



Stawell Gold Mines

Environment Review Committee Minutes

12 August 2025



ERC MEETING AGENDA

1. Open Meeting_____Kieran Murrihy
2. Apologies, Previous Minutes and Actions_____Kieran Murrihy
3. Environmental Report_____Cameron Hope
4. SGM Operations Update_____Cameron Hope
5. Rehabilitation Plan Update_____Laura Chibnall, Grounded Resource Advisory
6. Total Cyanide Investigation Findings_____Chris Aitken, AECOM
7. Regulator & Council Update_____ERR, EPA, NGSC, DELWP, WCMA
8. Other Business_____Kieran Murrihy
9. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda_____Kieran Murrihy

1. OPEN MEETING

1.1 Attendees

ERC Members	Margaret Taylor, Geoff Stratford, Kate van Dyck, Rosalind Byass, Stephen Fielding, Peter Mueller
SGM	Cameron Hope (Manager – Environment & Community), Annie McPherson (Community Engagement Officer), Stephanie Koziol (Community Engagement Officer), Peter Gross
Regulators	Alex Wells (EPA), Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Celeste Taranto (ERR), Georgia Lannen (ERR), Denise Sumper (NGSC), Bryanna Bisset (WCMA)
Chair	Kieran Murrihy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

2.1 Apologies

Teresa Arnup (NGSC), Ashleigh Mostert (SGM)

2.2 Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 13 May 2025, were circulated to ERC Members. No attendees had comments or concerns with the Minutes.

2.3 Review of Previous Action Items

Action number	Action item
130525.1	Cameron Hope to share a screen grab of the active side of the mine with Kate van Dyck. (Still to be completed)
130525.2	SGM to request that AECOM present information relating to the investigation processes and findings at the August 2025 meeting, as availability allows. (Completed at the meeting)
130525.3	Tim Lubcke to provide the chair with a presentation that can be shared on basecamp. (Done)
130525.4	Chair to send a reminder to the EPA that they are scheduled to present at the August SGM ERC. NGSC will present at the November meeting. (Schedule altered)
130525.5	Chair to send a reminder to regulators that meeting attendance is encouraged and that they have the option to attend virtually. (Done)

Action 120825.1 – Cameron Hope to share a screen grab of the active side of the mine with Kate van Dyck.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

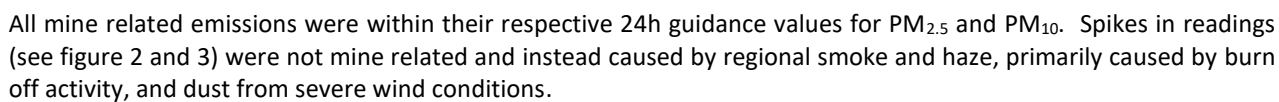
Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q2 2025 Environmental Monitoring Results. Drawing on the ERC Environmental Notes, the slide-deck focused on Dust, Groundwater, Noise, Blasting, Hydrogen Cyanide, Complaints, Environmental Incidents and Regulatory Notices. (see Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of Environmental Aspects and Compliance Status

- Fully compliant with criteria.
- Irregular or isolated event. Requires further investigation and actions if applicable.
- Exceedance of criteria requiring action.
- Not monitored during reporting period.

Aspect	Monitoring	Status	Comments
Air Quality	Dust deposition		Compliant. One non mine related spike.
	AAQMS		Compliant. Only non mine related spikes.
	Hydrogen cyanide		Compliant
	Emissions		Compliant
Blasting	Site		All blasts below 100 th %ile limit of 10mm/sec. 1 blast above 95 th %ile limit of 5mm/sec.
Noise	Site		Elevated readings at South location during the evening and North and East during the night period. No complaints from nearest receivers.
Water	Offsite bores		No new exceedances. Compliant with HSC drawdown metric.
	Offsite farm dams		Compliant.
	Offsite creeks		Compliant.
	Freeboard		Compliant.
Flora and Fauna	Site		Compliant.
Incidents	Site		7 environmental incidents reported. All closed out.
Regulatory Notices	Site		No regulatory notice in force.
Community	Complaints		5 complaints were received. Fully resolved.

