

**RMCG**

**MAY 2022**

# **Environment Effects Statement Consultation Plan**

**Fosterville Gold Mine: Sustained Operations Project**

**FINAL**

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Victoria — Tasmania — ACT — NSW

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**Table 1 - Glossary of Terms**

<b>TERM/ABBREVIATION</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
AE	Agnico Eagle
AECOM	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
LCCC	Local Community Consultation Committee
CCD	Community Contact Database
CCP	Community Consultation Plan
CIL	Carbon-in-Leach
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EES	Environment Effects Statement
FGM	Fosterville Gold Mine
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
LGA	Local Government Area
MIN	Mining Licence
RMCG	RM Consultancy Group
TRG	Technical Reference Group
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility

# 1 Introduction

This Environment Effects Statement (EES) Consultation Plan for the Fosterville Gold Mine Sustained Operations Project (the ‘**Project**’) has been developed in response to item (vi) of the Minister for Planning’s decision under Section 8B(3)(a) of the *Environment Effects Act 1978 (Vic)*, which requires the Proponent (Fosterville Gold Mine Pty Ltd) to ‘*prepare and submit to DELWP its proposed EES consultation plan for engaging with the public and stakeholders during the preparation of the EES. Once completed to the satisfaction of DELWP, the EES consultation plan is to be implemented by the proponent, having regard to advice from DELWP and the TRG*’.

## 1.1 EES CONSULTATION PLAN CONTEXT

In late 2021, the Minister for Planning decided that the Project will be assessed as a controlled action, through the preparation of an EES under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The EES will inform statutory approval decisions for the project in relation to the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

RM Consulting Group (RMCG) have been engaged by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM), lead consultants on the EES, to develop and deliver the Community Consultation Plan (CCP) as part of the EES process for the Project.

This CCP has been prepared in accordance with the *DELWP Environment Effects Act 1978 EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note* (DELWP 2018), the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions’ (DJPR’s) Earth Resources Regulation Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining and Mineral Exploration in Victoria, and the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, which requires the proponent to prepare and implement a public consultation plan for informing the public and consulting with stakeholders during the preparation of the EES.<sup>1</sup>

Consultation is a key aspect of the environment assessment process in Victoria. It helps build understanding around the issues and implications of projects, and it enables stakeholders’ knowledge and views to be considered in both project planning and formal decision-making<sup>2</sup>.

This document sets out the approaches RMCG will use to consult communities and stakeholders and obtain input into the EES. This is a living document, the latest version of which will be published on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) website.

The CCP applies throughout the lifespan of the Project, including the preparation, exhibition and assessment of the EES. The assessment of existing mining operations is not part of the EES, although cumulative impacts with the Project components will need to be considered. The CCP outlines a clear plan to inform communities about the current project and support input during the preparation of the EES, record feedback and demonstrate how community and stakeholder feedback has been considered in the development of the project and the EES.

### A NOTE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS

**While this plan has been designed to prioritise face-to-face engagement, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, we have allowed for alternative engagement methods to ensure maximum involvement from all interested community members and stakeholders can be made possible, regardless of restrictions.**

<sup>1</sup> Further information on the EES process is available at [www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria).

<sup>2</sup> Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note, October 2018.

## **1.2 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **1.2.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GOAL**

The overall goal of the CCP is to effectively engage with community and stakeholders in an open and transparent manner to ensure their understanding of and contribution to the project's processes, progress and outcomes.

### **1.2.2 SITUATIONAL AWARENESS ASSESSMENT PROVIDED BY FGM**

FGM has an existing community engagement plan for the current approved operations. FGM takes a proactive approach to community relations and endeavours to keep the community up to date with changes occurring at the site and how the community may be impacted.

The existing community engagement plan identifies and continues to identify the stakeholders in relation to current operations and the community attitudes and expectations.

Through its existing community engagement, FGM has identified community attitudes and expectations towards the current mine. The attitudes range from uninterested to fully engaged but there is a universal expectation that FGM continues to operate in accordance with its licence conditions.

Whilst support for FGM is strong within the local region, FGM is aware of some negative community opinion in relation to certain aspects of the mine's current operations. This feedback is responded to in accordance with the current engagement plan and will be considered in decisions or planned activities at the mine.

The community's feedback on the sustained operations project will be considered in the context of the ongoing operations and potential for cumulative impacts.

### **1.2.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this CCP are to:

- Identify stakeholders, including concerns, attitudes, and expectations of the EES
- Support in the community's understanding of the EES process and where/when they can input
- Develop a framework that seeks and encourages stakeholder input throughout the EES process, including engagement goals and the level of engagement required for each stakeholder or activity
- Encourage participation and seek targeted input during the preparation of the EES to identify potential issues, gain local insight and seek feedback on measures that respond to stakeholder concerns
- Develop a process that actively and effectively responds to stakeholder feedback
- Provide educational and technical material to support stakeholders' understanding in a range of formats
- Supplying timely and accurate information if issues arise that require further clarity
- Implement an engagement process that is open, honest, inclusive, responsive and accountable
- Ensure that community and stakeholder feedback is documented and addressed in the preparation of the EES
- Identify a strategy to maintain engagement with the community and stakeholders following project approval and prior to/during project construction.

