



AVONBANK PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 – DECEMBER 2021

SEASON'S GREETINGS

This past year has seen considerable progress for the Avonbank Heavy Mineral Sands (HMS) Project, including:

- ◆ successful rehabilitation of the test pit
- ◆ successful growth and harvest of a barley crop, over the test pit
- ◆ completion of the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS)
- ◆ major progress in advancing Environment Effects Statement (EES) related studies.

On a stakeholder engagement front, WIM Resource Pty Ltd (WIM) has endeavoured to engage as much as possible, given restrictions:

- ◆ eight Avonbank Project webinars and several information stands
- ◆ six Community Reference Group (CRG) sessions held during 2021
- ◆ Longerenong College Student Research Partnership
- ◆ sponsorship of the Murtoa Big Weekend
- ◆ sponsorship of Teacher Earth Science Education Program (TESEP) and rock kits.

WIM is aiming for mid-2022 to have the EES at a public exhibition stage. At this time there will be an opportunity for formal public comment.

The Avonbank Project test pit rehabilitation has reached a significant milestone – with the successful harvesting of barley from the test pit site. Further studies around rehabilitation will continue to be undertaken.

On behalf of the Board of WIM Resource, thank you for your input over the past twelve months, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.



Michael Winternitz
Projects Director

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Next community information session:
Wimmera Machinery Field Days
1st–2nd March 2022

Next webinar: 17th February 2022



CONTACT US

Do you have a question or comment?
Get in touch and let us know your thoughts on the Avonbank Project.

- ◆ Web: www.wimresource.com.au
- ◆ Email: admin@wimresource.com.au
- ◆ Free call: 1800 959 298
- ◆ Office: 62 Darlot St, Horsham (Wimmera Business Centre)

TEST PIT REHABILITATION

WIM commenced rehabilitation of the Avonbank test pit in late January 2021.

This process was aimed at returning the entire site back to cropping land and included several stages, which have largely been successfully completed:

- ✓ Stage 1 – cover tailings with overburden
- ✓ Stage 2 – subsoil and topsoil replacement
- ✓ Stage 3 – seed a crop and monitor crop
- ✓ Stage 5 – harvest crop
- ✓ Stage 6 – on going monitoring.



Avonbank test pit – crop inspection (October 2021)



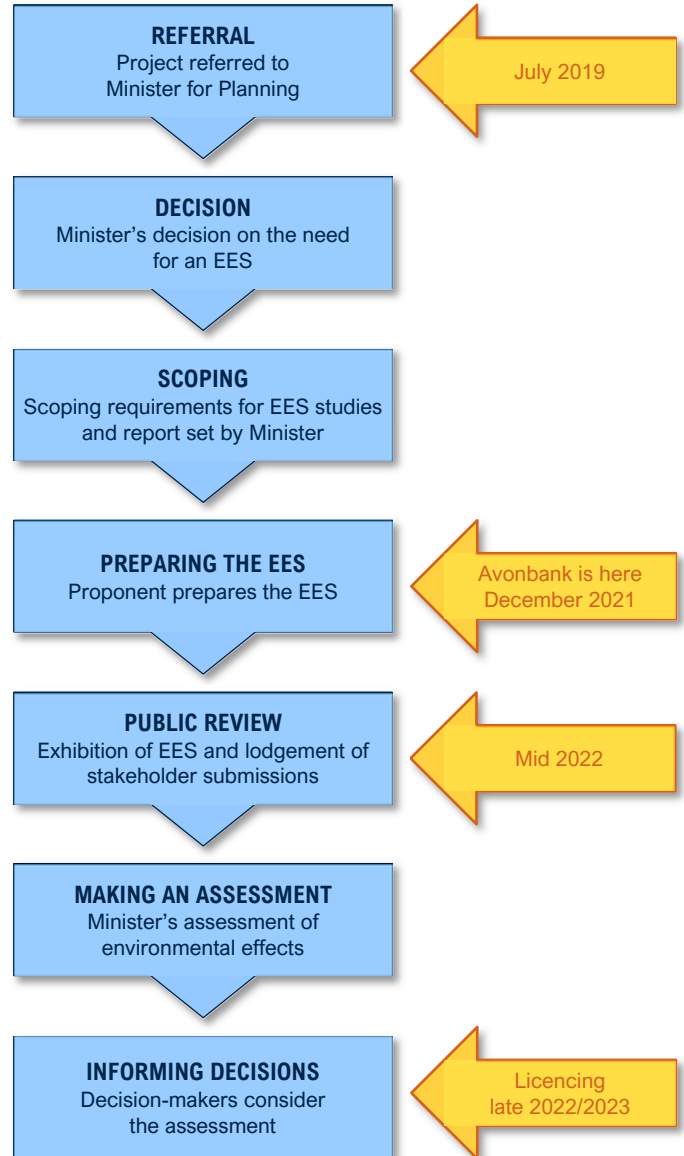
Avonbank test pit – inspection prior to harvest (November 2021)

EES UPDATE

The next twelve months is expected to see:

- ◆ WIM will finish completing the EES
- ◆ Public Review of the EES
- ◆ Ministerial Assessment process may commence.