Figure 1. Real Time Air Quality Monitoring Map



24hr PM_{2.5} Averages

Y-axis: (µg/m³)

X-axis: Dates from 1/04/2025 0:00 to 28/06/2025 0:00

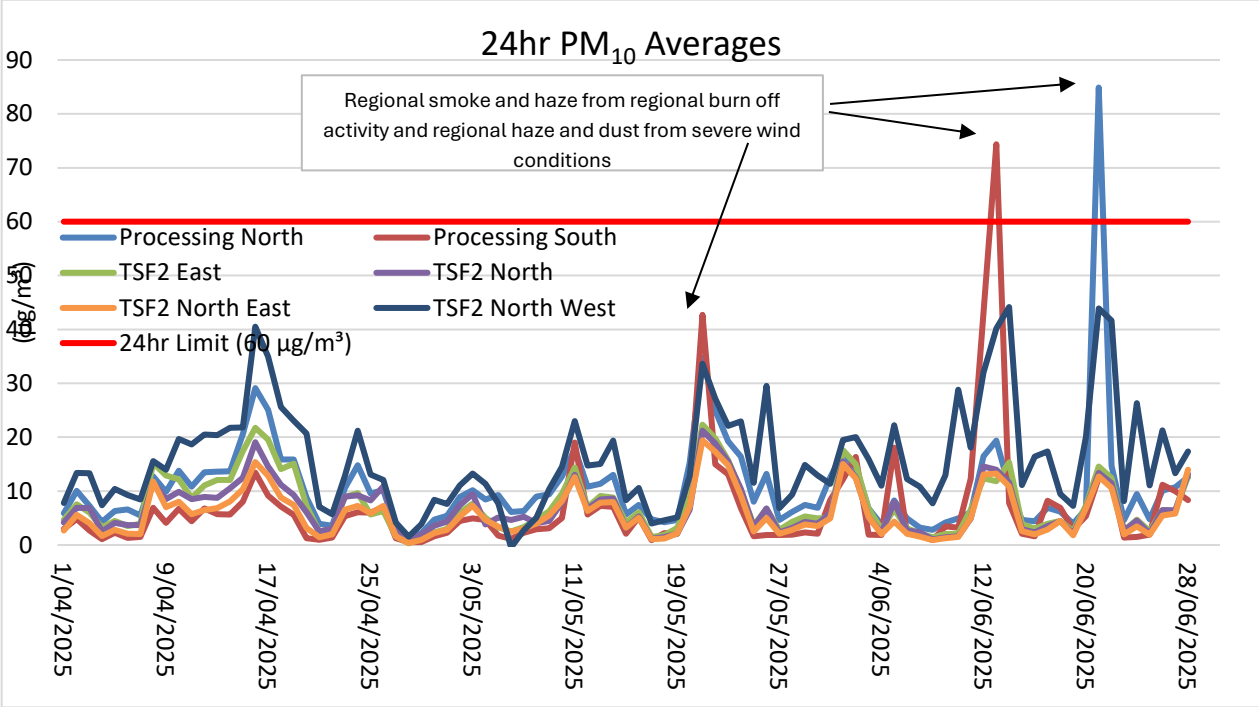
Legend:

- Processing North
- Processing South
- TSF2 East
- TSF2 North
- TSF2 North East
- TSF2 North West
- 24hr Limit (36 µg/m³)

Annotations:

- Southerly winds. Regional smoke haze.
- High winds. Regional
- Wind from East and North. Paddock activity and regional haze