The CCP is committed to responding to and implementing principles based on best practice<sup>3</sup>, including ensuring:

- **Commitment** is demonstrated when the need to understand, engage and identify the community is undertaken early in the process
- **Integrity** occurs when engagement is conducted in a manner that fosters mutual respect and trust
- **Respect** is created when the rights, cultural beliefs, values and interests of the community in the land and waters within or surrounding the mining project area are recognised
- **Transparency** is demonstrated when community concerns are responded to in a timely, open and effective manner
- **Inclusiveness** is achieved when a diverse representation of community and broad participation is encouraged and supported by appropriate participation opportunities
- **Trusting relationships** are built through exploring community values and interests and finding common ground
- **Good communication** is achieved when open and meaningful dialogue is carried out and processes established to allow this to occur
- **Trust** is built by establishing processes to record and disseminate information on how community feedback contributed to decision making.

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<sup>3</sup> Victorian Government Department Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Community engagement guidelines for mining and mineral exploration, June 2021, URL: <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/guidelines-and-codes-of-practice/community-engagement-guidelines-for-mining-and-mineral-exploration>.

## 2 About Fosterville Gold Mine Sustained Operations Project

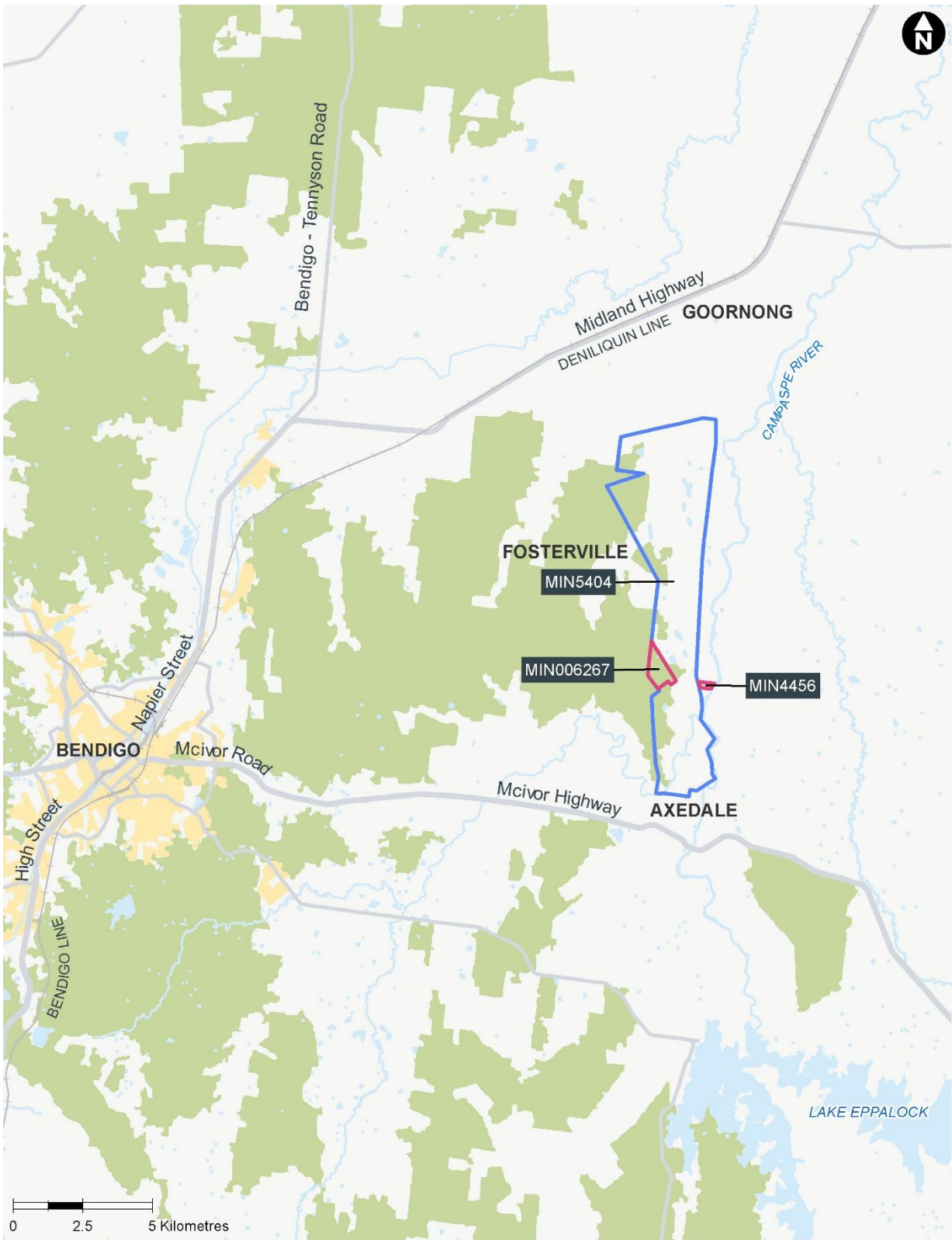
### 2.1 ABOUT FOSTERVILLE GOLD MINE

Fosterville Gold Mine (FGM) is a high-grade, underground gold mine operated by Fosterville Gold Mine Pty Ltd, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Agnico Eagle. Fosterville Gold Mine is located on Mining Licence 5404 (MIN5404), approximately 20 kilometres from the city of Bendigo in central Victoria, Australia (see Figure 2-1).

MIN5404 is located between the rural towns of Goornong (to the north) and Axedale (to the south). The Campaspe River runs roughly parallel to the eastern lease boundary at a distance of approximately one kilometre (see Figure 2-2).

An EES was developed for the mine in 1996, which informed the mining lease and licence conditions, and a Work Plan and associated operational licences were approved in 2004. Since then, various Work Plan Variations have been approved under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

The mine and all associated infrastructure are located on MIN5404. In March 2019, MIN5404 was varied to extend the mining licence boundary to the north and south.



