to the physical nature of the tailings material and other factors including the local climate, topography, geological setting, and seismicity.
- As the tailings is deposited into the TSF the materials settle and consolidate, the remaining water separates from the solid material and is reused back through the processing plant.
- Deposition is alternated between multiple storage facilities to optimise consolidation, water recovery and stability.
- FGM utilises surface and in-pit tailings storage facilities for tailings impoundment.

### TSF Guidelines and Construction

- FGM's TSFs are designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with the following guidelines and standards:
- Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) Guideline for the Design and Management of Tailings Storage Facilities <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/guidelines-and-codes-of-practice/guidelines-for-design-and-management-of-tailings-storage-facilities>
- Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) – Guidelines on Tailings Dams – Planning, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure – Revision 1 (July 2019) <https://www.ancold.org.au/?product=guidelines-on-tailings-dams-planning-design-construction-operation-and-closure-may-2012>
- FGM's TSFs are approved by Earth Resources Regulation.
- TSF construction methods adopted at FGM include upstream, centreline and downstream. The TSFs are constructed using a liner in accordance with nominated criteria, as designed by a third-party dam engineer.



## TSF Management & Monitoring Programs

FGM's TSF Operating Manual details operating standards, design principles and performance monitoring requirements. The TSF monitoring program includes, but is not limited to:

- Daily visual inspections.
- Weekly inspections.
- Freeboard monitoring.
- Continuous piezometer (pressure) monitoring within embankments, and automated notification system.
- Deformation monitoring using survey prisms and satellite imagery.
- Routine groundwater and surface water monitoring.
- Annual audits and verification by accredited third party dam engineer, and associated operator training.



## Emergency Management Plan

- FGM has an Emergency Management Plan, which details the actions to be taken in any potential emergency.
- FGM's Emergency Management Plan addresses a number of risks including earthquakes, floods and major rainfall events.
- FGM routinely engages with local authorities and State Emergency Services, including the CFA, Police, Ambulance, and local council on matters relating to its operations.

## Closure Planning & Rehabilitation

- FGM's regulatory approvals includes a site Closure and Rehabilitation Plan.
- Upon closure, the TSFs will be dewatered, capped and revegetated to achieve a stable and self-sustaining landform.



## FGM CORE SHED – NEW CUTTING-EDGE FACILITY

*For over 20 years Fosterville Gold Mine Geologists and Geology Technicians have spent countless hours logging, cutting, and sampling drill core at a facility located along Huntly-Fosterville Road.*

In 2020, with increased exploration and increased personnel, FGM identified a need to upgrade this facility and planning commenced to build a new, state of the art core shed.

Construction of the new core shed commenced in January 2021, with the concrete pad being poured, followed by the installation of underground high voltage electrical cables.

From April until July 2021, the delivery and construction of the steel frames, roofing and panelling took place, followed by a fit-out of racking, core saws and portable offices. The total cost of the project was approximately \$4 million and on the 3rd November 2021, the core shed team officially moved into the new facility.

The shed, now located within the main mine site, is no more than a 5-minute walk away from the geology office buildings, which has facilitated greater collaboration between the geologist planning the drill holes and the geologist logging the drill core.



The main core shed is 60m long, 31m wide and 6m high. There are 14 logging racks inside, all roughly 55m long, which can hold approximately 3.5 km of drill core at any given time.

The state of the art facility has been designed to reduce manual handling, whilst improving throughput of core logging and sampling from the 15 drill rigs currently in operation (10 underground, 5 surface).

An ergonomic assessment also identified several opportunities to create a safer working environment for the 22 staff based at the core shed.

These included:

- The introduction of racking that is tilted to 14 degrees to reduce strain on necks, backs and wrists throughout the logging process.
- Rollers added to the base of the racks to enable a single person to push out 20 trays with ease.
- Anti-fatigue matting is placed on the ground in front of the logging racks to reduce the risk of joint pain.
- Stretching sessions at the beginning of each shift to reduce the risk of repetitive strain injuries.

All core is delivered to the shed at the end of shift by our diamond drilling contractor, Deepcore Drilling.

*Each drill rig has an assigned lane to roll their core onto.*

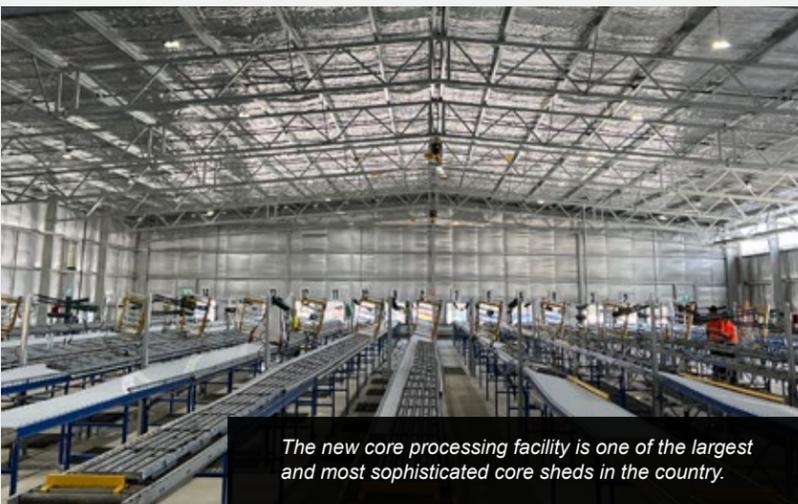
Previously, drillers had been required to place the core onto a pallet in a lay down yard, after which it would be transported to the core shed, picked up by a fork-lift for outdoor storage and then later re-positioned and manually loaded onto a single access point by FGM technicians.



