



WIM RESOURCE COMMITTED TO ENGAGEMENT WITH HRCC AND COMMUNITY

WIM Resource Pty Ltd (**WIM**) wants local people and organisations to have a meaningful role in shaping how the Avonbank Project delivers benefits for the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

WIM is focused on making its community engagement more visible, practical and connected to local priorities, including through the establishment of the Avonbank Community and Coexistence Reference Group (**CCRG**).

WIM believes community benefits should not be designed in isolation, and that is why we are asking the Community for their input.

The CCRG is separate from the statutory mining licence process and does not presume the outcome of that process. Rather, it ensures that as the Project progresses, a structured forum is in place for local voices to help shape priorities, test whether proposed initiatives reflect community needs, and raise emerging concerns and opportunities.

WIM has approached a broad range of community organisations, agencies and stakeholders about participating in the CCRG, with discussions currently underway with prospective members. Expressions of Interest are also open for community members who would like to participate.

WIM accepts Horsham Rural City Council's decision not to participate in the CCRG at this time, but remains open to Council's future involvement. WIM has held a constructive meeting with the Council CEO recently regarding the CCRG and will follow up to discuss their involvement.

WIM values its relationship with Horsham Rural City Council and has engaged extensively with Horsham Rural City Council for over a decade, including serving as a member of the Avonbank Environmental Effects Statement Community Reference Group (**CRG**) and the Avonbank EES Technical Reference Group (**TRG**).

The Avonbank Project has undergone an extensive environmental assessment process through an EES, which is the highest and most stringent level of environmental assessment in Victoria.

Since the positive assessment of the EES, WIM has met with Council on a number of occasions to discuss the Avonbank Project and matters of importance to the community, and WIM continues to engage with Council representatives and will meet again to discuss the matters raised.

The Project continues to progress through the remaining statutory approvals process. WIM is working closely and constructively with relevant authorities and continues to provide information as required through that process.

WIM has maintained a local presence in Horsham since 2015 and has undertaken extensive community engagement throughout the development of the Avonbank Project, including with the HRCC, landholders, local government, Traditional Owners, businesses, community organisations and residents.

WIM recognises that community confidence is built through consistent engagement, transparency and visible follow-through. Its focus is on continuing to listen, strengthening relationships and ensuring local communities have meaningful opportunities to help shape the benefits the Project can deliver for the region.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

All Media enquiries should be directed to Elyse Gatt via email at egatt@banksiasp.com.au or phone 0433 586 152

End of Company Announcement