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**LOCAL SETTING**

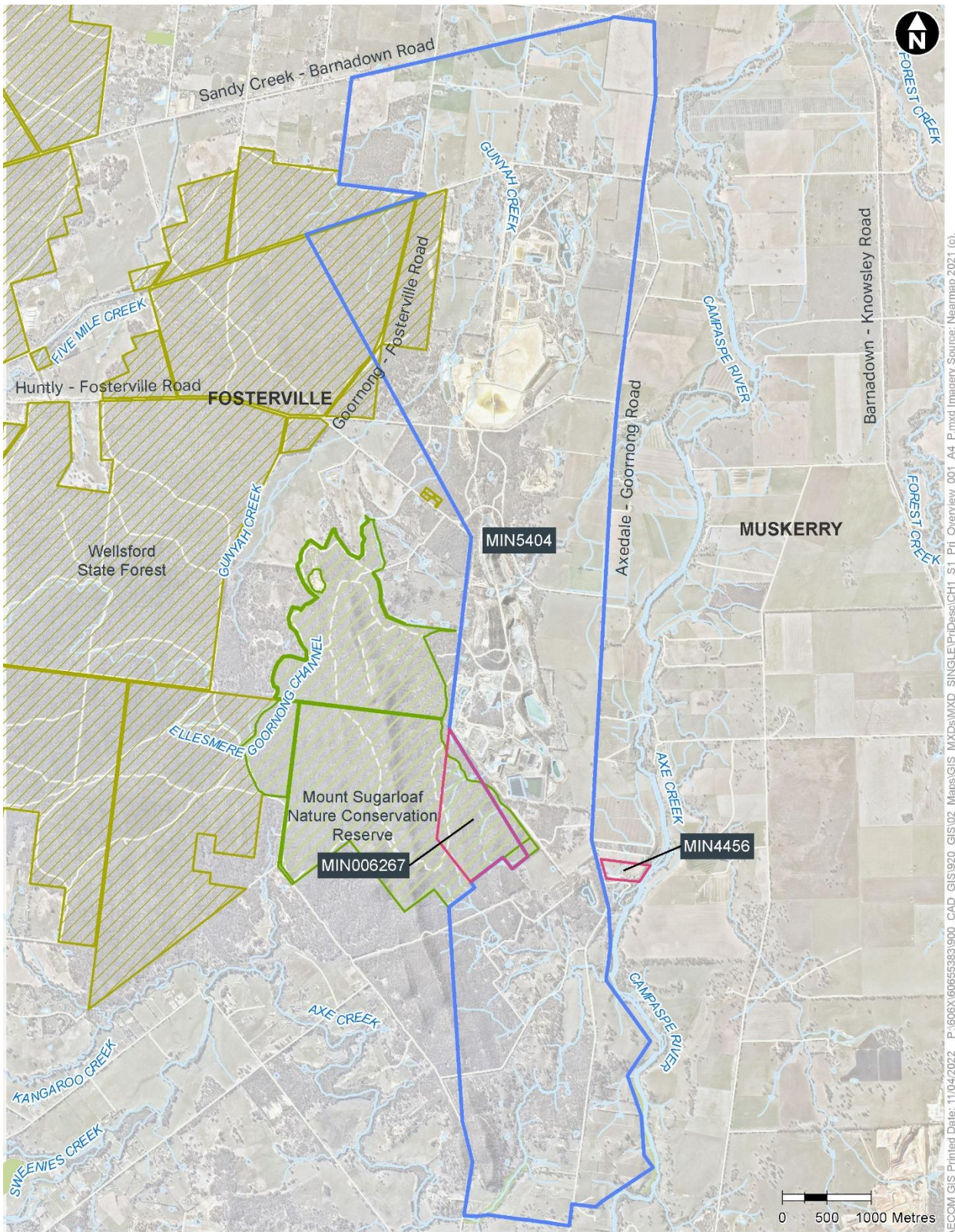
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 2px;"> </span> MIN5404 mining lease boundary                       | <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid grey; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Major Roads         |
| <span style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 2px;"> </span> MIN006267 and MIN4456 mining lease boundary          | <span style="border-bottom: 2px dashed grey; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Rail               |
| <span style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Parks/ Forest | <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid lightblue; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Watercourse    |
| <span style="background-color: #FFD700; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Built up area | <span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> Waterbody |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid grey; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Freeway/Highway         |  |



**AECOM**

**Figure 2-1: Project location**





PROJECT OVERVIEW

- ▭ MIN5404 mining lease boundary
- ▭ MIN006267 and MIN4456 mining lease boundary
- ▨ National Park
- ▨ State Forest
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

**AECOM**

**Figure 2-2: Project setting**

## 2.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The key objective of the Project is to continue mining operations at the Fosterville Gold Mine from previously unmined areas of MIN5404 and to provide adequate additional storage space for mine-generated waste products (e.g., tailings, waste rock, mine water) for another ten years of mining.