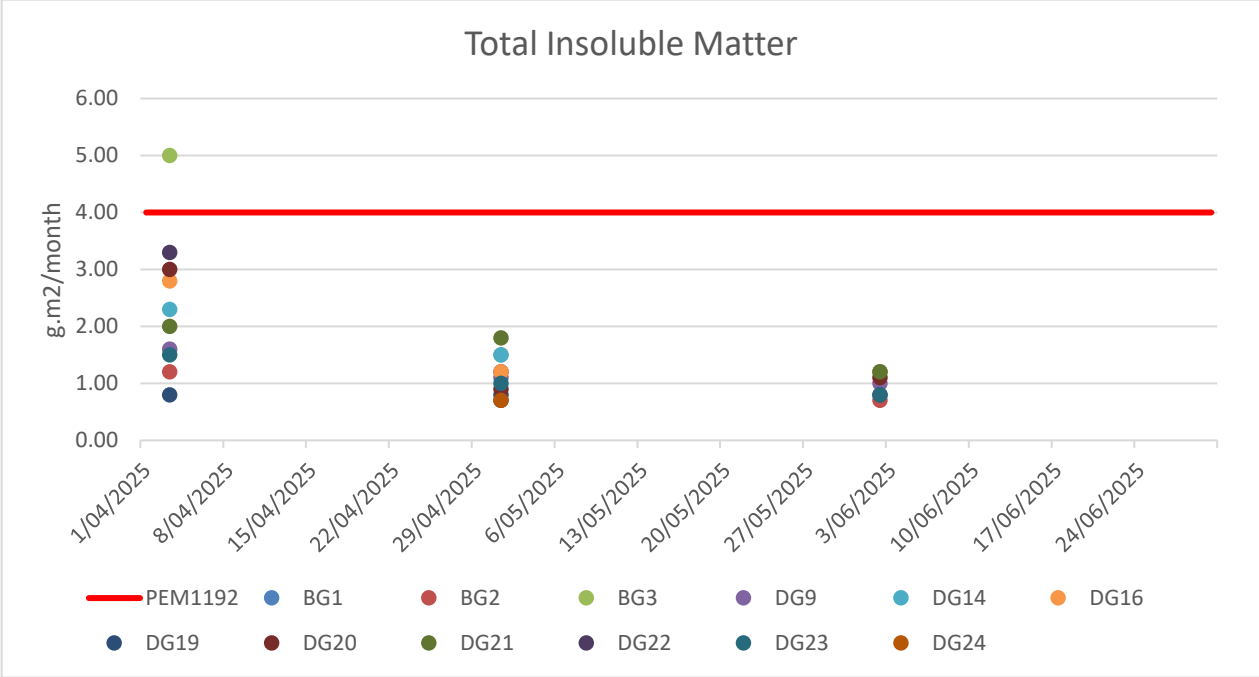
Figure 3. 24 PM 10 Averages



3.2 Dust Deposition

One non-mine related exceedance at a background monitor was recorded during the quarter.

Figure 4. Dust Deposition Monthly Averages



3.3 Emissions Monitoring

Emissions monitoring of Vent Shaft No. 4 is conducted 6-monthly. Monitoring was completed on 2 April 2025 by Ektimo Consultants. Emissions monitoring results from Vent Shaft No. 4 were all below the modelled point source limits for the April 2025 monitoring event (see Table 2).

Table 2: Vent Shaft No. 4 Emissions Monitoring Results 2 April 2025

Date	Mass Rate (g/min)		
	Carbon Monoxide	Nitrogen Oxides (as NO ₂)	Sulfur Dioxide
2 nd April 2025	<20	<30	<40
Point Source Limit	N/A	26	55

Emissions monitoring at the mill afterburner was undertaken on 2 April 2025 by Ektimo Consultants. Emissions monitoring results were all below the modelled point source limits for the April monitoring event (see Table 3).

