### **MURRAY BASIN**

NEWSLETTER





Construction of the Balranald mine commenced in early August with ground preparation works including survey, vegetation clearing, and installation of minor infrastructure. We anticipate construction will take around 18 months, and we are thrilled to be moving forward with the project.

The contract for the construction of the 23km site access road from Balranald-Ivanhoe Road to the site has been awarded locally to Potter Excavations of Balranald. Site access road works are scheduled to start in December with the initial clearing and topsoil stripping of the road corridor. More information on any public road works will be communicated prior to commencement to ensure public safety and minimise disruptions to traffic.

Pre-disturbance surveys have been carried out in accordance with Iluka's approved Biodiversity Management Plan prior to commencement of vegetation clearing. Cultural heritage management measures have also been implemented utilising the Balranald Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and in consultation with our Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project. On 2 August we held the first Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Working Group meeting with representation from Iluka and project RAPs, during which the Balranald Mineral Sands Project Cultural Heritage Working Group was formally created and the Group's Terms of Reference were discussed and agreed on. We will host meetings with the Cultural Heritage Working Group on a six-monthly basis to discuss the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and opportunities for community development, throughout the duration of the project.

We will continue to engage and support the community as we move through the construction phase of the project and into full operations in 2025. Iluka are proud to support numerous community events, non-profit organisations and clubs in the communities we work in, and we look forward to deepening our relationship with the Balranald community.



Balranald Operations Manager Dave Wright presenting a \$100k sponsorship cheque to the Balranald Football and Netball Club

In August, we presented the Balranald Football and Netball Club (BFNC) with a sponsorship agreement and cheque for \$100,000 covering the next four years. We are delighted to support such an important part of the community driven by the dedicated work of club leaders and members. Over the next four years, this sponsorship will help BFNC to continue to provide sporting opportunities for the Balranald community. The club will use the money to undertake several updates including the installation of a new electronic scoreboard, updating the canteen building and time keeper's box, as well as providing additional seating at the oval and netball courts.

In other news, Iluka has now relocated to a new office based in the town of Balranald at 99 Church Street. Community members are encouraged to call in should they have any queries or would like to obtain further information about the project. We will have increased presence in the area moving forward, and in the new year there will be a dedicated monthly drop-in day where you will be welcome to come for a cup of tea and a chat.

Iluka will endeavour to procure local companies and local workforce throughout the project where possible. To register your interest in employment opportunities with the Balranald Project, please check out the <a href="Careers section">Careers section</a> of the Iluka website.





### **Euston**

The Euston Project is in the pre-feasibility study stage. This phase explores various project configurations in parallel with baseline assessments as part of the State, Commonwealth and internal approvals processes.

Targeted surveys required for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) have begun across the Euston Project study area including, but not limited to, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, traffic and transport, and visual amenity. The purpose of these is to identify areas of sensitivity, consider potential impact, and provide mitigation measures to limit the potential impact of proposed development. We are working with a number of external consultants to conduct these studies, and the reports they provide will help inform the EIS ready for submission to the Department of Planning and Environment in Q4 2024.

A six-week cultural heritage survey took place on the Euston Project study area during October and November. The survey was conducted in partnership with our RAPs to the Euston Project, our site team and consulting archaeologists. The survey was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our RAPs and learn more about the local landscape. We look forward to continuing this partnership and working together to protect and manage sites and objects of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

In mid-November, we also conducted our first inperson community engagements for the Euston Project. We sponsored the Great Murray River Salami Festival on 11 November and had a stall with information about the project, with three lluka representatives from the Communities and Environmental Approvals teams speaking to about 90 people on the day. We had some great conversations with people who were keen to learn more about the proposed project and the approvals process, and we were pleased to be able to contribute to a very successful festival hosted by the Euston Club.



The Iluka stall at the 2023 Salami Festival

Following on from Salami Festival, we hosted two Community Information Sessions in Euston and Mildura on 13 November and 14 November, attracting over 45 attendees. Study Manager Chris Dodds gave a presentation at both sessions followed by a chance for community members to view project materials and talk to the wider project team over refreshments, with representatives from the Lands, Environmental Approvals and Communities teams on hand to answer questions.

The independent consultant from AAP Consulting who has been engaged to complete the Social Impact Assessment for the project was also in attendance to encourage community members and stakeholders to complete a community survey which will provide essential, and confidential, data to help inform Iluka's decisions on the project going forward.



