

**For Public Notice via Internet****REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978****Title of Proposal:** Avonbank Heavy Mineral Sands Project**Proponent:** WIM Resource Pty Ltd**Description of Project:**

Mine and process mineral sands from the Avonbank Heavy Mineral Sands reserve, to produce a heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) that is transported to a port for export. A mine life of at least 30 years is proposed to develop a 311.8 Mt proven and probable reserve at 4.3% HMC. The project is intended to produce between 350,000 and 600,000 tonnes/annum of HMC using conventional dry mineral sands mining and processing techniques. The preliminary mining footprint is 2,500 ha within a 4,000-ha deposit area and a 6,440-ha retention licence (project area). Progressive mining and rehabilitation throughout the mine life will return most of the mining and tailing materials back to the pit.

The proposal includes the development of a mineral sands mine, mining unit plants, wet concentrator plant, starter ore and overburden stockpiles, slurry pipelines and additional site infrastructure (site office, warehouse and workshop facilities, rail loading facilities and fuel storage). HMC will be transported to port for export overseas, most likely via rail to the Port of Portland. The workforce will stay in existing accommodation in Horsham and the local area.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the proposed Avonbank Heavy Mineral Sands Project, as described in the referral accepted on 12 July 2019.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects, in particular on:
  - existing land uses and amenity (i.e. air quality, noise and visual) of the project area and those associated with the broader area;
  - surface water and groundwater (i.e. hydrology, quality, availability) and protected beneficial uses;
  - remnant native vegetation and associated biodiversity values; and
  - Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- There is uncertainty associated with the extent, magnitude and acceptability of potentially significant effects. An integrated and rigorous assessment is necessary to ensure the range of adverse effects and related uncertainties are sufficiently investigated, in terms of both their extent and significance, and how significant effects can be avoided and minimised to acceptable levels.
- An EES would enable a transparent and thorough process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project, prior to any relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Water Act 1989*.

**Date of Decision:**

17/8/19