

# EES update

The Sustained Operations Project EES is about ensuring that the mine can continue to operate for at least the next 10 years.

## What is an EES?

An Environment Effects Statement – or EES – is a process that assesses the potential impacts of a development proposal and outlines how the impacts of the development will be minimised, should the project proceed.

The *Environment Effects Act 1978* in Victoria requires an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development. The purpose of the EES is to inform members of the public, the assessing and decision-making authorities of the potential environmental impacts of the project.

The EES process is managed by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). DTP convened a Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the Project, which consists of various regulators who have provided input throughout the EES process. Many large infrastructure projects in Victoria are required to undertake an EES.

## Why are Fosterville Gold Mine undertaking an EES?

The EES will assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the additional components required to sustain ongoing operations at Fosterville Gold Mine for the next 10 years.

In 2019 we commenced planning to advance our mining operations to previously unmined areas of MIN5404 and provide adequate additional storage space for mine generated waste products.

## IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- › Approval of the SOP will enable Fosterville Gold Mine to continue to operate in the same way it does now – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- › The project is about sustaining the current operations. Exploration and underground mining will continue into previously unmined areas of MIN5404 using the same methods, and the same types of equipment as current day operations.
- › Processing of ore will continue through the processing plant as per current day operations.
- › Maintaining current processing and mining operations will require additional waste storage and other ancillary services, such as waste rock storage, tailings storage and ventilation upgrades for the underground operations, along with ongoing water management options.
- › Each of these components will be delivered at various stages over the next 10 years.

## Contact us with any questions about the project

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## MINING

- › **Underground mining development:** Extension of existing underground mining operations within Mining Licence 5404.
- › **Open pit cutbacks:** Cutbacks planned for three existing open pits – Farley's Pit, O'Dwyer's North Pit, and O'Dwyer's East Pit. No new pits proposed.
- › **Above ground waste rock dump:** Construction of a waste rock dump at the existing Harrier Pit.
- › **Vent shaft installations:** Two vent shafts planned. One to support northern underground mining infrastructure, and another in the southern half of MIN5404 to support existing mining infrastructure. Fans will be located underground.

## WATER MANAGEMENT

- › **Brine Evaporation Pond:** Construction and operation of a brine evaporation pond. This pond will receive brine from the mine water treatment plant, allowing the water to evaporate naturally.
- › **Aquifer Recharge (AR) Program:** Implementation of an AR program to manage surplus mine water resulting from the dewatering of underground mining operations. Treated mine water from the water treatment plant will be injected into the fractured rock aquifer in the north-western part of MIN5404.

## PROCESSING

- › **New Tailings Storage Facilities (TSFs):** Construction and operation of two new TSFs within the existing compound. TSF5 will be adjacent to TSF1 and TSF4, while TSF6 will be located north of TSF1.
- › **Embankment raise of Hunt's Pit:** Increase in water storage capacity to serve as the decant pond for the newly constructed TSFs.
- › **In-Pit Tailings Storage:** Construction and operation of in-pit tailings storage in the open pit cutbacks of Farley's Pit, O'Dwyer's North Pit, and O'Dwyer's East Pit.
- › **Additional CIL Tailings Hardstands:** Construction and operation of CIL Hardstand 5 and CIL Hardstand 6, extending the existing CIL hardstand area.
- › **Transfer/Sale of CIL Tailings:** Possibility of transferring or selling carbon-in-leach (CIL) tailings to a third party. The third party will be responsible for any treatment and tailings management beyond the MIN boundary.

## ANCILLIARY

Supporting infrastructure, including haul roads within the mining lease, borrow pit for construction materials and a combined services corridor for energy supply and water reticulation.

# HAVE YOUR SAY!

During the public review phase of the EES, everyone has the opportunity to have their say about the Sustained Operations Project by making a submission.

Before you make your submission, it is important to ensure you have a good understanding of the Sustained Operations Project, by reviewing the EES documentation.

If you have questions about the project, give us a call; attend one of our regular community information sessions; or visit one of our stands at the community events we attend.

### The public review phase

During the public review phase of the EES, you can make a submission to raise concerns or express support for the project. **Keep an eye on our website or social media pages for more information about when and how you can make a submission.**

### What is a public submission?

A submission is an opportunity for you to provide your view on the Fosterville Gold Mine Sustained Operations Project. Submissions are made directly to Planning Panels Victoria (PPV), who independently assess planning proposals and major projects across the state of Victoria. All submissions must be made in writing and be received by the closing date.

Any enquiries regarding the submissions, or the proceeding Inquiry and Hearing process should be directed to PPV.

### Making a submission

Submissions must be made in writing (online or letter form) and received by no later than the closing date for public review. All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission.

### After making a submission

The EES will be on public exhibition for 20 to 30 business days. Once submissions close, an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning will review all submissions. Information on the IAC process and timetable for the public hearings will be published as it becomes available at [www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au)

After the panel review hearings, the IAC will prepare a report with recommendations for the Minister for Planning. The Minister will then make an assessment of the environmental effects.