

General Overview - Avonbank Community & Coexistence Reference Group

Background

WIM Resource Pty Ltd (**WIM**) is establishing a significant, strategic, long-term Community Benefits Fund and Support Program that will ramp up as the Avonbank Mine progresses from development to operations. To ensure local voices help shape the delivery of long-term Community Benefits for the Wimmera and Southern Mallee communities, the Avonbank Community & Coexistence Reference Group (**CCRG**) is being established.

The Role of the CCRG

The CCRG will help us hear those perspectives in a more structured way as we develop the Community Support Program and consider future community investment priorities. It will provide a structured way for community members, organisations, landholders, Traditional Owners, and local government to help guide the Avonbank Community Support Program and Community Benefits Fund.

The CCRG will be an advisory group and, importantly, will not replace regulatory processes or WIM's wider stakeholder engagement activities.

Key roles include:

- provide input into the design and delivery of the Community Support Program;
- provide recommendations to WIM Resource regarding community investment priorities, reflecting upon whether proposed initiatives reflect community needs;
- support WIM Resource in identifying and responding to community concerns and suggestions by providing constructive feedback on communication materials and engagement activities; and
- promote understanding of the project's lifecycle

Proposed Membership Structure

Membership is proposed to include community members, landholders, Traditional Owners, representatives from Horsham Rural City Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council, State Government (Regional Development Victoria), business, education, community organisations, environmental and natural resource management groups, and WIM representatives.

WIM will sit on the CCRG, provide project updates, respond to CCRG feedback, and report back on how CCRG advice has influenced decisions about Community Benefits and the delivery of the Community Support Program.

The CCRG will be independently chaired to facilitate meetings, ensure balanced participation, approve agendas and summaries, maintain respectful, solution-focused dialogue, and ensure that the CCRG progresses towards outcomes that reflect its key role with respect to Community Benefits.

Application Process

Members are selected through Expressions of Interest (**EOI**) available online at the WIM website, invitations, and recommendations, assessed against criteria such as local knowledge, constructive participation, and ability to represent broader community interests. **The closing date for EOIs is 5pm on 3rd August 2026.**

Membership terms are anticipated to be two years, with an optional one--year extension. CCRG membership is voluntary; however, members may apply for reimbursement of reasonable expenses (up to \$500 per meeting) to support inclusive participation.

Proposed Administration Protocols

- Meetings are anticipated to be held quarterly, with additional meetings during major project milestones.
- Meetings may include project updates, issue tracking, presentations, and site visits.
- Agendas will be shared one week before meetings; summaries are provided within two weeks.

Public summaries with non-confidential information may be published on WIM's website or in community newsletters, subject to the Independent Chair's approval.

Committee Protocols

The following protocols will apply for all members:

- Engage respectfully and constructively
- Focus on solutions and coexistence
- Avoid conflicts of interest and disclose them promptly to the Independent Chair
- Support culturally safe dialogue
- Maintain a non-partisan approach to all matters
- Avoid political campaigning or advocacy
- Maintain confidentiality where required

Further Information

- Visit the WIM website to learn more about the CCRG and to lodge an EOI to apply.
- Further information about the CCRG will be provided through the Expression of Interest Process, and during meetings with candidates that meet the selection criteria.
- Contact Kevin O'Brien – (Director of Community and Landholder Relations).

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