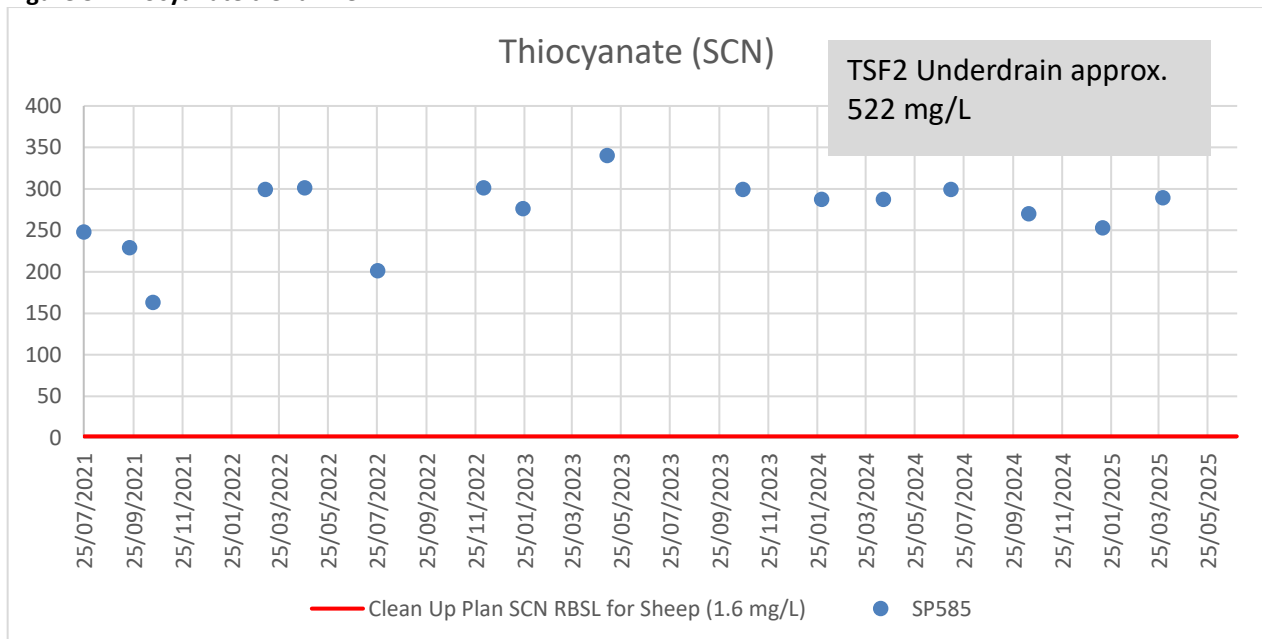
Table 3: Mill Afterburner Emissions Monitoring Results 2 April 2025

Date	Mass Rate (g/min)		
	Carbon Monoxide	Nitrogen Oxides (as NO ₂)	Sulfur Dioxide
2 nd April 2025	5.2	3.6	1.5
Point Source Limit	75,060	511.2	978

3.4 Groundwater

The most recent sampling event at SP585 showed a concentration of 289mg/L for Thiocyanate. This is consistent with previous monitoring rounds. Ongoing groundwater monitoring will continue to establish trend lines for SCN concentrations at this bore. 2025 Mann Kendal Trend Analysis on data from March 2018 to current states that the trend at SP585 has been downgraded from ‘increasing’ to ‘probably increasing’. This bore remains the only offsite bore with detectable limits. Trends change each year. Previous trends have included ‘Increasing’, ‘Probably Increasing’ and ‘No Trend’.

Figure 5. Thiocyanate trend line



Groundwater – Total Cyanide

The most recent sampling event at SP585 shows a similar level to previous samples for Total-Cyanide concentrations (1.54mg/L). The Total Cn investigation, headed by AECOM has been finalised. The EPA and ERR have been informed of the results. Chris Aitken from AECOM presented the findings to the ERC later in the meeting.

In line with AECOM recommendations, Total Cyanide analysis has been suspended until accuracy of results can be guaranteed.

3.5 Noise

Noise level emissions during the day period were compliant with site noise level guidance values at all monitored locations.

Noise level emission during the evening period were compliant with site noise level guidance value at all monitored locations except the South location.

Noise level emissions during the nighttime period were compliant with site noise guidance values at the Southern and Western locations but elevated readings were recorded at the North and East locations.

It was noted by SGM that an incorrect recording of an exceedance in the South was reported in the Environmental Notes. When background noise was factored into the result the reading was under the required limit. It is reported correctly in the table below.