The Project consists of the following proposed activities:

Key components of the FGM Sustained Operations Project are:

- Underground mining development to extend the existing underground mining operations to the north and south.
- Exploration to continue within the underground precinct and extend to the north and south:
- Open pit mining cutbacks at three existing open pits. No new pits are proposed
- An above ground waste rock dump (WRD) at Harrier Pit (at the conclusion of backfilling operations of the existing open pit)
- Construction and operation of two new tailings storage facilities (TSFs) for flotation and neutralization tailings
- Construction and operation of additional carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings hardstands
- CIL tailings to be sold and transported offsite by a third party
- Construction and operation of a brine evaporation pond
- Water storages for underground mining water
- Managed aquifer recharge (MAR) within the fractured bedrock aquifer

Ancillary components of the Project include:

- A vent shaft to surface (with fans located underground) from the northern underground mine extension
- A vent shaft to surface (with fans located underground) in the southern half of MIN5404 to support the existing infrastructure
- Construction of an embankment around Hunt's Pit to provide additional freeboard to the decant water to accommodate water decanted off the tailings dams
- Upgrade existing internal haul roads to replace haul roads displaced by TSFs
- A borrow pit to provide additional material for rehabilitation
- Additional topsoil storage areas
- A combined services corridor (following existing infrastructure) for:
  - Energy supply from the Fosterville Terminal Station (FVTS) in the southeast of MIN5404 to the northern precinct

With the exception of managed aquifer recharge, which is not currently undertaken at the mine, all other project components are a continuation of existing operations at the mine, albeit within new areas of the mining lease. It is not proposed to increase mining rates above the nominal capacity of the existing processing plant or make changes to the existing approved mining and processing methods. Truck routes to and from the mine will remain the same.

## **2.3 PROJECT BENEFITS**

Over the past 16 years the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Grants Program has awarded a total of \$368,000 to 221 local community groups. The primary benefit of this project is that it will allow FGM to sustain the current benefits associated with its operation for the next ten years. FGM currently employs approximately 595 personnel and 237 contractors mostly from around Bendigo and sustains many more jobs in mining and other services in the Bendigo region and Victoria. In the 2020 calendar year, the operation of the mine directly contributed around \$303 million in goods, services, and wages to the local economy. By extending operations for the next ten years, the Project is intended to sustain these jobs and drive future discoveries and production.



# 3 Stakeholders

## 3.1 ENGAGEMENT UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

Prior to the lodgement of the EES documentation, pre-scoping engagement was undertaken with the local community. The purpose of this engagement was to inform the public that an EES may be forthcoming, pending the announcement of the Minister's decision, and to advise how and when they can contribute to the process. Activities undertaken included:

- Creation and management of a virtual consultation room
- Dissemination of hard copy and digital project update documents
- Creation of a community stakeholder mailing list to ensure interested parties were kept up to date on the process
- Publication of contact details from RMCGs engagement consultants that allowed 1:1 telephone conversations with community to commence.

The key message of this stage of engagement was to let stakeholders and community members know that the EES is not about the on-going operations of the whole mine, but rather about effects of the Sustained Operations Project as outlined in Section 1.1. Additionally, we informed stakeholders and local community that the process is being facilitated by independent consultants who will capture and refer input to DELWP for ultimate assessment by the Minister for Planning, in a clear and transparent manner.

## 3.2 OVERVIEW OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Establishing clear communication and information exchange with the community and key stakeholders is crucial for the success of the project and the EES process. This section considers the community and stakeholders that have an interest in the project, which include:

- Community members
- Groundwater users groups
- Local business/industry
- Traditional Owners
- Interest and community groups
- Federal Government
- Victorian Government
- Local Government
- Technical reference group (TRG)
- Local media.

## 3.3 PROCESS FOR STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

The *Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining and Mineral Exploration* (the Guidelines) notes that “community” is a broad term used to define groups of people, including agency stakeholders, interest groups and citizen groups<sup>4</sup>, while *the Environment Effects Act 1978 EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note* states that “Stakeholders include all parties who are either affected by or have an interest in a project”<sup>5</sup>. For the purposes of this CCP, we will adopt the classification of stakeholders used in the Guidelines: Community of place, community of standing and community of interest. Our definition and the importance of engaging these groups is outlined in Table 3-1.

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions *The Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining and Mineral Exploration in Victoria*: accessed: 29 July 2021 <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/guidelines-and-codes-of-practice/community-engagement-guidelines-for-mining-and-mineral-exploration#>.

<sup>5</sup> Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, *EES Consultation Plan Advisory Note*, October 2018.

**Table 3-1: Community classification**

CLASSIFICATION	DEFINITION	IMPORTANCE
<b>Community of Place</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighbours or near neighbours to the mine licence area</li> <li>▪ Those who have a cultural connection to the land affected by the licence area.</li> </ul>	The interests and questions of these stakeholders are high priority/high importance in terms of consultation and engagement for the EES.
<b>Community of Standing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have a statutory role related to the licence area and/or the activities taking place at the site</li> <li>▪ Have authority over land and other resources that may be affected by site activities</li> <li>▪ Are recognised bodies with a special interest in the site or operation.</li> </ul>	The interests and questions of this group of stakeholders are important because of their roles as regulators and decision makers and/or representatives of the public and community.
<b>Community of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not impacted directly, or only infrequently impacted, by site activities</li> <li>▪ Interested in the site on social, economic community or environmental grounds.</li> </ul>	The interests and questions of this group tend to arise in an ad-hoc manner. It is important that these are addressed in a responsive manner.

### 3.4 ALIGNMENT TO IAP2 LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT

Aligned with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Engagement<sup>6</sup>, which assists with defining the public's role in any public participation process, consultation for the EES will involve:

- **Inform:** Provide all identified stakeholders with information about the project objectives, development so far, proposed construction and operation, proposed benefits and connections with the EES process including technical assessments and approvals
- **Consult:** Work with communities to get public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions about the project and impact assessments and providing accessible ways for communities and stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback
- **Involve:** To work directly with the communities throughout the EES process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered
- **Collaborate:** Partner with stakeholders who are directly involved in the project assessment and approvals.

