



WIM Staff in the Community Information Hub, Horsham

PROJECT UPDATE

A fresh year and some exciting news and upcoming initiatives to announce.

Firstly, we are pleased to welcome two new local staff members to our Horsham Community team – Kevin O'Brien and Emily Humphries. As we continue to progress the Avonbank mine towards construction, I would encourage you to drop by and meet Emily and Kevin at our Community Information Hub in Horsham.

A major grant has been awarded to Riverside Recreation Reserve to install an in-ground sprinkler system, which will make it easier, more efficient and more reliable to access for over 3,000 users per year. Our Community Grants Program remains open continuously, having been established to reflect our commitment to partnering with the communities in which we operate, and we welcome enquiries.

In the 2025 growing season, Canola was sown and harvested, and despite a dry year, harvest once again saw good results, demonstrating how WIM can coexist with farming.

We're committed to listening to the community so the Avonbank mine creates lasting, positive outcomes for the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, so please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.



Michael Winternitz,
Director of Projects

AVONBANK PROJECT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23 – MARCH 2026

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CONTACT US

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

Visit www.wimresource.com.au or email admin@wimresource.com.au

PROJECT UPDATE

Mining Licence Update

Resources Victoria is currently assessing the application and will provide further updates once a decision is made. WIM is also completing pre-mining grade control drilling over the coming weeks in paddocks, which uses low-impact exploration drilling equipment as shown below.

Register your Interest in Job & Business Opportunities

We are pleased to continue to receive significant interest in job and business opportunities at the Avonbank mine. We have established a dedicated online portal to make it easier to register your interest. Visit our website at www.wimresource.com.au

Exploration Update

WIM is planning exploration drilling during March and April over several of our tenements. This is planned to further our understanding of the regional geology. Drilling is expected to be on both roadsides with both Horsham Rural City Council and DEECA approval and within paddocks with landowner consent.

Roadside drilling is normally the first stage of exploration to gain a broad understanding of the local geology, with holes generally spaced at broad intervals. Paddock drilling helps to gain a more detailed understanding of the geology and potential mineralisation if present.



Community Support Grants – Open for Applications

Our Community Support Grants Program supports initiatives that deliver meaningful, long-term benefits to local communities impacted by our exploration, development, and mining activities in Victoria's Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

Our Community Grants Program remains open. Following community feedback, it will be amended to better reflect your aspirations as we continue to receive feedback over the coming months.

Key Focus Areas

Grants will be assessed and prioritised, for applications that can demonstrate alignment with these key areas:

- ◆ **Education and Leadership:** education, training, and youth development.
- ◆ **Social Wellbeing and Health:** community health, sport and recreation, family, and youth support.
- ◆ **Economic Participation:** local employment and local business development.
- ◆ **Resource and Environmental Sustainability:** environment, water, and land management.

Applications are open to incorporated not-for-profit organisations, community groups or associations (with an auspicing organisation if unincorporated), registered charities, educational institutions, and local community service providers.

To discuss this grant opportunity, get in touch with our Community Engagement team:

- ◆ In person at the WIM Community Hub
83 Firebrace Street, Horsham
Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- ◆ By phone on 1800 959 298
- ◆ By email at admin@wimresource.com.au



MEET OUR NEW STAFF

WIM is pleased to welcome two Horsham team members on board – both Horsham locals. Emily Humphries joins us in a Community & Environment Support and Office Coordinator role and Kevin O'Brien joins us as a Director of Community and Landholder Relations.



Emily Humphries

Emily is a Horsham local and brings hands-on experience in mineral exploration and people-focused roles. She enjoys actively building and maintaining positive relationships with local stakeholders and has a deep understanding of the important role they play.

Previously, she held the role of Operations Manager at Australian Wildflowers, located in the Grampians, overseeing day-to-day operations and stakeholder coordination. She has also spent the past five years working alongside our exploration team during the drilling season, gaining valuable knowledge and practical experience.

Emily also participated in community engagement-related activities. She is involved in community sport, as both a coach and player, with her local football netball club, further strengthening her leadership, teamwork, and community connections



Kevin O'Brien

Kevin grew up in South Gippsland Victoria and, after studying and working in Melbourne, has lived and worked in Hamilton and Horsham, where he has raised his family.

