



**ILUKA**



# **WIMMERA PROJECT**

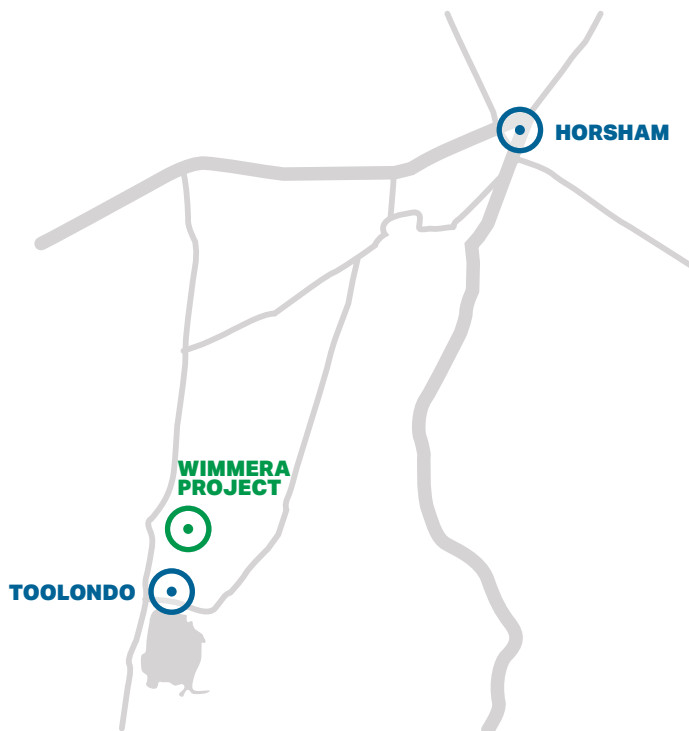
**JULY 2019**

## INTRODUCTION

Since September 2018, Iluka Resources has been conducting a pre-feasibility study (PFS) for the Wimmera Project, located approximately 40 kms south-west of Horsham and 8km north of the locality of Toolondo. The project is situated on predominantly freehold properties used for broad acre cropping and grazing with some areas of public land associated with roads, road side reserves, the Jullumba Marsh reserve and the Red Gum Swamp Reserve.

The project remains in an early planning phase with the PFS assessing the geological, mining, processing, marketing, environmental and social aspects of the project.

Despite this early planning phase, Iluka remains committed to ensuring key stakeholders and the broader community remain updated and informed on our activities.



## THE PROJECT

The Wimmera Project is focused on the WIM 100 deposit, which is one of a number of similar style, fine grained deposits located in the Wimmera and Mallee regions. The deposit is distinguished by the fineness of the mineral content which has historically been regarded as uneconomic for processing via traditional methods. The fine grained deposits in this region are therefore unsuitable for processing through the Hamilton mineral separation plant. As such, this project focuses on the development of both mining activities and processing facilities.

Iluka commenced technical studies on these deposits in 2012 and in 2018 achieved sufficient confidence through these studies to progress to a PFS stage. The PFS is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2019. At this point, the Iluka Board will need to approve the progression of the project into a definitive feasibility stage (DFS). This phase, which focuses on confirming project design and cost elements to within an accuracy of +/-15%, is scheduled to be completed by mid 2021. At the completion of the DFS, the Iluka Board will also be required to approve the progression of the project into the execution stage.

It should be noted that the feasibility studies will run in parallel with comprehensive State and Commonwealth environmental approval processes. More information on these processes can be found in the Environmental Approvals section of this newsletter.

Subject to all regulatory and Iluka Board approvals, a two year construction period sees a potential commencement date of operations in mid 2023. It is anticipated 300 – 350 jobs will be created through the construction period with an additional 280 – 350 full time jobs through the potential 25 year project life.

It is anticipated the majority of operational staff (including administrative, operators, fitters, electricians, store persons etc) will be recruited predominantly from the Horsham and district area.

If developed, the project will be a key source of zircon for the company, with Iluka to produce products for use in ceramics, refractory and foundry purposes, and zirconium chemicals and metal such as paper coatings, antiperspirants, artificial teeth and nanotechnologies.

In a new development area for Iluka, the project will also produce a refined rare earth product suite. The assemblage of each rare earth deposit is different and some elements are more common than others. The WIM 100 deposit contains high value elements, including neodymium, dysprosium, praseodymium and terbium, with key end use applications in permanent magnets, electric cars, wind turbines and customer electronics.