### 3.5 OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

RMCG will address participation barriers and maximise access through the following methods:

- Hard copy information about the EES and engagement opportunities will be delivered to all properties within 5km of the project site, as identified in Figure 3. This buffer has been chosen as it will incorporate the dwellings most likely to be affected by the project
- We will promote the consultation process regarding the EES on social media, advertising in local newspapers and newsletters
- We will make the face-to-face sessions highly accessible by varying the locations, times and ensuring we choose venues with universal access

<sup>6</sup> IAP2 (2014) *Public Participation Spectrum*, International Association for Public Participation Australasia, available: <https://www.iap2.org.au/About-Us/About-IAP2-Australasia-/Spectrum>, accessed: 14 June 2021.

- We will use a digital platform to provide specific information about the project and provide opportunities for feedback about potential impacts and areas of concern
- We will offer a hard copy alternative to the online material and will send copies as requested to people without computer access
- We will have support available to help people use the digital platform and participate with interactive online community sessions
- All project materials will be written in plain English
- Social media posts will be accessible, with appropriate alternative text included so that people with disabilities can access and understand the information being presented
- Easy read versions of project information will be available with images to support text, large font sizes and plenty of white space

### 3.6 STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

A detailed stakeholder analysis for these groups is outlined in Table 3-2 including the community classification, level of engagement and primary issues and concerns for that stakeholder group.

**Table 3-2: Key stakeholders, level of engagement and interest/impact**

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ISSUES AND CONCERNS
<b>Community of place</b>			
<b>Community members – nearby</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landholders within and adjacent to licence area</li> <li>▪ Landholders utilising groundwater bores</li> <li>▪ Landholders where exploration activities are proposed to be undertaken</li> <li>▪ Landholders in close proximity to mining or exploration activities</li> <li>▪ Community Leaders</li> <li>▪ Indigenous Leaders</li> </ul>	Community of place	Inform – Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Truck traffic on local roads</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public health</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use</li> </ul>
<b>Community members – district</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents of communities in surrounding area (Axedale, Goornong)</li> <li>▪ Concerned individuals</li> <li>▪ Axedale &amp; Goornong small business</li> <li>▪ Surrounding agriculture and viticulture enterprises</li> <li>▪ Local accommodation providers</li> </ul>	Community of place	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Truck traffic on local roads</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use</li> <li>▪ Effects (positive or negative) on customers</li> <li>▪ Continuation of employment and income</li> </ul>
<b>Community Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lower Campaspe Valley Water Supply Protection Area Consultative Committee</li> <li>▪ Landcare Groups</li> <li>▪ Environmental Groups</li> <li>▪ Resident Groups</li> </ul>	Community of place	Inform – Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public health</li> </ul>

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ISSUES AND CONCERNS
<b>Traditional Owners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dja Dja Wurrung</li> <li>▪ Taungurung.</li> </ul>	Community of place	Inform – Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential impacts on cultural heritage including sacred sites &amp; places of significance and value</li> <li>▪ Potential business opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Community of standing</b>			
<b>Federal Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources</li> <li>▪ Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment.</li> <li>▪ Federal Members of Parliament</li> <li>▪ Political Representatives</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with regulation and laws</li> <li>▪ Commitment to act on environmental assessments</li> <li>▪ Establishment of monitoring programs</li> <li>▪ Reporting mechanisms and results.</li> </ul>
<b>Victorian State Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)</li> <li>▪ Earth Resources Regulation Victoria (ERRV)</li> <li>▪ Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</li> <li>▪ Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)</li> <li>▪ Invest Victoria</li> <li>▪ Regional Development Victoria</li> <li>▪ Regional Roads Victoria</li> <li>▪ Heritage Victoria</li> <li>▪ First People – State Relations</li> <li>▪ Parks Victoria</li> <li>▪ Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</li> <li>▪ State Ministers</li> <li>▪ Political Representatives</li> <li>▪ Work Safe</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with regulation and laws</li> <li>▪ Commitment to act on environmental assessments</li> <li>▪ Establishment of monitoring programs</li> <li>▪ Reporting mechanisms and results</li> <li>▪ Continuation of employment and economic activity in region</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City of Greater Bendigo.</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform – Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with regulation and laws</li> </ul>



STAKEHOLDER GROUP	COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ISSUES AND CONCERNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Councillors</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commitment to act on environmental assessments</li> <li>▪ Establishment of monitoring programs</li> <li>▪ Reporting mechanisms and results</li> <li>▪ Continuation of employment and economic activity in region</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technical reference group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First Peoples - State Relations</li> <li>▪ City of Greater Bendigo</li> <li>▪ DELWP FFR (Loddon Mallee)</li> <li>▪ DELWP SPS</li> <li>▪ Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>▪ Earth Resources Regulation</li> <li>▪ Environment Protection Authority</li> <li>▪ Goulburn-Murray Water</li> <li>▪ North Central Catchment Management Authority</li> <li>▪ Parks Victoria</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform – Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with regulation and laws</li> <li>▪ Commitment to act on environmental assessments</li> <li>▪ Establishment of monitoring programs</li> <li>▪ Reporting mechanisms and results.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Company</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FGM &amp; AE employees and contractors</li> <li>▪ Board of Directors</li> <li>▪ Environment Review Committee</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform – Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuation of employment and income</li> <li>▪ Business growth</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to human health</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emergency Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Police</li> <li>▪ Fire</li> <li>▪ Ambulance</li> <li>▪ SES</li> <li>▪ Bendigo Regional Health</li> </ul>	Community of standing	Inform – Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compliance with regulation and laws</li> <li>▪ Commitment to act on environmental assessments</li> <li>▪ Emergency management and communication</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public health</li> <li>▪ Site security</li> </ul>
<b>Community of interest</b>			