Once the core is placed on the racks it is orientated and metre-marked by our field technicians.

The geologists will then log lithologies, rock quality, mineralised boundaries and take structural measurements to assist with geological interpretation. Each tray will then be photographed before it is rolled out of the shed and into the cutting facility.

*All of this occurs without the need to rehandle the core trays.*



*The new core processing facility is one of the largest and most sophisticated core sheds in the country.*

The trays of core that are not marked for cutting are removed from the rack onto a nearby palletiser. All core to be cut rolls into one of the two cutting sheds, where the field technicians prepare, cut and dispatch the samples to Onsite Laboratories in Bendigo.

The Deepcore offices and meeting area are right next to the core shed, which allows greater collaboration between the two groups.

The drillers can look at their core laid out on a rack once it is dropped off and discuss any points of note directly with the geologist.



## FGM SUSTAINED OPERATIONS

### Project Update



FGM Sustained Operations Project

### Environment Effects Statement (EES)

*Fosterville Gold Mine Pty Ltd (FGM) the proponent is currently undergoing the EES process to maintain gold production at Fosterville Gold Mine for at least the next 10 years.*

#### The Sustained Operations Project Includes:

- Continuation of current underground mining and exploration in MIN5404 to the south and north.
- Open pit cutbacks to 3 existing open pits (no new pits are proposed).
- An above ground waste rock dump at an existing pit.
- Construction and operation of new flotation and neutralization tailings storage facilities (TSFs) within the existing TSF compound.
- Construction and operation of additional in-pit tailings storage facilities for flotation and neutralization tailings.
- Construction and operation of additional carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings hardstands as an extension of the existing CIL hardstand area.
- Construction and operation of new brine evaporation ponds.
- Transfer/sale of carbon in leach (CIL) tailings.
- Managed aquifer recharge (MAR) program to inject treated mine water into the fractured rock aquifer.
- Supporting infrastructure, including haul roads within the mining lease, borrow pit for construction materials, vent shafts to support underground workings and a combined services corridor for energy supply and water / paste reticulation.

The EES process in Victoria requires the assessment of potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development, under the Environment Effects Act 1978. The process under this Act is not an approval process itself, rather it enables statutory decision-makers (Ministers, local government and statutory authorities) to make decisions about whether a project should proceed, and how it should proceed.

### FGM EES Referral and EPBC Referral Decision

In November 2021, the Minister for Planning determined that an EES is required for the Sustained Operations Project under the Environment Effects Act 1978. A delegate for the Commonwealth Minister also determined the Project was a 'controlled action' and would require assessment and approval under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

### Bilateral Agreement

The bilateral agreement avoids duplication of assessment processes, by allowing Victoria to assess proposals that the Commonwealth has determined as controlled actions. Victoria's EES process is serving as the accredited pathway to assess potential impacts and inform the approval decision under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

### How does the EES process work?



Source: DELWP

### What stage are FGM at in the EES Process?

FGM are waiting for the draft scoping requirements to be drafted and issued by DELWP for public comment.

**Scoping**

Scoping requirements for EES studies and report set by Minister

The matters to be investigated and documented in an EES are set out in the 'scoping requirements' issued for each project by the Minister. The extent of investigation required will depend on the level of risk to aspects of the environment.

Draft scoping requirements for an EES are prepared after considering input from the proponent and agencies. These are released for at least 15 business days for public comment before the scoping requirements are finalised.

### Community Engagement

RM Consulting Group (RMCG) have been engaged to facilitate the community and stakeholder engagement program for the Sustained Operations Project.

Once approved by DELWP, the consultation plan will be available online via DELWP's website and the Sustained Operations Project Virtual Consultation Room (VRC). The consultation plan will outline the process for stakeholder engagement throughout the EES.

The VRC has been established to provide information to the community.  
<https://fgm.consultation.ai/>



### Contacts

#### EES Process queries

Web: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria>  
 Phone: (03) 8392 5503  
 Email: [environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au)

#### FGM Sustained Operations Project – RMCG

Phone: 03 5441 4821  
 Email: [FostervilleEES@RMCG.com.au](mailto:FostervilleEES@RMCG.com.au)

### Next Steps

Once the scoping document has been finalised FGM will start preparing the EES.

In the meantime, FGM have engaged specialist consultants to begin the process of assessing the cumulative impacts the Sustained operations Project may have on the environment and community.

The key study areas are (but not limited to):  
 Air, Greenhouse gas, Ecology, Geotechnical, Groundwater, Ground vibration, Heritage (Historic and Cultural), Land Use Planning, Noise, Social, Surface water, Traffic and Visual.  
 FGM are working on finalising the Project description which describes what components will be included as a part of the Sustained operations Project EES.

# FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE - UNDERGROUND WORKINGS

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

*Since the commencement of Underground Mining in 2006 Fosterville Gold Mine has developed over 120km of underground tunnels'*



- Mining prior to 2022
- Mining 2022 (Planned)
- Blast Monitor Locations

## MCA SCHOOL TOUR PROGRAM



*The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) Victoria Division has been working in collaboration with a number of mining operations across Victoria to develop a new 'School Tours' Program.*

Pitched at secondary school students, the program aims to connect students and teachers with people currently working in Victoria's resources sector, whilst also providing an opportunity to experience an operational mine site firsthand.

In late February, Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) was delighted to welcome 19 VCAL students to site from Bendigo Senior Secondary College for the first tour of the program.

The three-hour visit 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; a visit to the Heavy Vehicle Workshop including a Q & A session with two of FGM's apprentice Diesel Fitters; and finally, a guided tour of the process plant.