Table 4. Q2 Noise Monitoring Results

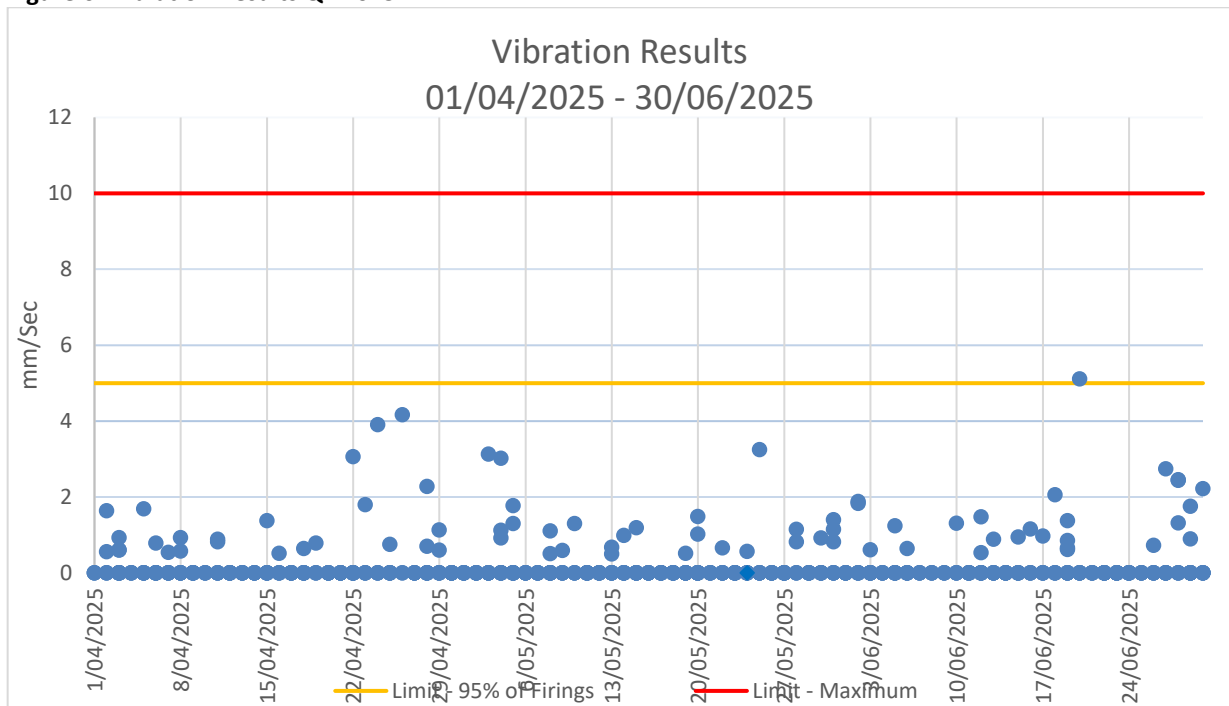
Monitoring Site	Day (07:00 to 18:00)	Evening (18:00 to 22:00)	Night (22:00 to 07:00)
Limit (LAeq)	50 dB	44 dB	39 dB
West	Mine Not Audible	Mine Not Audible	Mine Not Audible
South	40	40	31
South 2	-	44	-
North	33	Mine Not Audible	48
North 2	-	-	42
East	40	44	44
East 2	-	-	39

3.6 Production Area

The production areas remain unchanged from the previous quarter.

3.7 Q2 Blasting – Firings Graph

Figure 6. Vibration Results Q2 2025



All readings were below the 10mm/sec absolute limit requirements with 1 reading in the 5thile range of between 5mm/sec and 10mm/sec.

Telstra have notified SGM that the service used for Blast Monitoring Notification text messages will no longer be available from November. SGM has explored alternatives and is confident it has found a good solution that enables residents to continue receiving notifications. Residents will be advised that the notification will come from a different number.

