

MURRAY BASIN

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



ILUKA



Balranald

Construction of the Balranald mine continues at full-steam, with some exciting developments and several milestones achieved this year.

The last six months has seen **major site construction activities** progress towards completion, the largest of which is the mine site access road which extends 24km from Ivanhoe Road to the new processing facility, with an expected completion in December 2024.

Additionally, the bulk earthworks and civils phase has been underway for the processing pad and dams, as well as the establishment of the pad and site services for the new 165-person onsite accommodation camp. Other significant work scopes have included the relocation of the transmission line, numerous environmental and geotechnical drilling campaigns, communications tower works and ongoing road maintenance activities along the Burke and Wills track.



The first concrete pour at the Balranald site

Iluka expects its construction workforce will increase from 150 to more than 350 in Q1 2025, with workers to be split between the current accommodation camp and the new on-site camp facility. Construction activity will continue into 2025 with commissioning and handover to operations expected later in the year.

With the construction process well underway, Iluka has begun **recruiting for operational roles for Balranald**. If you are interested in working for Iluka, please visit the Careers page on our website where you can create a profile to register for job alerts. More roles will be advertised over the coming months, requiring a range of skill sets.

Upgrades to several **public road intersections commenced earlier this month and will continue through to late December**. These works will be completed between 7am and 6pm daily, including weekends as required. Local residents should also note that increased heavy vehicle movements through Balranald township will occur from mid-January, particularly on Moa St, Piper St and O'Connor St as we transport materials to site. All works and heavy vehicle movements will follow approved noise and traffic management plans, and every effort will be made to minimise impacts to the community.

We have continued to enjoy working with the local community over the last six months, including through our grants program, **Iluka Lends a Hand**, as well as our ongoing support of the Balranald Football Netball Club.

In early 2025, Iluka will also establish a **Community Partnerships Fund** for community initiatives in the Balranald region. Governed by a committee, organisations and individuals will be able to apply for funds (capped yearly) toward specific, local initiatives, provided they meet a set criterion. We will share more information about the Fund next year.

As always, if you have queries about matters relating to the Balranald Project you can email Balranald.Community@iluka.com.



Iluka enjoyed attending a home game for the footy finals to support the Balranald Football Netball Club in September



Euston

The Euston Project has completed all fieldwork and is nearing the end of the pre-feasibility study phase. Collection of field data is a key component of the pre-feasibility study which enables more detailed modelling and assessment of the project.

Rehabilitation of disturbed areas has been conducted to ensure the environmental impact of the project is minimised. With this important step complete, the focus is now on analysing the data and integrating the results to the overall project model.

This year the team enjoyed meeting more of the local community at **Mildura Field Days** in May. Thank you to all those who stopped by the Iluka stall for a chat to learn more about the Euston Project and meet the team.

We have had the delight of providing several sponsorships to local organisations and projects around Mildura and Euston in recent months, including **Mildura Health Fund** for the construction of cancer treatment accommodation units in Mildura. This important project will no doubt be significant for the region and we enjoyed meeting some of the team behind the project in person recently.

In September, we also sponsored the Mildura screening of **'Just a Farmer'** hosted by Northern Mallee Leaders to improve the conversation around mental health in regional and farming communities.



Emu eggs discovered on the project site during a recent cultural heritage survey



Iluka was pleased to provide a donation to Mildura Health Fund towards the construction of cancer accommodation units



The Wimmera Project team has been busy progressing the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for submission to the Victorian Government in 2026.

A number of fieldwork programs have continued as well as several key community engagement events, which have been a great opportunity to get to know more of the local community and share project updates.

The project scope has continued to be refined through the definitive feasibility study phase. This includes a project decision to construct an **accommodation camp** at Iluka's former Echo mine site, preliminary designs for the water supply infrastructure including a gravity pipeline to divert the Toolondo Channel around the mine site, and preliminary designs for road intersection upgrades.

Revision and update of technical assessments for mining, groundwater, surface water, ecology, noise and vibration, landscape and visual, traffic and transport, soil, land use planning, agriculture, historical heritage and bushfire to reflect refinements of the project scope has continued. Assessment and report development for the air quality, radiation and geotechnical assessments is also underway.



Red Gum Swamp gauge board for surface water monitoring

Out in the field, routine monitoring for groundwater, surface water and radon has continued, and two new bores were established at the northern and southern ends of the Jallumba Marsh reserve. Noise monitoring was also undertaken at key locations along the proposed transport routes to inform the traffic and transport study.



Geotechnical drilling taking place on the Wimmera Project site

Following fieldwork programs in 2019, 2020 and 2023, fieldwork **investigations for Aboriginal cultural heritage** concluded in June this year. The survey has covered approximately 4,600 hectares of the project area, examined many hundreds of trees for evidence of cultural modification, and excavated and sieved soil from 125 pits. A total of 68 artefacts and eight culturally modified trees were identified with all this work undertaken to inform the development of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project, in consultation with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and other key stakeholders.

In August we had the delight of sponsoring the novice working dog trials and having a stall at **Sheepvention** in Hamilton, where we also supported the National Centre for Farmer Health to conduct free health checks. October was a busy month for the project team with our most recent community drop-in session in Noradjuha and our first small-group rehabilitation tour of former Douglas mine site. Thanks to those who came along to learn more and meet the team.

Through our new grants program, **Iluka Lends a Hand**, we have been able to support several important local initiatives throughout the year. This includes the installation of two weather stations and a soil moisture probe for local farmers, night survey equipment for a Landcare group, and the irrigation of the cricket pitch at Noradjuha.

It's been fantastic to meet some of the hard-working volunteers behind these projects in recent months. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for future Iluka Lends a Hand funding, please get in touch.



The Iluka team at Sheepvention in August

The social impact assessment coordinated by EMM Consulting has continued to progress, and the **community survey remains open to anybody who would like to complete it** before the report is finalised over the coming months.



You can scan the QR code or email sia@emmconsulting.com.au to be involved.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025. Please don't hesitate to contact us at Wimmera.Project@iluka.com for project-related queries or to be added to our email list for updates.



Rehabilitation



Rehabilitated land at the Douglas site

Rehabilitation efforts in 2024 in the Murray Basin are progressing well, **with 54 hectares of land fully rehabilitated at the Douglas site**. With the completion of another two pits, efforts have shifted to focus on Pit 22 and the tailings storage facility. Pasture and tillage crops at the Douglas site continue to reflect Iluka's commitment to best-practice rehabilitation, showcasing the successful integration of sustainable agricultural practices. Further north at Iluka's former WRP mine site, recent dismantling of the mining unit has paved the way for further rehabilitation activities which will continue throughout 2025.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you are interested in learning more about Iluka's approach to rehabilitation, please visit the [Rehabilitation](#) page of our website where further information is available.



Merry Christmas from Iluka

Iluka would like to wish you a happy and safe festive season as 2024 comes to a close. Best wishes for the New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.



1800 305 993 (24/7 Iluka Community hotline)



communities.support@iluka.com



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