A range of employees shared their own experiences and highlighted the diverse range of careers on offer in the resources industry. FGM is looking forward to hosting more school tours throughout 2022 and if you would like more information on the program, please contact the MCA via email [info.vic@minerals.org.au](mailto:info.vic@minerals.org.au)



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Update

*In late 2021 and early 2022 two new partnerships were established as a part of Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program (CPP).*

### Red Dust Role Models Partnership/Announcement

Red Dust Indigenous health and wellbeing programs in the Top End are getting a significant boost thanks to a new 3-year partnership with Angico Eagle Community Partnership Program Fund.

The partnership will support an expansion of Red Dust's unique community-as-family program model in four Top End remote Indigenous communities. More than 2,000 young people and their families will benefit, and employment opportunities will be provided for up to 15 local people over three years.



Launch of the Red Dust Partnership

*"It was wonderful to announce our partnership with Red Dust Role Models last week in the NT. We are proud to partner with an organisation whose objective is to build capacity and aspiration through its community led programs." Felicia Binks Director Environment and Government Relations, Australia."*

**Felicia Binks**

*Director Environment and Government Relations, Australia.*

## Bendigo Health – Gobbé Wellness Centre Partnership/Announcement

On 1 December 2021 a partnership with Bendigo Health, supporting the Gobbé Wellness Centre was announced. The Cancer Wellness Program, run from the Gobbé Wellness Centre, is underpinned by a highly qualified Cancer Wellness Coordinator (Registered Oncology Nurse Grade 4A) and Patient Experience Administrator who connect cancer patients to the wellness services available and are central to the patient’s experience.

The Cancer Wellness Program now offers cancer patients complimentary therapies 5 days per week, including oncology massage, reflexology, yoga, mindfulness and Tai Chi to improve their quality of life while undergoing conventional cancer treatment such as chemotherapy and as part of a remission program. There is increasing evidence that these therapies are valuable in reducing some of the symptoms of cancer such as peripheral neuropathy, fatigue, nausea and stress.



Launch of the Gobbé Wellness Centre Partnership.

## BLAST NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Blasting is an essential part of the gold mining process and is used in both open pit and underground operations.

As FGM’s underground mine advances, nearby residents may feel ground vibration from some firings. FGM undertakes production firings within designated firing periods (6:30am-7am and 6:30pm-7pm), however independent development firings may also be conducted at other times.

FGM monitors ground vibration from its operations using a network of blast monitors (geophones) installed on the surface at designated locations.

The monitors measure peak particle velocity (PPV) in mm/s and provide data which is used to ensure FGM maintain compliance

with the vibration limits detailed in FGM’s Mining Licence.

As part of our commitment to keeping the community informed and process of continuous improvement to minimise adverse impacts to the surrounding environment, FGM has implemented a Blast Notification System for interested community members. The system aims to provide residents with notification in advance of planned production firings.

**Any residents interested in registering to receive FGM’s SMS blast notifications are encouraged to contact the Community Team.**

**Email: [fgm.community@kl.gold](mailto:fgm.community@kl.gold)  
Phone: 03 5439 9000**

**Fosterville Gold Mine Blasting Feedback**

1. Name:

2. Vibration Intensity - Vibration comfort level

Not noticed

Very uncomfortable

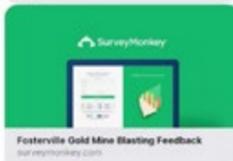
Uncomfortable

Ordinary

Comfortable

Very comfortable

FGM Firing Notification  
Date: 17/06/2020  
Time: 6:30am – 7:00am  
Location: Phoenix 3950 Swan Level  
Feedback can be provided via link below



Fosterville Gold Mine Blasting Feedback  
[surveys.monkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)

## FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

*In 2021 Fosterville Gold Mine awarded just over \$50,000 to 18 different community organisations through its annual Community Grants Program. The successful recipients included the Rochester and District Pony Club and the Bamawn Lockington United Cricket Club.*



### Rochester and District Horse and Pony Club – Soft Fall Arena

Rochester’s young horse and pony lovers are honing their riding skills thanks to the creation of a new safe soft fall sand arena at the Rochester and District Horse and Pony Club (RDHPC).

The riding club which is situated in a small rural community in Northern Victoria, has been in operation for 60 years and currently caters to a passionate group of junior members. These juniors are supported by a dedicated group of parents and carers, who volunteer their time and skills, to nurture a love of horse and pony riding in their community.

“Given the club’s high proportion of young members, we needed a dedicated area where riders can safely transition from lead riding to riding independently,” said Michelle Jones, Secretary of the RDHPC.

The arena has a thick layer of sand which, similar to walking in the soft dry sand at the beach, helps to slow down the horses and ponies while at the same time acting as a safer surface to fall on, on the odd occasion that it does happen.

“The grant from Fosterville Gold Mine allowed us to create this arena, which would otherwise have taken a few years for us to fundraise towards,” explained Michelle.

Since completing the arena, the children have improved their riding skills and are more confident about progressing to independent riding.

“Everyone at the RDHPC would like to thank Fosterville Gold Mine for making this arena a reality for the club ... it has without doubt lifted everyone’s spirits and brought smiles all around,” Michelle concluded.

## Bamawn Lockington United Cricket Club – Sprinkler System

The Bamawn Lockington United Cricket Club (BLUCC) recently installed an automated sprinkler system and treated the Bamawn Recreation Reserve to a fresh layer of top soil, thanks in part to being awarded a community grant from Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) in 2021.