3.8 Hydrogen Cyanide Monitoring

SGM's Hydrogen Cyanide readings showed two high readings during the monitoring period. SGM attributed the spikes to burn off smoke and not as a result of any mine related activity.

3.9 Complaints

There were four community complaints during Q2 2025.

Blast

- Two complaints were received from one resident for vibrations regarding blast activity.
 - Additional mitigation methods were put in place for subsequent blasts.
 - SGM team members were present at the complainant's address during a subsequent blast. No noise or vibration was detected, and the complainant was satisfied with SGM's actions.

Dust

- Three complaints from the same address were received regarding dust.
 - Dust management activities were ongoing, and no offsite impacts were recorded.
 - Additional water trucks were deployed to minimise potential offsite impacts.

SGM was asked if it had changed the design of the blast in response to the complaint. SGM confirmed it had - through alterations to timings, delays and the use of a physical barrier to further limit potential impacts.

3.10 Environmental Incidents

There were seven environmental incidents during Q2 2025.

- **SGM006029:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (03/04/2025)
 - Moderate
 - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring locations DG19, DG24 and BG1.
 - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM004181:** Salt-Dust raising off TSF2 (03/04/2025)
 - Minor
 - Minor dust raising from the surface of TSF2 with the potential for offsite impacts.
 - Area inspected and it was found to be salts lifting from drying tailings.
 - An additional water truck with a water cannon was deployed to spray down areas within reach.
 - Tailings deposition was moved to further wet down surface and prevent further raising.
- **SGM005580:** Small damage to SUPL from a development blast (07/04/2025)
 - Negligible
 - The Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory had sustained a minor crack in the plaster from a development blast that occurred in the 1000 R/L.
 - Investigation identified areas of improvement in design and firing methodology that could be undertaken to prevent further percussive impacts on surrounding areas.
- **SGM005589:** Spill - Liquid leak (27/04/2025)
 - Moderate
 - 15L container of clean waste oil ruptured while in the back of a ute, resulting in <10L of oil spilling onto a public road.
 - Operator was unaware that the leak had occurred while on the public road.
 - CFA attended the scene and deployed absorbent material to soak up the oil and later disposed of the spill.
 - Investigation showed the container to be aged and not fit for purpose. In future, containers will be assessed more often and correctly secured to the vehicle to prevent sliding.
 - SGM made a donation to the CFA in recognition of their efforts in cleaning up the spill.
- **SGM006033:** Noise exceedance during evening and night noise monitoring rounds (13/05/2025)
 - Moderate
 - Whilst conducting quarterly noise monitoring, it was found that the noise levels were exceeded at the south during the evening monitoring round and at the North and East during the night monitoring rounds.
 - The noise levels were slightly above limits at the southern monitoring location during the evening due to core farm rollers which have since been replaced.
 - Nearest sensitive receivers were contacted with no reports of nuisance noise.
 - No complaints have been received.
- **SGM006038:** Incorrectly constructed bund (16/05/2025)
 - Minor
 - There was an incorrectly constructed bund at the batch plant that was intended to be used to contain water run-off from washing IBCs.
 - The mining team was advised that it was not appropriate way to contain liquid runoff. The runoff was redirected to a concrete bund and the old bund was filled in.
 - Training and awareness on correct disposal of wastewater was conducted.
- **SGM006037:** Fauna and Flora - Interactions (02/06/2025)
 - Moderate
 - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring location DG24, BG1 and BG3.
 - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.

In responding to a question, SGM advised that blast designs have been altered to prevent future damage to SUPL.

3.11 Regulatory Notices

There were no new regulatory notices issued in Q2 2025.

SGM has fulfilled the requirements of the previously issued PAN and has committed to continue to do so. An annual review of the hydraulic containment system has been completed by SGM and AECOM and submitted to an EPA accredited auditor. Once completed, reporting and auditor report will be submitted to the EPA.

4. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

SGM reported that their new website has been launched. The old Community Hub information is housed within the new website, with the old address redirecting people to the new location.