The EES Process



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Regular engagement with stakeholders is important to WIM. We ensure that channels for communication are open, and stakeholders and the broader community have opportunities to discuss our project and provide constructive feedback that will assist WIM to move forward with effective planning.

This strong focus on stakeholder engagement continued in 2021 including:

- ◆ Avonbank Project Webinar Series
- ◆ CRG sessions
- ◆ in-person information sessions
- ◆ public information stands at regional locations
- ◆ Longerenong College Student Research Partnership
- ◆ engagement with the Victorian Farmers Federation
- ◆ sponsorship of the Murtoa Big Weekend and ‘Light Up Murtoa’
- ◆ sponsorship of TESEP rock kits in regional schools
- ◆ Stakeholder Community Christmas Hampers.

Avonbank Project Webinar Series

WIM held eight webinar sessions in 2021:

- ◆ Introductory Webinar
- ◆ Project Description
- ◆ Economic Impact and Surface Water Impact
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Radiation
- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Visual Impact plus review of 2021.

All sessions were recorded and can be found on the webinar page of the WIM website under the [Avonbank EES – Documents & Presentations](#) submenu. The questions asked and answers provided during the sessions can also be found on the website in the same location.

Community Reference Group (CRG)

WIM held six CRG sessions for 2021, and these have provided an excellent opportunity for a wide range of community and business representatives to learn about the proposed Avonbank Project, ask questions and have input into areas of the project design, where practically possible.

AXIS WORX & Wimmera Grain Store

Each year WIM sends a small token of appreciation to a group of stakeholders in the form of a Christmas hamper. To create these hampers, we partnered with AXIS WORX and Wimmera Grain Store who have kindly assisted with these lovely hampers.

WIM is appreciative of the opportunity to partner with AXIS WORX and Wimmera Grain Store, and to provide ongoing support in their employment and local produce programs.

Longerenong College Partnership

In 2021, WIM formed a partnership with the Longerenong College, whereby second year students, as part of their ‘Conduct a Research Trial’ Unit, would study the Avonbank test pit to investigate the impacts of mining and rehabilitation on soils and crop growth.

Despite restrictions preventing them from being on campus for most of the year, the students were still able to successfully complete their elective unit.

Overall, the students found that the disturbed area which had been rehabilitated, did not perform worse than the non-disturbed areas.

WIM looks forward to continuing our partnership with the College for the 2022 student cohort.



CEO Eddy Wu at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding



Students visit the rehabilitated site to inspect crop growth



Community Information Sessions

COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 resulted in lower in-person engagement than anticipated. Working with these restrictions, WIM held over 50 hours of community engagement. Locations and groups included:

- ◆ Horsham Golf Club
- ◆ Dooen Community Hall
- ◆ Murtoa Neighbourhood Community Centre
- ◆ Horsham-based Rotary Clubs
- ◆ Haven Market and Jung Market
- ◆ Horsham Plaza.



Pop-in sessions will resume in 2022. Like our Facebook page for further announcements or look for the flyers.



Engagement Planned for 2022

WIM proposes to continue to undertake:

- ◆ Avonbank Project Webinar Series as information sessions for EES studies
- ◆ CRG meetings
- ◆ in-person engagement and community information stands at events
- ◆ support regional education and training initiatives
- ◆ ongoing support of the Longerenong College partnership
- ◆ ongoing support of the Murtoa Big Weekend
- ◆ exhibit at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days.



Image: Wimmera Machinery Field Days 2020

Get in Touch

PRESENTATIONS TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

If you would like WIM to make a presentation and provide a project overview to your club or organisation, please contact Murray Wilson or Michael Davies.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

WIM’s Facebook page is a convenient way to keep up to date with the latest news related to the Avonbank Project and other WIM projects. Like, follow, and share our page [@WIMResource](https://www.facebook.com/WIMResource) to read posts, watch videos, and register for upcoming events.

HORSHAM OFFICE

The Horsham office at the Wimmera Business Centre in Darlot Street is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and on other days by appointment. Members of the public are welcome to drop in for a chat.

FEEDBACK PROCEDURE

WIM invites you to contact us with any questions or comments on any aspect of our project as we continue to progress through the approvals and development phases.

The *Guidelines for Stakeholder Feedback* are available on our website to provide guidance on how you may provide feedback to WIM on the Avonbank Project.