The presence of these elements potentially presents a 'life cycle' proposition whereby ore sourced from the WIM 100 deposit is processed and refined locally, and subsequently used in the production of renewable energy and other green technologies.

Iluka recognises there are a number of project elements including waste management, radiation management, transport routes, infrastructure requirements and social considerations that are of interest to the community. Iluka is therefore looking to provide a range of opportunities through which people can engage on this project, both through the environmental approvals process and via other means.



## ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS PROCESS.

Iluka has engaged EMM Consulting to develop project referral documentation to submit to the State and Commonwealth environmental regulators in accordance with the *Environmental Effects Act 1978* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* respectively.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ACT 1978

In Victoria, assessment of the potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development may be required 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 with potentially significant environmental effects should proceed.

The project referral will be submitted to the Victorian Minister for Planning in July 2019 to allow a decision on the appropriate environmental approvals pathway. It is anticipated the Minister will determine that an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process will be required for the project. The Minister's determination of the approvals process is anticipated within 4-6 weeks of submission.

If it is determined that an EES process is required, there will be a number of formal and informal opportunities for interested parties to provide feedback on the project. The feedback received will be used in the development of the approvals documentation. While timings of such opportunities are yet to be determined, they will be widely advertised in the second half of 2019.

Iluka has recently commenced detailed studies to determine the likely impacts of the project on a range of environmental factors including water, dust, noise, vibration, radiation and meteorological in order to inform decision making on the project. Further studies and data gathering will continue as the project progresses with a view to submitting an ESS in Q3 2020.

Interested stakeholders will also have an opportunity to comment on the EES submission prior to any determination by government agencies. Further details on the EES process can be obtained at [www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment/what-is-the-ees-process-in-victoria).

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

Approval under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is required where a delegate of the Australian Government Minister considers there to be potential for significant impacts on matters of national environmental significance protected under that Act.

The project referral will be submitted to the Minister to determine whether or not the proposed action (the project) will need formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. Following the receipt of a valid referral, the Minister has 20 business days to decide if the proposed action triggers the matters protected by the EPBC Act and requires further assessment and approval.

As part of the 20 business days, the EPBC Act provides a public comment period of 10 business days. This provides an opportunity for relevant Australian, State and Territory government ministers and members of the public to comment on the proposed action. At the end of the 20 business days, the Department of the Environment & Energy (DoEE) will write to the proponent to advise of the outcome of the referral and whether or not formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required. The decision will also be available on the public notices page of the DoEE website.

As the Victorian EES process has been accredited under the EPBC Act via a bilateral agreement at the conclusion of any EES process, the Victorian Minister for Planning's Assessment would be provided to the Australian Government Minister to inform a decision on whether or not to approve the project under the EPBC Act, and if so under what conditions. Further details on the EPBC Act process can be found at [www.environment.gov.au/epbc](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc)



Water monitoring at Red Gum Swamp

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Iluka recognises the importance of open and transparent engagement with the community for this project. We have therefore introduced a range of initiatives to ensure a range of engagement opportunities for the project exist.

Iluka has established an information centre in Horsham which is open on Tuesday's and Fridays from 9:30am -2:30pm. This centre is located in the Horsham Real Estate Office at 15 Fibrace Street. An information centre has also been established in Natimuk at the Community Information Centre at 60 Main Street and is open on Thursday's 9:30am – 2:30pm. Please feel free to drop into those centres to discuss any aspects of the project.

Iluka has also been consulting with key stakeholders to establish a Community Reference Group for the project. This reference group is to comprise relevant stakeholders and community representatives to ensure the transfer of information about the project. The group will focus on ensuring relevant information relating to project specifics including construction camp location, employment opportunities, educational and housing requirements, and regional development opportunities are considered in the decision making process. It is anticipated this group will meet for the first time in Q4 2019.

Iluka is currently progressing with the engagement of an appropriate consultant to conduct a social impact assessment for the project. The assessment process will involve engagement with key stakeholders and community groups, with the findings being used to guide actions in the mitigation or enhancement of the identified impacts.

Iluka will also continue to produce and distribute regular newsletters and information sheets as a way of providing updates on the progress of the project.

We are also always open to discussing additional engagement methods to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the progress of the project. Please feel free to drop into the information centres, or contact us via the feedback line or email address, if you believe there are other engagement methods we could be adopting for this project.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Iluka community feedback line 1800 201 113 or e-mail [murraybasin@iluka.com](mailto:murraybasin@iluka.com) for more information about any of our activities

[www.iluka.com](http://www.iluka.com)