SGM advised that after 2 seasons of poor strike rate of grass taking at the Davis Pit rehabilitation site, 1,980 tube plants were recently planted at the site. SGM partnered with Project Platypus and Greenfingers regarding the supply of plants and tree guards. When asked if the plants will be watered during the summer period, SGM said that they are currently looking into watering options – there is not however the capacity to provide regular watering.

SGM and WMCA advised that they had partnered to plant out eroding sheep paddocks with native trees and shrubs. Rip lines have been erected and planting will occur across 2.5 hectares of land. BGLC will supply the tube stock of ~2,500 plants.

Action 120825.2 – SGM to share the photos from the presentation, regarding the planting, with Bryanna from WCMA.

4.1 Rehabilitation Plan Update – Laura Chibnall, Grounded Resource Advisory

Laura Chibnall provided an update to the ERC regarding the post mining land tenure and explained the work that is currently being undertaken to update the Closure Plan that was last submitted to the ERR in 2021. This will be resubmitted in 25/26.

It was noted that the SGM Mine Closure Plan:

- Is a requirement under MRSD Act 1990
- SGM is required to remove all infrastructure and remediate land (unless otherwise agreed) and return to pre-mining condition – Environmental Bond
- The Closure Plan must identify post mining land use and land tenure
- The Closure Plan must document stakeholder input into the planned outcomes
- SGM has recently engaged in conversations with NGSC regarding potential end land use
- DEECA will be further advised of the outcomes.

Laura also shared that the Future Opportunities Study, originally initiated in 2013, was updated in 2024.

There are a number of areas for consideration in regard to future use of the land, including:

1. Mining & Emergency Training Centre
2. Solar Farm
3. Mine rehabilitation research Federation University Future Regions.

Peter noted that he is pleased that the concept of the Solar Farm has been included and asked if he could get details of how this concept is presented in the study.

Action 120825.3 – SGM to provide a copy of the updated Future Opportunities Study (or sections relevant to the Solar Farm) to the Chair so that it can be shared on Basecamp.

SGM was asked about the viability of leaving features on site that highlight the use of the land for mining. There are other locations where this has occurred (e.g. Castlemaine). ERR noted that the feasibility of this option often comes back to who has responsibility for the land and the on-going costs and risks of maintaining features. SGM noted that the erection of storyboards post the closure could be an option in ensuring that the history of the site is not lost.

SGM will provide a shareable version of the presentation that can be loaded on Basecamp.

In responding to questions, SGM confirmed that in the instance that the mine continues to operate, the mine closure plan would continue to be reviewed and revised in accordance with the required timeframes. ERR confirmed that in the event of the mine being sold to another operator, the new owner would carry the liability.

Action 120825.4 – SGM to provide the Chair with a copy of Laura Chibnall’s presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

4.2 Total Cyanide Investigation Findings – Chris Aitken, AECOM

Chris Aitken from AECOM presented findings from his recent total cyanide (TCN) investigation. An increase in results in several unconnected areas around site triggered the investigation. Additional sampling was undertaken by AECOM so that they could investigate the possible causes. This issue has generated significant discussion amongst ERC members in the past, with members keen to understand the steps undertaken by SGM to find the cause of increases and inconsistencies. SGM and ERC members reiterated the importance of the ERC and community being able to be confident in the data that is being reported.

Chris provided a comprehensive overview of his findings and concluded that:

- Multiple lines of evidence indicate that there has not been a real change to ground chemistry
 - Rapid spread of detections is inconsistent with groundwater flow rate
 - Broad changes to groundwater chemistry at the site have not occurred
 - Sampling error or bias is very unlikely
- Results are consistent with positive interference from thiocyanate, a known issue, and a change to way the samples have been analysed by the Lab.

In responding to questions from ERC members Chris advised that:

- SGM (and AECOM) are still working with ALS to find a way that they can report reliably going forward.
- There has been inter-lab analysis of the samples and that the results were the same when a third-party lab analysed the samples.
- ALS have advised that it is not possible to go back to the previous sample analysis method.