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT	ISSUES AND CONCERNS
<p><b>Interest and community groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recreational Users of Wellsford Forest and Mt Sugarloaf Nature Conservation Reserve</li> <li>▪ Recreational groups (cyclists) and users of the O'Keefe Rail Trail</li> <li>▪ Local Schools &amp; Kindergartens</li> <li>▪ Local Sporting Groups</li> <li>▪ Local Arts Associations</li> <li>▪ Community Groups</li> <li>▪ Landcare Groups</li> <li>▪ Social Media Groups</li> </ul>	Community of interest	Inform – Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local business/industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utility Suppliers</li> <li>▪ FGM Suppliers</li> <li>▪ FGM Contractors</li> <li>▪ Tourist Operators</li> <li>▪ Trade Unions</li> <li>▪ Adjacent extractive industries</li> <li>▪ Minerals Council of Australia</li> <li>▪ AusIMM</li> </ul>	Community of interest	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changes to traffic on local roads</li> <li>▪ Effects (positive or negative) on customers</li> <li>▪ Continuation of employment and income</li> <li>▪ Business growth</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to natural and social environment</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to human health</li> <li>▪ Potential for impact to public land use</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local media</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Print, television, radio, and social media</li> <li>▪ Community newsletters (Axedale &amp; Goornong)</li> </ul>	Community of interest	Inform – Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access to information</li> </ul>

# 4 Consultation approach

## 4.1 CONSULTATION APPROACH THROUGHOUT EACH EES STAGE

RMCG along with FGM (The Sustained Operations Team) will facilitate the following key consultation activities for the EES, which will take place during the key stages of the EES process as outlined in Table 4-1. Consultation will continue during all phases of the EES process in order to achieve the engagement objectives.

**Table 4-1: Overview of consultation approach**

EES STAGE	KEY EES ACTIVITIES	CONSULTATION OBJECTIVE	CONSULTATION FOCUS	KEY MESSAGES/QUESTIONS
<b>1. Scoping the EES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft scoping requirements available for public comment for at least 15 business days</li> <li>Final Scoping Requirements published.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information about the draft scoping requirements</li> <li>Provide opportunity for communities and stakeholders to provide feedback about the scoping requirements to the formal DELWP led process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An open house in one/two locations</li> <li>Public newsletter</li> <li>Project Update</li> <li>General engagement response</li> <li>Digital Platform</li> <li>Advertising and select LCCC positions</li> <li>Holding first LCCC meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is your chance to shape the scope of the EES.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Preparing the EES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EES Technical Studies on project impacts</li> <li>EES prepared in response to Scoping Requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed methods implemented to provide information about the project and Technical Studies including existing conditions, assessment methods, impacts and management measures</li> <li>Provide opportunity for communities and stakeholders to discuss the project and give feedback.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum of two open houses</li> <li>Public newsletter</li> <li>Project Update</li> <li>General engagement response</li> <li>Digital Platform.</li> <li>Second LCCC meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is your chance to give input on the technical studies</li> <li>Information about existing conditions, assessment methods, impacts and management measures and.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Public review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhibition of EES.</li> <li>Submissions</li> <li>Independent Assessment Panel considers submissions, the Minister will appoint an inquiry in a form to be confirmed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public exhibition of EES</li> <li>Provide information about the EES exhibition process, and information on how to make a submission</li> <li>Receive submissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two open houses</li> <li>Public newsletter</li> <li>Project Update</li> <li>General engagement response</li> <li>Digital Platform</li> <li>Third LCCC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your concerns have been heard and considered within the EES</li> <li>You can make a submission via the Engage Victoria website: <a href="https://engage.vic.gov.au">https://engage.vic.gov.au</a></li> </ul>

EES STAGE	KEY EES ACTIVITIES	CONSULTATION OBJECTIVE	CONSULTATION FOCUS	KEY MESSAGES/QUESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support Independent Assessment Panel to consider submissions, public hearing.</li> </ul>		
<b>4. Making an assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of Inquiry report</li> <li>▪ Minister's Assessment and advice to decision makers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure stakeholders understand progress, next steps and results.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General engagement response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Your concerns have been heard and considered within the assessment</li> <li>▪ Explanation of the Ministers assessment, as required.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 CONSULTATION PLAN

RMCG along with FGM (The Sustained Operations Team) will engage with the community and stakeholders utilising a range of consultation methods. These methods, as outlined in Table 4-2, will be kept clear and concise. Community consultation will be as inclusive as possible and, where appropriate, stakeholder engagement will be combined to minimise the risk of creating consultation fatigue within the community.