We encourage community members and stakeholders to complete the survey by scanning the QR code or contacting Angela Peace from AAP Consulting at <a href="mailto:angela.peace@aapconsulting.com.au">angela.peace@aapconsulting.com.au</a> or 0438 620 066.



Iluka's second Community Information Session for the Euston Project at the Mildura Rowing Club

# ર્ર્ફેડ્રે Wimmera

Earlier this year, the Wimmera Project transitioned from the pre-feasibility study phase to the definitive feasibility study phase. This means that further assessments and studies need to take place prior to final approval from the State and Commonwealth governments and the Iluka Board before it progresses to construction and operations.

Environmental assessments have continued to take place on the project site, with additional ecological field surveys being undertaken by consultants Ecology & Heritage Partners in late 2023/early 2024 for Red-tail Black Cockatoo, Growling Grass Frog, Brown Toadlet, Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard, various woodland and wetland birds, and various spring flora. The observation data will supplement the already significant dataset and detailed understanding of existing ecological values across the project site gained through targeted surveys conducted over the last four years, and will ensure potential project-related impacts to these values are identified and appropriately avoided and/or mitigated.

Consulting firm Hatch have been assessing the potential impacts to roads, traffic and transport that could arise as a result of the project. The work considers proposed transport routes for delivery of consumables to site, off-site transport of mine products, and movement of site personnel to and from site.

Hatch and Iluka are working collaboratively with Horsham Rural City Council and Southern Grampians Shire Council to source existing traffic count data along the transport routes. The assessment work will include identification of required upgrades to roads and intersections.

Following the announcement of the updated Mineral Resource estimate for the WIM100 deposit (the basis of the Wimmera Project), and as informed by the findings of the dredge mining study and other investigations, a revised mine layout plan has been developed for the project. A fieldwork program consisting of geotechnical test pits and diamond drilling boreholes is proposed for Q1 2024, which will provide a robust understanding of existing geotechnical conditions to inform planning. Further cultural heritage fieldwork will also take place in Q1 2024.

Consulting firm EMM is completing the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the project and have continued to undertake stakeholder interviews with interested parties. EMM and Iluka invite community members and stakeholders to participate in a short confidential survey which will inform the SIA. The SIA is a key part of the approvals process for the Wimmera Project and is designed to help ensure that the identified social impacts and benefits of the project are informed by the community.



To participate in the survey, please scan the QR code or contact EMM at <a href="mailto:sia@emmconsulting.com.au">sia@emmconsulting.com.au</a> or 0437 219 200.

We hosted the third Community Information Session for the Wimmera Project on 25 October at the Noradjuha Hall. Over 30 community members and stakeholders came on the day, and were able to view new project materials and maps, engage with consultants on their studies, and get to know the Iluka team. Key topics that were covered included surface water management, groundwater and ecological impacts and opportunities, traffic and road impacts, bushfire risk and management, employment, and social impact. We enjoyed getting to know some of our local community members and engaging in many interesting conversations.



Iluka's third Community Information Session for the Wimmera Project at Noradjuha Hall



The winning Iluka ladies team at the 2023 WDHS charity golf day – from left to right Jenny Pike, Lyn Hayes, Caroline Lewis and Sue Vickery

Iluka has been a proud sponsor of the Western District Health Service (WDHS) Golf Day in recent years, which this year was held on 17 November in Hamilton. The day comprised 32 teams competing in an Ambrose 4-ball best ball event, raising an amazing \$18,000. We were delighted to be a Gold Sponsor for the event with contributions from Iluka volunteers Glenn Smith, Vincent O'Brien, Brad Henderson and Leigh Whyte helping out with setting up, manning barbeques and stalls around the course and also sponsoring a ladies team which saw them take out the ladies event. This year WDHS will put the money raised at the Golf Day towards a new ultrasound machine for their midwifery department.

## දිද්දී§ Rehabilitation

Iluka's rehabilitation focus within the Muray Basin remains at Douglas, where we are working to rehabilitate the mine site with the intention of providing land that is an asset to the local environment and community. Despite our schedule being hampered by rainfall through an early spring break, we are pleased to advise that the rehabilitation of Pit 5 was completed in October.

Over the upcoming drier months, activity on site will increase as we move to completing further areas and bring the site closer to full rehabilitation.



Aerial view of rehabilitated Douglas Pit 5



#### Happy Holidays from Iluka

Iluka would like to wish you a happy festive season as 2023 comes to a close. Best wishes for the New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



1800 305 993 (24/7 Iluka Community hotline)



communities.support@iluka.com



