

## PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

# STOCKMAN BASE METALS PROJECT

## ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT

### DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE EAST GIPPSLAND PLANNING SCHEME

**Written submissions on the exhibited documents are now invited. Submissions close at 5.00pm on 8 May, 2014**

Stockman Project Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Independence Group NL, proposes to develop the Stockman mining and processing project in East Gippsland, Victoria. The project will produce copper and zinc concentrates over a projected nine year operating life.

The Victorian Minister for Planning determined on 16 August 2010 that an Under the Environment Effects Statement (EES) was required for the proposal under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* due to the potential for significant environmental effects. The EES process will inform decision-making on the proposal under Victorian law.

An EES has been prepared in accordance with Scoping Requirements issued for the project, and provides an assessment of the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the project.

The EES documentation includes a draft Amendment to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme for project infrastructure proposed outside the Stockman mining lease. Stockman intends to request a Ministerial amendment to the planning scheme under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. If accepted, there would be no further opportunity for public comment on the amendment beyond the current EES process.

A draft Work Plan required for project approval under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* is included with the EES documentation.

The project (EPBC 2010/5717) also requires approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Victorian EES process will inform the EPBC Act approval decision.

## How to Access and Respond to the EES

### Viewing the EES

The EES, the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment, the draft Work Plan and all supporting documents, have been placed on exhibition for public comment from **25 March 2014 until 8 May 2014** and may be examined at the following locations during the hours indicated:

- Stockman Project Pty Limited, 2 Sebastopol Hill Road, Omeo 1800 095 273 (Mon-Fri 8am–12pm: ring to make appointment)
- East Gippsland Shire Council, Corporate Centre 273 Main St, Bairnsdale (03) 5153 9500 (Mon-Fri 8.30am–5pm)
- East Gippsland Shire Council, Omeo Service Centre 179 Day Avenue, Omeo (03) 5153 9500 (Mon-Fri 8am–5pm)
- East Gippsland Shire Council, Lakes Entrance Service Centre 18 Mechanics St, Lakes Entrance (03) 5153 9500 (Mon-Fri 8.30am–5pm)
- Benambra Neighbourhood House, 34 Gibbo Street, Benambra (03) 5159 9208 (Mon-Thu 9.30am–3pm)
- Swifts Creek Community Centre, 6879 Great Alpine Road, Swifts Creek (03) 5159 4477 (Mon-Fri 9am–4.30pm)
- Victorian Government Bookshop, Level 20, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne 1300 366 356 (Mon-Fri 9am–5pm)
- Department of the Environment, 33 Allara Street, Civic, Canberra ACT [EPBC.referrals@environment.gov.au](mailto:EPBC.referrals@environment.gov.au) (Mon-Fri 9am–5pm (email to make appointment))

For East Gippsland Shire locations, also see [http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Locations\\_and\\_Hours](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Locations_and_Hours)

The documents are also available at [www.stockmanproject.com.au](http://www.stockmanproject.com.au)

### Obtaining and purchasing copies of the EES

Free copies of the EES Summary document and a USB containing the complete EES Main Report and supporting documents are available at all display locations. Note: If you experience any problems downloading any of the exhibited documents or require assistance accessing them please contact Stockman Project on the phone number or email below.

To purchase hard copies of the EES and supporting documents contact:  
Stockman Project Office  
2 Sebastopol Hill Road [PO Box 104] Omeo VIC 3898  
Email: [info@stockmanproject.com.au](mailto:info@stockmanproject.com.au)  
Phone: 1800 095 273

- Hard copies of the EES Main Report (Volume 1) can be purchased for \$50.00
- Hard copies of the supporting documents (Volumes 2-7) \$50.00

### How to lodge a submission

Interested persons and organisations wishing to comment on the EES, the draft Planning Scheme Amendment, the draft Work Plan or other supporting documentation are invited to make written submissions by **5.00pm on 8 May 2014**

Written submissions should be posted to:  
Stockman Base Metals Project EES Submissions  
Planning Panels Victoria  
GPO Box 2392  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Alternatively, written submissions can be sent by email to [planning.panels@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.panels@dtpli.vic.gov.au)

Written submissions (including emailed submissions) must:

- state the name and address of the person making the submission
- include a completed submission cover sheet (available on the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure website at [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessment](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessment))

Please note that submissions will generally be treated as public documents. Please read carefully the privacy notice on the submission coversheet to see how submissions may be used. Anonymous submissions will not be considered. All submissions will be made available for any person to inspect, at the office of Planning Panels Victoria, Ground Floor, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, by telephone appointment on (03) 8392 6396, or at the Stockman Project Office, 2 Sebastopol Hill Road, Omeo.

### Inquiry Process

An Inquiry will be appointed by the Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* to consider the exhibited documents and public submissions. The Inquiry may also be appointed as an Advisory Committee under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to consider the draft Planning Scheme Amendment. Information on the Inquiry process and timetable for the hearings will be published on the Internet at [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessment](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessment) as it becomes available.

The Inquiry will hold a Directions Hearing on 20 May 2014 in Bairnsdale to establish necessary arrangements and timetable for the public hearing. Public hearings are expected to begin in week commencing 23 June 2014. Requests to be heard by the Inquiry must be received by the end of the Directions Hearing. All submitters who wish to present to the Inquiry are asked to note these arrangements and commence preparations in advance.

### Questions

Questions relating to the **Stockman Base Metals Project** should be directed to Stockman Project – Phone: 1800 095 273 or Email: [info@stockmanproject.com.au](mailto:info@stockmanproject.com.au)

Questions relating to the **EES process** should be directed to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure – Environment Assessment Unit – Phone: (03) 9223 5315.

Questions relating to the **draft Planning Scheme Amendment** should be directed to Kate Nelson at East Gippsland Shire – Phone: (03) 5153 9500 or Email: [KateN@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:KateN@egipps.vic.gov.au)

Questions relating to the **Work Plan process and mining licensing** should be directed to David Whitehouse at the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation – Phone: (03) 5761 1501 or Email: [david.whitehouse@dssdbi.vic.gov.au](mailto:david.whitehouse@dssdbi.vic.gov.au)

Questions relating to the public **Inquiry process** should be directed to Planning Panels Victoria – Phone: (03) 8392 6393.