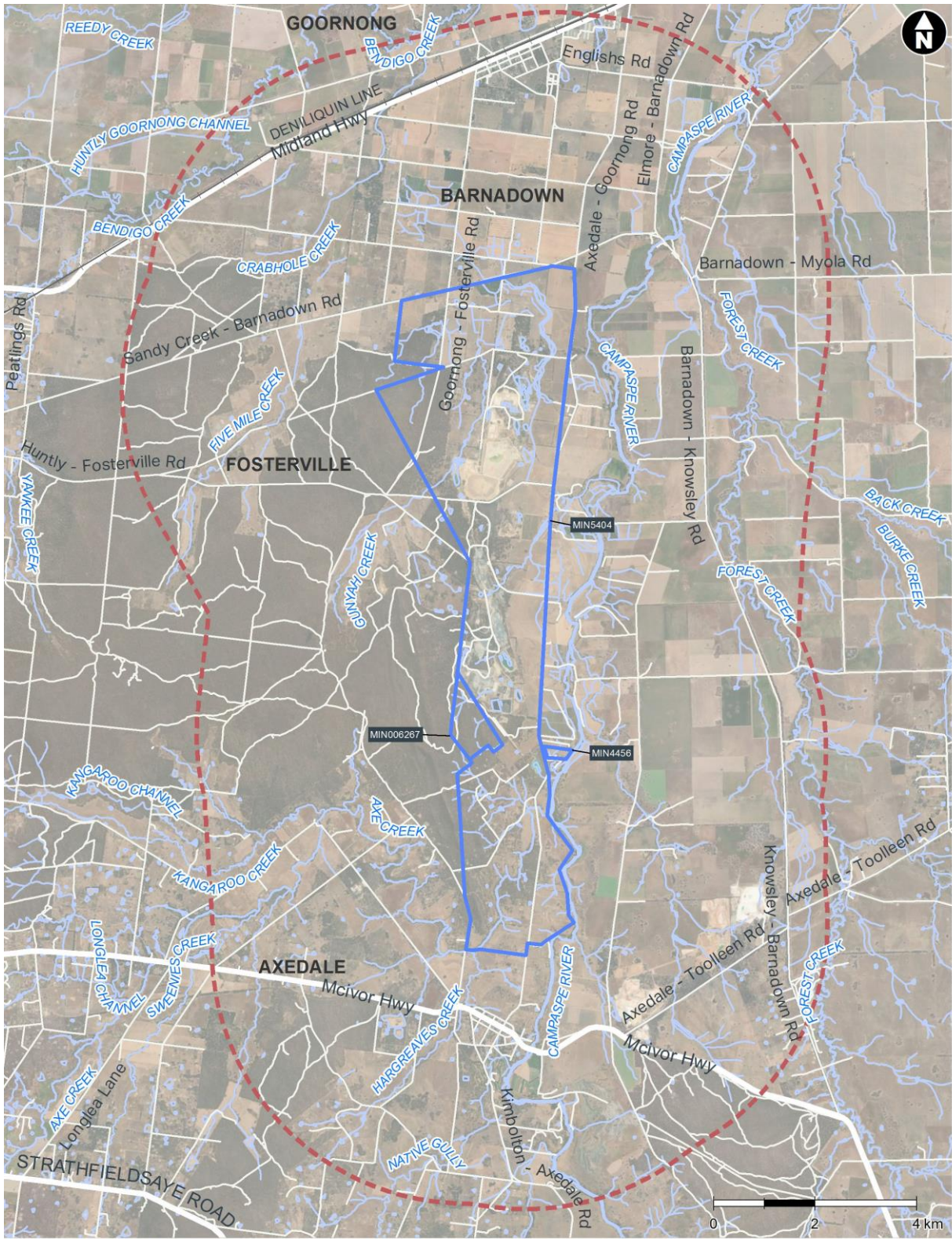
**Table 4-2: Consultation plan**

METHOD	DESCRIPTION	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT LEVEL	DELIVERABLE	TIMING
<b>Community contact database (CCD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A community contact database (CCD) will be regularly updated with contact details of engaged stakeholders to distribute targeted information accurately and efficiently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform</li> <li>Consult.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact database</li> <li>Monthly internal stakeholder engagement reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As required for contact uploads and distribution of key information.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Community Consultation Committee (LCCC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A voluntary Local Community Consultation Committee will be established to act as a platform for detailed listening, learning, and input to the EES</li> <li>The membership for the LCCC will be drawn from local community members located within a five-kilometre buffered radius surrounding the Fosterville Gold Mine ( Figure 3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6-8 Local Community members</li> <li>FGM Representatives as required</li> <li>AECOM Representatives as required</li> <li>Representative of each Traditional Owner Group, if available</li> <li>Agency representatives to provide further information, as required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve</li> <li>Collaborate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing engagement through LCCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Dedicated response to community enquiry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMCG will establish a dedicated email address which will be added to all published material. The email provides a direct line of communication to the project team and a channel for stakeholders to communicate with the project.</li> <li>The process for issues raised by community members will involve acknowledgement within three (3) business days, with the issue and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely response and action to email communication received.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target of email responses within three business days of receipt.</li> </ul>

METHOD	DESCRIPTION	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT LEVEL	DELIVERABLE	TIMING
	response entered into the CCD and response provided to the stakeholder in a timely manner.				
<b>Direct engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FGM and AECOM will maintain direct engagement with Traditional Owners and members of the TRG to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure they understand the purpose and progress of each stage of the EES</li> <li>– Collaborate with FGM to work towards the best possible outcomes: social, economic, environmental and cultural.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traditional Owners</li> <li>▪ TRG</li> <li>▪ First Peoples-State Relations Group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Involve</li> <li>▪ Collaborate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing engagement through face to face meetings, direct emails and phone conversations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Project newsletter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A project newsletter distributed during each stage of the EES via email and letter drop to all contacts in the community contact database. The newsletter will provide progress updates on the EES. Note that the newsletters will be supplemented by project updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project newsletter emailed and posted to the website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One per EES stage.</li> </ul>
<b>Project updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will develop concise Project Updates to define and describe the elements and stages of the EES process in plain language. The Project Updates will be sent via email to all stakeholders listed on the Community Contact Database and accessed through the website page.</li> <li>▪ Printed copies will also be distributed to all adjacent properties to the project site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All</li> <li>▪ Hard copy for community members adjacent to project site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Update on EES process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As required throughout the EES process.</li> </ul>
<b>Media and advertising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As required, advertising will be provided in local media outlets to inform stakeholders of appropriate project information or promote engagement activities</li> <li>▪ Advertisements will also be placed in media outlets to pre-promote the public exhibition phase of the EES to the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community members</li> <li>▪ Local business/industry</li> <li>▪ Interest and community groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotional advertising.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior to all community information sessions</li> <li>▪ On the first day of public exhibition</li> </ul>