“The recreation reserve is a very important part of Bamawn, so the grant has helped to improve the wellbeing of both the cricketers who play there and the community who have access to the space,” said Matt Hamilton, BLUCC President.

As an inclusive and growing club within the Goulburn Murray Cricket Association, members maintain the reserve solely through the support of volunteers and donations from the local community.

Prior to the sprinkler system being installed, the responsibility of watering the reserve was carried by a small team of volunteers, who had to manually water the fields using six manual sprinklers, presenting significant risk of injury.

“In addition, the field was badly in need of a layer of topsoil in order to even out the surface and avoid players getting injured,” Matt explained.

The FGM Grant contributed towards enabling BLUCC to implement these improvements, while at the same time achieving 30% water and electricity savings.

“This project has breathed new life into the community at a time when everyone needs a place like the reserve to reconnect after all the disruptions due to COVID,” said Matt. Since the upgrades, the club has gone

from strength-to-strength and has added a second women’s team as well as having record numbers of juniors signing up for the season.

“This community project would not be possible without businesses like Fosterville Gold Mine being willing to invest in the community around them,” Matt concluded.



## VACATION STUDENT

Each year Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) invites students from various universities across Australia to apply for vacation positions at the mine.

### Mitch’s Fosterville experience helps confirm he’s on the right path

Each year Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) invites students from various universities across Australia to apply for vacation positions at the mine. The purpose of the program is to give students studying in relevant fields, the opportunity to put their learning into practice and get a taste of what working in the mining industry is all about.

This year Bendigo local, Mitchell Cheeseman was one of the successful recruits who jumped at the chance to learn more about mining and enjoy some time back with his family, after having relocated to Melbourne for the duration of his studies.

Mitchell, who grew up in Strathfieldsaye and attended Catherine McCauley College, is entering his fifth year of study at RMIT, completing a double degree in Chemical Engineering and Business Management.

“When I saw the advertisement come through from the RMIT Careers team, I didn’t hesitate to apply, as I have been curious about this mine near my hometown ever since beginning my studies,” explained Mitchell.

When asked about how he went about deciding on Chemical Engineering as a career path, Mitchell admits it was a bit of a gamble: “It is really scary having to pick a career path when you are just 18, but I did some research and decided that the Chemical Engineering degree offered the kind of subjects that I enjoyed, so I just went for it”.

The FGM Human Resources team received over 150 applications and were impressed by Mitchell’s application. He was thrilled to get through the interview process with flying colours and be invited to participate in the program, along with eight other students from different disciplines, including: mine surveying,



process engineering, mining engineering, mine business improvement engineering and geology.

“I wasn’t sure what to expect, but the whole experience has really helped me to feel confident that I have chosen the right career path,” says Mitchell.

Mitchell’s main assignment during his time at FGM has been assisting on the BIOX Circuit, which is a rare opportunity. FGM’s modern sulphide treatment plant, which uses bacteria to recover more gold from the ore, is recognised as one of the world’s leading BIOX systems, having achieved record recoveries.

“Learning all about the BIOX system has been fascinating, but I have also really enjoyed finding out more about how FGM is mitigating their impact on the environment as well as constantly looking for ways to improve operations and reduce carbon emissions.”

“As a young person, I am concerned about the environment and don’t want to be a part of an industry that isn’t doing their part to look after the planet, however, now that I have spent time at Fosterville, I can see that there are huge efforts being made to not only reduce environmental impacts, but improve environmental outcomes,” Mitchell concluded.

Mitchell will return to Melbourne at the end of February 2022 to complete his final year of study and is looking forward to beginning his fulltime career in 2023 ... potentially at Fosterville if the opportunity presents itself.

# ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Q4 2021

## Environmental and Community Activities

- Continued targeted low frequency noise investigations at surface infrastructure.
- Progressed remediation works following Hunt's Pit North (TSF2) hydrocarbon contamination event.
- Submitted planning documents for Falcon Waste Rock Dump Work Plan Variation.
- Progressed 'Community Voices' engagement survey with landholders surrounding MIN5404.
- Launched the Fosterville Gold Mine community website.
- Presented community grants (Round 2) to successful applicants.
- Presented at Mineral Development Victoria's NCVG ground release community engagement sessions.
- Presented to Campaspe Shire Council on proposed exploration and community engagement approach in NCVG ground release blocks.
- Hosted community Clean Up Day on Huntly-Fosterville Road.

### Air Quality Monitoring

During Q4 2021, all particulate matter results (PM10 and PM2.5) were below the respective compliance limits for high volume air sampling.

All depositional dust monitoring sites were compliant during Q4 2021, except for two exceedances for total insoluble solids.

On both occasions, the ash content, which is the fraction potentially attributable to industry (i.e. agriculture, mining, etc.) or traffic on unsealed roads, was below the compliance limit of 4 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month.

Field observations noted that insects and organic matter was present in both of the sample bottles at the time of collection, which is the likely source of the increased combustible content.

## Regulatory Engagement and Notices

In November 2021, FGM met with EPA Victoria to discuss the findings and future actions from the regulator's investigations into low frequency noise emissions from FGM's premises. EPA Victoria subsequently issued FGM remedial notices in November and December, requiring additional investigations and improvements, and restricting certain operational activities (see table below).

Notice	Issue Date	Status
Notice to Investigate – 00001695	26/11/2021	<b>Revoked</b> FGM submitted LFN investigative report 22/12/2021. EPA issued letter of revocation 19/01/2021
EPA Improvement Notice – 00001690	26/11/2021	<b>In effect</b> FGM's investigations into further LFN abatement options ongoing
EPA Prohibition Notice 00001694	29/11/2021	<b>In effect</b> Restrictions to operating hours remain in effect for surface drill rigs operating in the south of MIN5404.
EPA Prohibition Notice 00001711-1	03/12/2021	<b>In effect</b> Modifications to surface ventilation system operating conditions applied and remain in effect.