An ERC member noted that a lot of time and energy has gone into the sampling and assessment, and some of this could be perceived to be wasteful, given there is not clarity regarding the methods and reporting moving forward. SGM observed that although this has been a frustrating process at times, the primary concern has been to ascertain whether there had been an actual change to the groundwater chemistry.

SGM noted that the only thing that has changed in current reporting methods is that they are not taking TCN samples at the moment as they are not confident in the results. All other monitoring and reporting remains unchanged, as does the ongoing operation of the hydraulic containment system.

The EPA and ERR have been kept in the loop regarding the recordings and investigation at all times.

It was decided that to help build confidence that ERC members have a sound understanding of the investigation and findings SGM would produce a 1–2-page document that clearly explains the processes undertaken, key findings and what will be occurring into the future.

Action 120825.5 – SGM to provide ERR with a recorded copy of Chris Aitken’s report given during the meeting.

Action 120825.6 – Chris Aitken to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

Action 120825.7 – SGM to produce a 1-2 page document for the ERC that clearly explains the processes that have been undertaken, key findings and what will be occurring into the future.

5. REGULATOR UPDATES

5.1 Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

EPA reported that they had completed an onsite inspection at SGM earlier in the year and that they were comfortable with the work being undertaken by SGM in relation to the increases in total cyanide recordings; operation and reporting of the hydraulic containment system; and on-site waste management.

5.2 Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)

ERR had to leave the meeting early and therefore did not provide a report. They asked for a copy of Chris Aitken's report/findings to be shared with them as they missed part of the meeting.

5.3 Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)

The WCMA reinforced that they are pleased to be partnering with SGM to refence and revegetate eroding sheep paddocks.

5.4 Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

No report was given by DEECA as no one was in attendance.

5.5 Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC)

There was no report from NGSC.

Action 120825.8 – Chair to send a reminder to the EPA that they are scheduled to present at the November SGM meeting. NGSC will present at the February 2026 meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

SGM was asked if it had noticed any negativity to mining and their operations in the current climate. SGM observed that they had not noticed this locally. SGM has recently conducted a community engagement session in the main street of Stawell in order for the public to have an opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns or otherwise engage with SGM. 125 people visited in person and there were ~7,000 online engagements with no negative feedback. It was noted that in the exploration tenements further north, it was expected that some anti resources sentiment may be experienced.

SGM asked the committee if there was ongoing interest for presentations from mine staff at the quarterly meetings. A resounding yes was received, therefore SGM will invite a Geology team member to speak at the November meeting.

Action 120825.9 – SGM to invite a member of the Geology team to speak at the November meeting.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

7.1 New Action Items

Action number	Action item
120825.1	Cameron Hope to share a screen grab of the active side of the mine with Kate van Dyck.
120825.2	SGM to share the photos from the presentation regarding the planting with Bryanna from WCMA.
120825.3	SGM to provide a copy of the updated Future Opportunities Study (or sections relevant to the Solar Farm) to the Chair so that it can be shared on Basecamp.
120825.4	SGM to provide the Chair with a copy of Laura Chibnall's presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.
120825.5	SGM to provide ERR with a recorded copy of Chris Aitken's report given during the meeting.
120825.6	Chris Aitken to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.
120825.6	SGM to produce a 1-2 page document for the ERC that clearly explains the processes that have been undertaken, key findings and what will be occurring into the future.
120825.8	Chair to send a reminder to the EPA that they are scheduled to present at the November ERC meeting. NGSC will present at the February 2026 meeting.
120825.9	SGM to invite a member of the Geology team to speak at the November meeting.
120825.10	SGM to check availability of the venue with Stawell RSL and inform the Chair.

7.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 11th November 2025. Afternoon tea will be provided after the meeting to celebrate the end of the year. It was noted that the next meeting occurs on Remembrance Day. SGM will check the availability of the RSL.

Any members wanting to attend online should contact the Chair and Cameron Hope in the lead up to the meeting.

Action 120825.10 – SGM to check availability of the venue with Stawell RSL and inform the Chair.