

FGM SUSTAINED OPERATIONS

Project Update



FGM Sustained
Operations Project

Environment Effects Statement (EES)

Fosterville Gold Mine Pty Ltd (FGM) the proponent is currently undergoing the EES process to maintain gold production at Fosterville Gold Mine for at least the next 10 years.

The Sustained Operations Project Includes:

- Continuation of current underground mining and exploration in MIN5404 to the south and north.
- Open pit cutbacks to 3 existing open pits (no new pits are proposed).
- An above ground waste rock dump at an existing pit.
- Construction and operation of new flotation and neutralization tailings storage facilities (TSFs) within the existing TSF compound.
- Construction and operation of additional in-pit tailings storage facilities for flotation and neutralization tailings.
- Construction and operation of additional carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings hardstands as an extension of the existing CIL hardstand area.
- Construction and operation of new brine evaporation ponds.
- Transfer/sale of carbon in leach (CIL) tailings.
- Managed aquifer recharge (MAR) program to inject treated mine water into the fractured rock aquifer.
- Supporting infrastructure, including haul roads within the mining lease, borrow pit for construction materials, vent shafts to support underground workings and a combined services corridor for energy supply and water / paste reticulation.

The EES process in Victoria requires the assessment of potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development, under the Environment Effects Act 1978. The process under this Act is not an approval process itself, rather it enables statutory decision-makers (Ministers, local government and statutory authorities) to make decisions about whether a project should proceed, and how it should proceed.

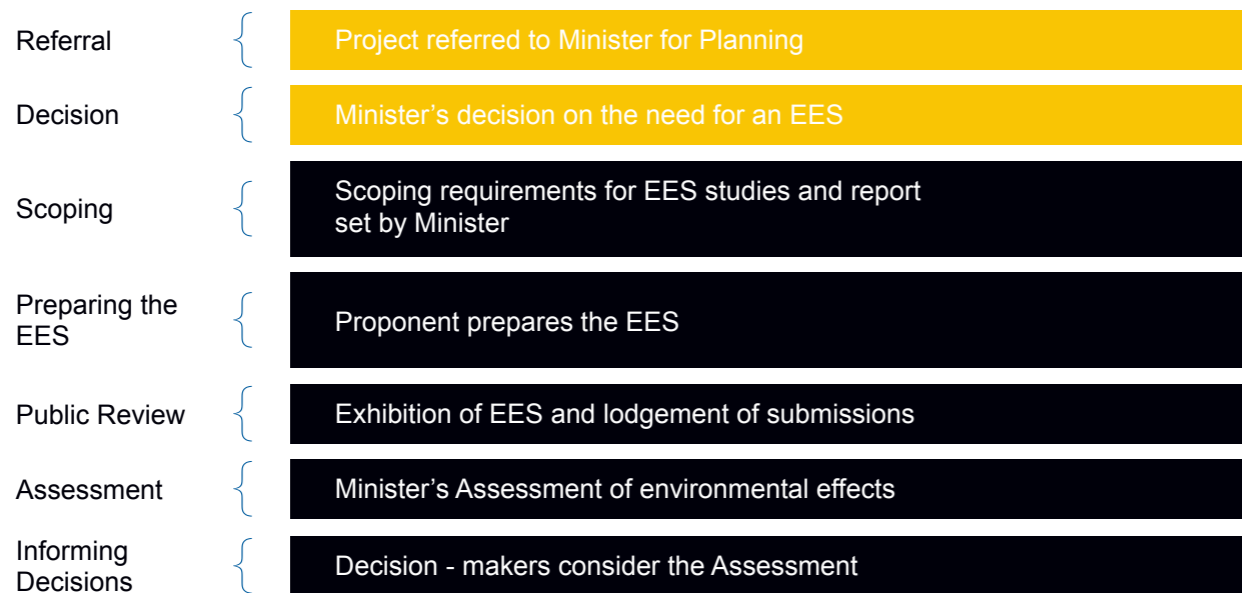
FGM EES Referral and EPBC Referral Decision

In November 2021, the Minister for Planning determined that an EES is required for the Sustained Operations Project under the Environment Effects Act 1978. A delegate for the Commonwealth Minister also determined the Project was a 'controlled action' and would require assessment and approval under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Bilateral Agreement

The bilateral agreement avoids duplication of assessment processes, by allowing Victoria to assess proposals that the Commonwealth has determined as controlled actions. Victoria's EES process is serving as the accredited pathway to assess potential impacts and inform the approval decision under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

How does the EES process work?



Source: DELWP

What stage are FGM at in the EES Process?

FGM are waiting for the draft scoping requirements to be drafted and issued by DELWP for public comment.

Scoping
Scoping requirements for EES studies and report set by Minister

The matters to be investigated and documented in an EES are set out in the 'scoping requirements' issued for each project by the Minister. The extent of investigation required will depend on the level of risk to aspects of the environment.

Draft scoping requirements for an EES are prepared after considering input from the proponent and agencies. These are released for at least 15 business days for public comment before the scoping requirements are finalised.

Community Engagement

RM Consulting Group (RMCG) have been engaged to facilitate the community and stakeholder engagement program for the Sustained Operations Project.

Once approved by DELWP, the consultation plan will be available online via DELWP's website and the Sustained Operations Project Virtual Consultation Room (VRC). The consultation plan will outline the process for stakeholder engagement throughout the EES.

The VRC has been established to provide information to the community.

<https://fgm.consultation.ai/>



Contacts

EES Process queries

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Next Steps

Once the scoping document has been finalised FGM will start preparing the EES.

In the meantime, FGM have engaged specialist consultants to begin the process of assessing the cumulative impacts the Sustained operations Project may have on the environment and community.

The key study areas are (but not limited to):

Air, Greenhouse gas, Ecology, Geotechnical, Groundwater, Ground vibration, Heritage (Historic and Cultural), Land Use Planning, Noise, Social, Surface water, Traffic and Visual.

FGM are working on finalising the Project description which describes what components will be included as a part of the Sustained operations Project EES.