Table 1 Summary of EPA Remedial Notices

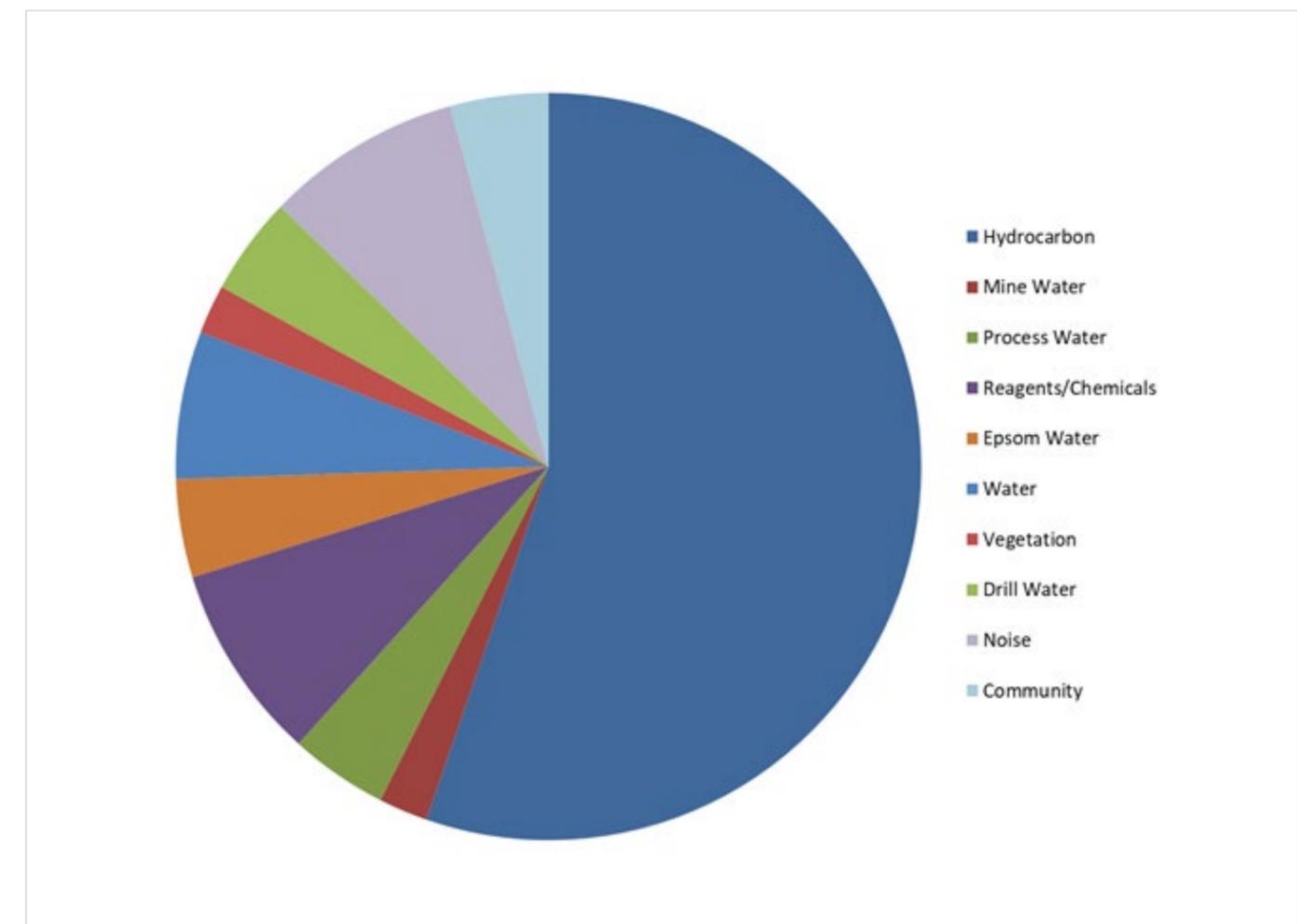
## Environmental Incidents

There was one moderate risk environmental incident recorded during Q4 2021:

- Unauthorised slashing of an area within an FGM leased paddock.

Incident Category	Q4	Year to Date
Low to Minor	12	39
Moderate	1	4
High	0	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>