Kevin has had 30 years of experience in Local Government, most recently as Director of Communities and Place, at Horsham Rural City Council, with responsibility for community services, emergency management, economic development, and planning. He brings a wealth of experience in community and stakeholder engagement and has a genuine understanding of the Horsham community.

As WIM's Director of Community and Landholder Relations, Kevin will play a key role in guiding WIM's engagement with local communities, landholders, and Traditional Owners as we move Avonbank into the construction and operational phase. He will focus on ensuring that every voice is heard, every partnership is valued, and every outcome contributes to a stronger, more resilient region.

WIM IN THE COMMUNITY IN 2025

The past twelve months have seen WIM involved in several partnerships and sponsorships across the community, alongside other engagement, aimed at providing facts and general information to the community about the Avonbank mine.

- ◆ Horsham Shopping Centre public information stands
- ◆ Murtoa Big Weekend
- ◆ Defying the Drift Initiative
- ◆ Wimmera Art Fair
- ◆ Western Victorian Careers Expo
- ◆ Christian Emergency Food Centre Christmas Hampers
- ◆ Science & Engineering Challenge
- ◆ Ballarat University AusIMM Student Chapter Platinum Sponsor

We look forward to continuing to support these important community and industry initiatives and more in 2026.

We are excited to see the level of interest in the diverse range of job and business opportunities that the mine will provide – and working together with the community to realise the benefits the mine will bring to the region.

You can visit us at any time at our Community Information Hub or at these events below in the next few months:

- ◆ Horsham Shopping Centre – every fortnight from May
- ◆ Western Victorian Careers Expo – 23rd June at Longerenong

MAJOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

The Riverside Recreation Reserve will soon be easier to maintain and more reliable for local groups who use it, thanks to a \$36,300 community grant from WIM to install an in-ground sprinkler system. The reserve’s grass arena is used by more than 3,000 people each year, including equestrian groups, Horsham branch of the Riding for the Disabled Association, sporting and fitness groups, dog obedience group and other community groups.

The new irrigation system will replace the current set-up where volunteers must manually move sprinklers around the oval, a time-consuming task that places a heavy burden on the small group responsible for maintaining the grounds.

WIM’s Director of Community and Landowner Relations, Kevin O’Brien, said the company was proud to support locally driven projects that make a practical difference for the local community.

“We are pleased to support installation of fixed in ground sprinklers for the Riverside Recreation Reserve,” he said. “Projects like this help local volunteers maintain important community facilities and ensure they remain accessible for the many groups who rely on them. I wish the Committee every success with the project and the benefits it will bring.”

Installing the new irrigation system will make watering the oval significantly more efficient, reduce the workload on volunteers and allow water to be used more sustainably, helping to reduce ongoing costs for the reserve.

Riverside Recreation Reserve Committee of Management President, Steph Martin, said this grant for an irrigation system is a game-changer for the people who maintain and use the reserve.

“It’s not just an investment in infrastructure, it’s an investment in our clubs, our volunteers, our families, and the long-term future of community sport in our region.” Ms Martin said. “The grant will strengthen our resilience and help ensure this important community asset can continue to be maintained and enjoyed for years to come.”



Committee members and reserve users receiving WIM’s largest community grant to date of \$36,300.

WIMMERA FIELD DAYS

More than 200 people called into the WIM stand at the Wimmera Field Days to learn more about WIM’s Avonbank project. People were particularly interested to learn how moving-pit mining with a progressive rehabilitation process will mean the farmland would be back ready for cropping, or other agricultural enterprise, within four years after mining.

Other areas of interest from the steady stream of visitors included career, apprenticeship and business opportunities, dust and other mitigation measures, our community support fund, land access and compensation, ore processing and transport, and more. It was a great opportunity to connect with our communities and answer their many questions.



Get in Touch

For project related enquiries please contact:

Email: admin@wimresource.com.au

Community Information Hub and WIM Regional Office:
83 Firebrace Street,
Horsham VIC 3400

Open Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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or visit www.wimresource.com.au