METHOD	DESCRIPTION	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT LEVEL	DELIVERABLE	TIMING
<p><b>Open house community information sessions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open house community information sessions will be held during each stakeholder consultation stage of the EES process. These sessions will include specific information to the EES scope and study program and provide an opportunity for community to comment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community members</li> <li>▪ Local business/industry</li> <li>▪ Interest and community groups</li> <li>▪ Local Government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform</li> <li>▪ Consult</li> <li>▪ Involve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotional advertising</li> <li>▪ Media release</li> <li>▪ Project Updates</li> <li>▪ Open house community information session.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 x Scoping the EES</li> <li>▪ 2 x Preparing the EES</li> <li>▪ 2 x Public review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital platform</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A dedicated digital platform established and regularly updated to ensure the availability of project specific information. The platform will provide an online place for stakeholder to access all publicly available information relevant to the EES and includes a feedback mechanism and place to register to receive project updates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project information and documentation to be uploaded to the site as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updated as appropriate throughout EES process.</li> </ul>





- PROJECT LOCATION
- Mine Site Buffer 5km
  - Mining lease boundary
  - Watercourse
  - Waterbody

**AECOM**

**Figure 3 - 5km buffer LCCC Membership Eligibility Map**



### 4.3 RECORDING AND INCORPORATING FEEDBACK

Over the course of the EES process, RMCG will collect, record and consider all feedback. We will take the following steps to ensure all feedback is recorded, considered and that we demonstrate how it has been considered in the preparation of the EES:

- **Digital platform:** Virtual Consultation Room: Has been set up to provide information on the project to stakeholders. The consultation room contains copies of key documents, project updates and information boards. The consultation room allows stakeholders to register their interest in the Project and receive updates. The consultation room will be updated at regular intervals throughout the EES.
- **EES Consultation Database:** RMCG will maintain a database that will include the source (name, title, organisation, contact details), the feedback or question, and the response to feedback, concerns, expectations, influence (legitimacy, interests and power), issues, level of potential impact. By recording this, we will ensure stakeholder input is on record and available to all members of the project team available consideration at TRG meetings. No data collection fields will be mandatory, allowing community the option of providing anonymous feedback.
- **LCCC:** RMCG will provide EES related updates to the LCCC throughout the life of the EES process. This information will outline consultation activities and outcomes. Updates will include information about existing conditions, risks, management measures and assessment methods, as well as explanations about how community input is considered and addressed throughout the EES.
- **TRG:** RMCG will provide updates to the TRG throughout the life of the project. This information will outline consultation activities and outcomes. Updates will include an explanation of how stakeholder input is considered and addressed during the development of the EES.
- **Analysis and reporting in the EES:** This record will be analysed, and the issues raised during the consultation process will be summarised in the EES, including details of actions taken by FGM to address the issues.

# 5 Data collection, evaluation and continuous improvement

## 5.1 DATA COLLECTION

All feedback and participation will be recorded and collected in the community contact database which includes names, titles, organisation, contact details, community identification, concerns, expectations, influence (legitimacy, interests and power), issues, level of potential impact and the applicable classification according to the IAP2 Public Participation.

All data will be collected and securely stored on an onsite server managed by RMCG in full compliance with the *Privacy Act 1988*. All feedback provided to RMCG will be treated as confidential unless otherwise stated by the submitter.

A summary of participation levels and feedback received will be provided in community and stakeholder engagement reports, made available publicly via the project's website.

## 5.2 EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The effectiveness of communications and engagement methods in this CCP will be monitored regularly and revised or adapted to ensure the engagement objectives of the project are met. It is anticipated the CCP will be reviewed and revised, if required, prior to and following Exhibition of the EES.

To ensure effective communication and engagement, RMCG:

- Has developed a comprehensive engagement strategy (this document)
- Will review whether engagement objectives are being met regularly throughout the EES consultation phase.

RMCG will measure the effectiveness of engagement by analysing:

- Participation in engagement activities including, but not limited to open house community information sessions, and the LCCC
- Comments received through engagement via website, emails and phone enquiries
- Participation in, and content of public submissions during the EES formal submission process
- Comments received about the engagement process or design including content, frequency and accessibility of information
- Social media statistics and website visits.

The data collected throughout this EES will be considered as part of ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of the engagement program.

# Contact RMCG

<b>Postal Address</b>	135 Mollison St, Bendigo VIC 3550
<b>Phone</b>	(03) 5441 4821
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:FostervilleEES@rmcg.com.au">FostervilleEES@rmcg.com.au</a> Email updates will be sent to community organisations and individuals who have registered on the Community Contact Database.
<b>Virtual Consultation Room</b>	<a href="https://fgm.consultation.ai/">https://fgm.consultation.ai/</a> We recognise that many people prefer printed information. Call RMCG during office hours to receive printed copies of any information they have seen or heard about.
<b>Community Contact Database</b>	To register for regular updates, information, newsletters and notification of Community Information Sessions, call RMCG during office hours, send an email or <a href="https://fgm.consultation.ai/">https://fgm.consultation.ai/</a> .
<b>Contact with DELWP</b>	Information about the EES process for this project will be available on the DELWP website <a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects</a> or via email

This report has been prepared by:

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2.0	Draft	06/08/2021	C. Flanagan-Smith J. Rooney	C. Flanagan-Smith	J. Belz	C. Flanagan-Smith	G. Murray
3.0	Draft	30/08/2021	C. Flanagan-Smith J. Rooney	C. Flanagan-Smith	-	C. Flanagan-Smith	K. Malishev
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