Table 2 Environmental Incidents Q4 and Year to Date

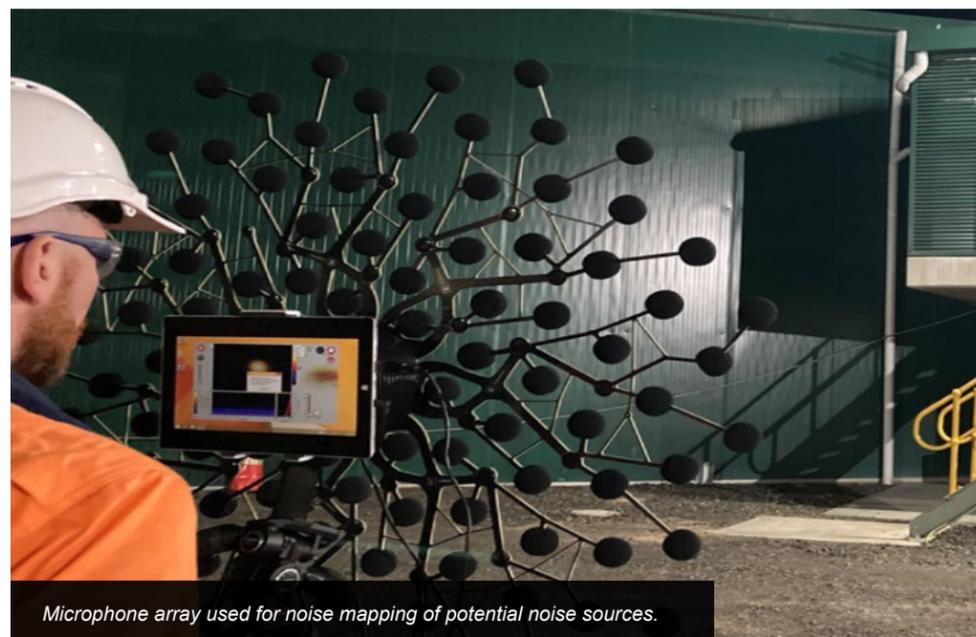


FGM Environmental Incidents Year to date by incident type

## Noise Abatement

Noise abatement measures progressed during Q4 2021 include:

- Construction of the SAG mill attenuation project commenced in November 2021, with scheduled completion in March 2022
- Installation of a fully enclosed noise attenuation structure around the Paste Plant air compressor was completed in December 2021. The installation of acoustic door panels and additional ventilation system to the attenuation enclosure has achieved a noise reduction of approximately 14dB at source, an improvement of an additional 4dB compared to the previous interim solution using noise curtains and haybales.



Microphone array used for noise mapping of potential noise sources.



Before

After

## Social Responsibility - Sponsorships and Donations

During Q4 2021, contributions were made to the following organisations:

- Summer in the Parks 2021/22 program
- Axedale Primary School Netball Court Cover
- Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre
- Bendigo Blue Light
- Bendigo Toyota Annual Charity Golf Day
- Rood Henry Arts Space
- 2022 Bendigo Pride Festival
- 2022 Bendigo Discovery Centre—Da Vinci Exhibition
- Eppalock Primary School—Shade Sail and Playground Equipment Upgrades

## Blast Monitoring

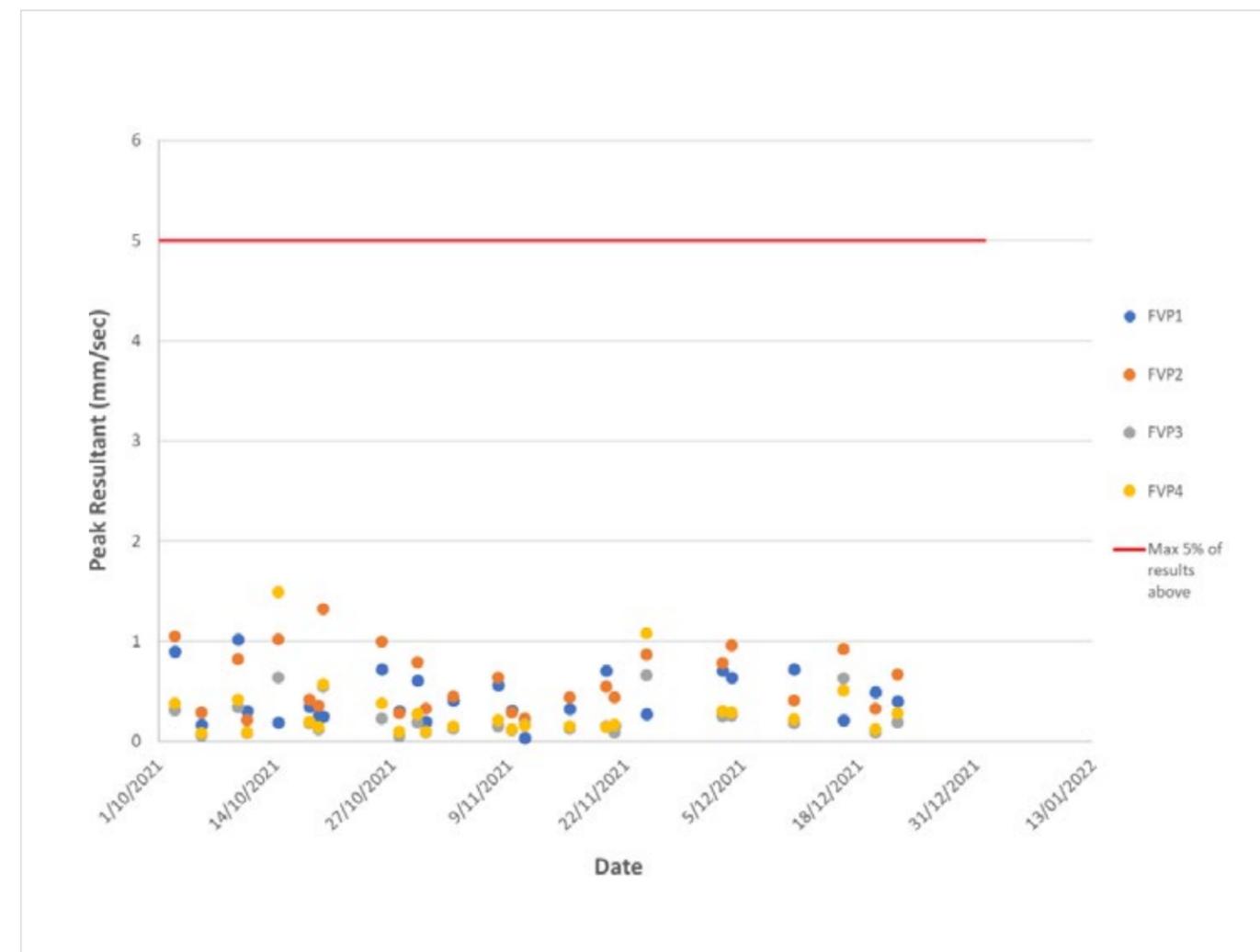
Blast and ground vibration monitoring is undertaken in accordance with Australian Standard Explosives AS 2187.2:2006 – Storage and Use – Use of Explosives.

