MINING LICENCE INFORMATION

Avonbank mining licence grant

These frequently asked questions explain what the mining licence grant means for landholders and the community, the further approvals required before work can begin, and landholders' rights relating to access, compensation and rehabilitation, together with the Project's environmental management requirements.

What does the mining licence enable?

The mining licence gives WIM the right to mine and extract minerals within the licence area. It does not, by itself, authorise construction or mining activities to begin.

WIM must obtain the remaining approvals, including the mining work plan approval, lodge a rehabilitation bond and satisfy the applicable land access and notice requirements before work begins.

The licence boundary includes land outside the proposed disturbance footprint. Some areas within the licence boundary, including the State Rail Line and Dooen Rail Terminal, will not be mined or disturbed.

How do the Project's approvals fit together?

The Project's approval framework covers environmental requirements, mining, processing and supporting facilities, as outlined below.

Approval area	What it covers
Environmental assessment	The Environment Effects Statement (EES) assessed the Project's environmental impacts. The Minister for Planning issued a favourable assessment in 2024, subject to specified requirements. Commonwealth environmental approval was subsequently granted in April 2025, subject to conditions.
Mine and primary processing	The mining licence establishes WIM's mineral tenure. The mining work plan and rehabilitation plan set out the proposed work, risks, controls and rehabilitation outcomes.
WIM Base Area	The Planning Scheme Amendment and Incorporated Document establish the planning framework for the product processing and loading area. The development plans and management plans required under the Incorporated Document set out the proposed development, risks and controls.
Port of Portland	The Environmental Management Plan sets out the proposed storage, handling and export activities, risks and controls at the Port of Portland, including how applicable port, environmental and radiation requirements will be met.

When will construction and mining begin?

WIM currently anticipates that construction will begin in late 2027 and the mine will become fully operational in 2029, subject to the remaining approvals and finance. The timing of work on individual properties will depend on the staged mine plan and the relevant land access arrangements. WIM will discuss proposed work and timing directly with affected owners and occupiers as planning progresses.

Land access, compensation and your rights

WIM will continue working respectfully and constructively with affected landholders to discuss proposed work, timing, access arrangements and compensation. Owners and occupiers have rights under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, referred to here as the MRSD Act.

How will access arrangements be discussed?

WIM will continue to discuss proposed access directly with affected owners and occupiers, including where and when work would occur, how access would be managed, and arrangements for farming activities, compensation and rehabilitation.

What land access arrangements must be in place before work can begin on my land?

For work under the mining licence on private land, the MRSD Act requires one of the following:

- written consent from the affected owners and occupiers;
- registered compensation agreements with those owners and occupiers;
- compensation determined through the statutory process; or
- purchase of the affected land.

The other approvals and commencement requirements must also be met. You can seek independent advice before agreeing to access or compensation arrangements.

What can compensation cover?

Owners and occupiers may be entitled to compensation for, among other things, loss of possession of land, damage to land or improvements, and a decrease in the market value of their interest in the land, depending on the circumstances.

What happens if we cannot agree?

WIM's preference is either to purchase land at a premium or to reach a negotiated property access arrangement with landowners and occupiers, under which written consent to land access is provided or a registered compensation agreement is entered into.

Landholders can refer disputes relating to land access to the independent Victorian Mining Warden. A disputed compensation claim may be determined by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or the Supreme Court under the statutory process, following attempts at conciliation.

Independent advice can help you understand the process and your options.

Farming and rehabilitation

Can farming continue?

The proposed mine will move through the deposit in stages over approximately 30 years. Farming may continue in areas where mining is not taking place, subject to the location of works, safety requirements and property arrangements. WIM will continue to discuss these arrangements with affected owners and occupiers.

How will land be rehabilitated?

Mined areas will be progressively backfilled and rehabilitated, with the objective of returning disturbed land to its previous productive agricultural use and capability. Topsoil and subsoil will be managed separately and replaced in the reconstructed soil profile.

Monitoring will check soil reconstruction and drainage, and compare crop yields with suitable unmined land. The results will be used to demonstrate whether the rehabilitation objectives have been achieved.

What financial security is required for rehabilitation?

WIM must lodge a rehabilitation bond with Resources Victoria before work begins. The bond provides financial security for the State to complete rehabilitation if WIM cannot meet its obligations.

The bond is returned only when Resources Victoria is satisfied that rehabilitation meets the required standards set out in the rehabilitation plan.

Environmental management

What environmental requirements apply?

The Environmental Management Framework (EMF) was developed through the Environment Effects Statement and assessment process and is available in the Minister's Assessment of the EES. It sets the environmental outcomes, management measures and monitoring requirements for the Project.

How will environmental impacts be managed?

The EMF forms the basis of management plans for the mine, WIM Base Area and port activities. These plans set out controls for dust, noise, water, radiation, biodiversity, heritage, traffic and rehabilitation.

WIM's Environmental Management System puts the plans into practice through defined responsibilities, training, monitoring and audits. Monitoring results, incidents and community feedback are used to review the plans and identify corrective action.

How will the Project be regulated?

WIM must comply with the mining licence conditions, the approved mining work plan and applicable legal requirements. Resources Victoria oversees compliance through reporting requirements, inspections and enforcement powers.

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) regulates compliance with applicable environment protection requirements, including duties to prevent and minimise risks from pollution and waste.

The Victorian Department of Health regulates radiation safety, including radiation licensing and the management of naturally occurring radioactive material associated with mineral sands mining and processing. Other relevant authorities oversee compliance with the Project's planning and environmental approvals.

Questions, concerns and further information

How can I raise a question or concern?

Contact the WIM Resource Community Information Hub, phone or email WIM, or use the website feedback form by visiting this web address: https://wimresource.com.au/contact/

You can also contact Resources Victoria or the relevant environmental regulator directly. You do not need to raise a concern through WIM first.

Talk with the Community Engagement Team

Community Information Hub
83 Firebrace Street, Horsham
Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
Free call: 1800 959 298
Email: admin@wimresource.com.au

The team can show you the project maps, explain proposed activities near your property or arrange a landholder discussion.

Further information

Project information and maps

Avonbank Information Hub — project documents and resources:
https://wimresource.com.au/avonbankinformationhub/

Mining licence boundary and proposed disturbance footprint:
https://wimresource.com.au/clear_mining_licence_map/

Avonbank frequently asked questions:
https://wimresource.com.au/avonbank-project-faq/

Environmental assessment

Environment Effects Statement — chapters, technical studies and exhibited planning documents:
https://www.avonbankproject.com.au/

Minister for Planning's assessment and Inquiry and Advisory Committee report:
https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/avonbank-mineral-sands

Landholder rights and rehabilitation

Resources Victoria — land access, compensation and rehabilitation information:
https://resources.vic.gov.au/landholders-and-community/information-for-landholders/mineral-licences-faqs

Resources Victoria — rehabilitation bonds:
https://resources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/rehabilitation-bonds-for-mineral-exploration-mines-and-quarries

Dispute assistance

Victorian Mining Warden — independent assistance with relevant landholder disputes:
https://resources.vic.gov.au/legislation-and-regulations/victorian-mining-warden
Phone: 03 8622 7613
Email: miningwarden@miningwarden.vic.gov.au