FGM's ground vibration limits are:

- The maximum level of ground vibration must not exceed 5 mm/s at any residence 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.

Continuous blast meters are located at four locations around FGM's active mining areas. These meters monitor surface ground vibration as peak particle velocity (mm/s).

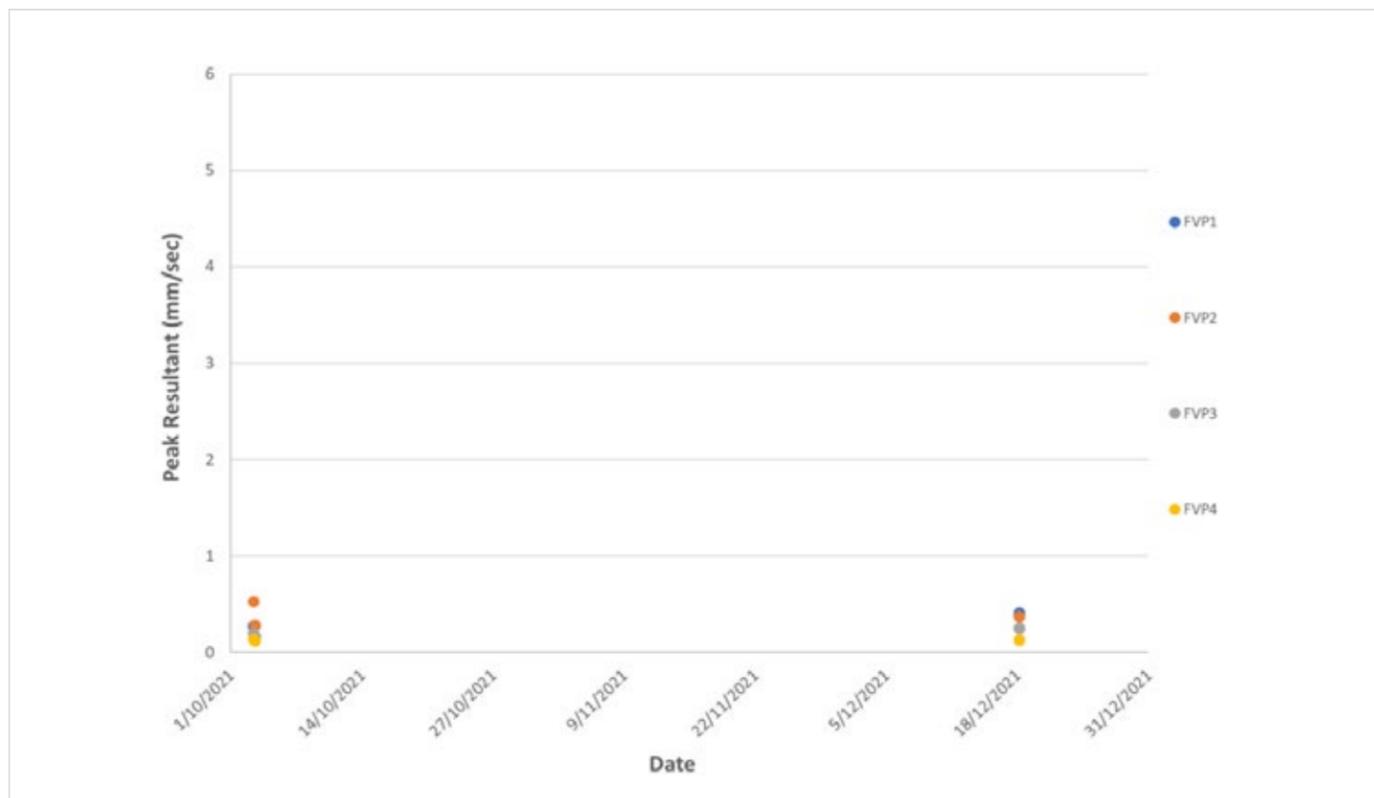
During Q4 2021, there were a total of 26 stope firings and 606 development firings. During this period, 26 firing events registered on the surface monitoring network. All blasting results were well below ground vibration limits for the reporting period.



Blasting ground vibration monitoring results for October - December

### Mine Induced Seismicity

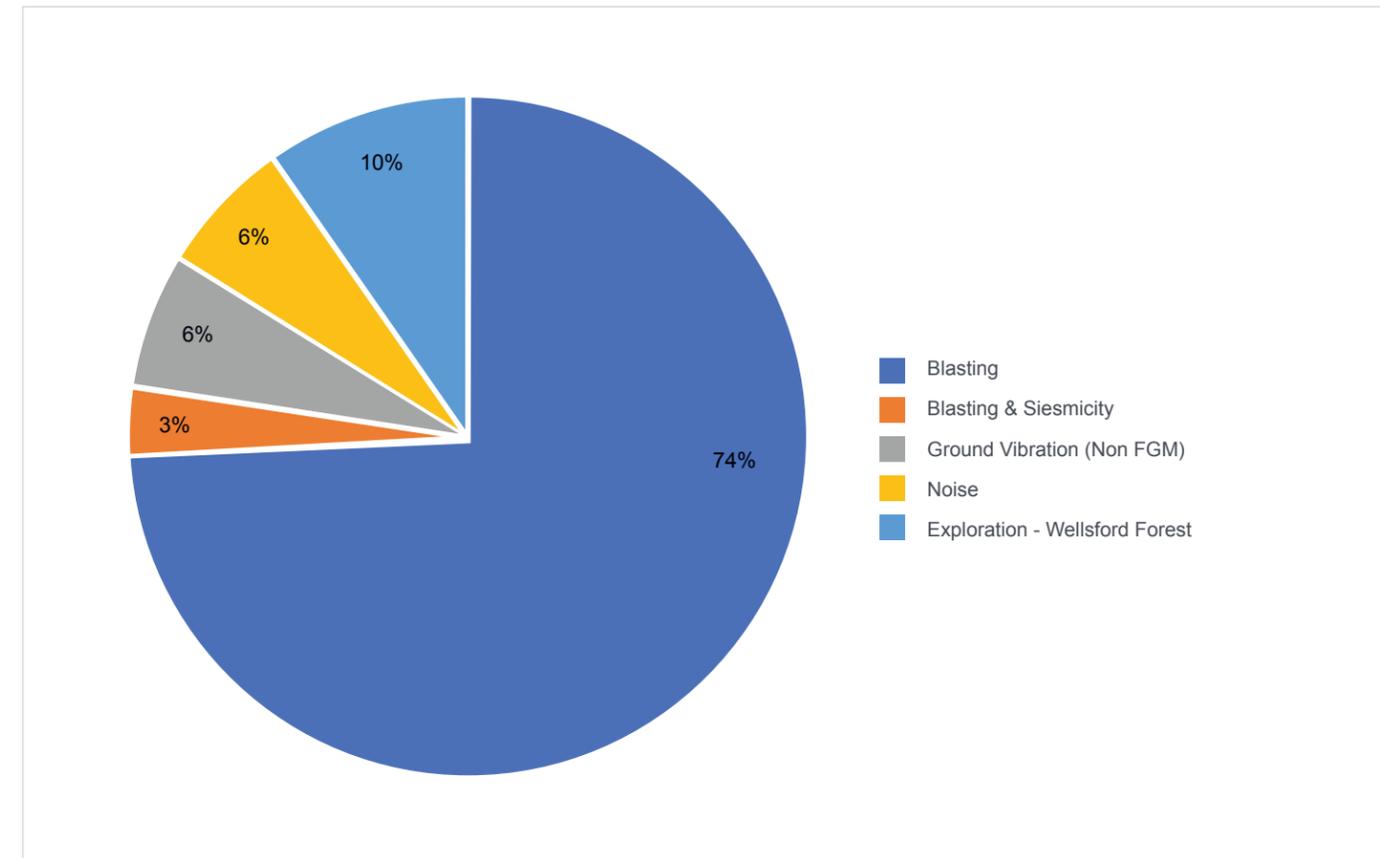
Mine induced seismicity is a phenomenon whereby mining activity redistributes the existing stress regime underground. The stress release may be felt or heard as vibration or a rumble on the surface. There were three mine-induced seismic events detected by the surface vibration monitoring network during the quarter.



Seismic ground vibration monitoring results for October – December

### Community Complaints

During Q4, FGM received a total of 31 community complaints from ten different landholders and/or community groups.



Community complaints received during Q4 2021

### 150<sup>th</sup> BENDIGO EASTER FAIR



Following a two-year hiatus, the traditional Bendigo Easter Fair will return in 2022 to celebrate its 150th anniversary. Fosterville Gold Mine is excited to be the major sponsor of this year's festival which promises to deliver fun and entertainment for both locals and visitors alike.

Over the four-day Easter long weekend, Bendigo's Rosalind Park and surrounding streets will host family-friendly entertainment, stage shows, hands-on activities, live music, roving performers, an Easter egg hunt and many more activities. There will also be a carnival centre and the Rotary Art and Craft Market. Dance, drums, Lion teams and 100,000 crackers are all part of the Chinese Spring Festival and Awakening of the Dragon which celebrate Bendigo's Chinese heritage at the Dai Gum San Precinct.

The Fosterville Team are busy planning some exciting activities for young and old and we can't wait to meet some new faces and hopefully bump into a few familiar ones throughout the four-day event.

#### Ground Vibration

Twenty-four community complaints were received in relation to ground vibration from blasting. All ground vibration results attributable to FGM firings were well below surface vibration limits.

One community complaint was received regarding ground vibration associated with two separate mine-induced seismic events.

Two community complaints in relation to ground vibration events not associated with FGM's operations.

#### Noise

Two community complaints were received regarding noise:

- One complaint was found to be related to activity at a surface exploration drill site.
- One complaint was attributable to agricultural plant operating at the vineyard to the east of Axedal-Goornong Road.

#### Exploration Drilling – EL006503

Three complaints were received regarding the proposed Yankee Creek diamond drilling exploration program, in the Wellsford Forest within EL006503.



## **AGNICO EAGLE**

FOSTERVILLE

### **Fosterville Gold Mine**

McCormick's Road, Fosterville,  
Victoria 3557, Australia

Ph. 03 5439 9000

[fgmcommunity.com.au](http://fgmcommunity.com.au)

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

To contact FGM reception phone (03) 5439 9000 between the hours of 6:30am to 6:30pm. This number is also the 24 hour call number. After hours and on weekends all calls are transferred through to the processing plant office, which is manned 24 hours, 365 days per year.

If you wish to receive this newsletter via email or would like to be removed from the distribution list please email [fgm.community@kl.gold](mailto:fgm.community@kl.gold)