



# Stawell Gold Mines

Environment Review Committee Minutes

10 February 2026



## ERC MEETING AGENDA

1. Open Meeting\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhy
2. Apologies, Previous Minutes and Actions\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhy
3. Environmental Report\_\_\_\_\_Peter Gross
4. SGM Blasting Presentation\_\_\_\_\_Clytie Robinson
5. Other Business\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhy
6. Regulator & Council Update\_\_\_\_\_ERR, EPA, NGSC, DELWP, WCMA
7. NGSC Presentation\_\_\_\_\_Denise Sumper
8. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhy

### 1. OPEN MEETING

#### 1.1 Attendees

ERC Members	Geoff Stratford, Rosalind Byass, Stephen Fielding
SGM	Annie McPherson (Community Engagement Officer), Stephanie Koziol (Community Engagement Officer), Peter Gross, Ashleigh Mostert, Clytie Robinson
Regulators	Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Georgia Lannen (ERR), Denise Sumper (NGSC), Paris Fiedler (WCMA), Jake Morris (EPA)
Chair	Kieran Murrhy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

### 2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

#### 2.1 Apologies

Cameron Hope (SGM), Bryana Bisset (WCMA), Alex Wells (EPA), Kate van Dyck (ERC), Margaret Taylor (ERC)

#### 2.2 Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 11 November 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
111125.1	Alex Wells to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp. <b>(Completed)</b>
111125.2	NGSC will present at the February 2026 SGM meeting. <b>(Completed)</b>
111125.3	SGM to invite a member of the Blasting team to speak at the February meeting. <b>(Completed)</b>
111125.4	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp. <b>(On-going)</b>

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q4 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**

Aspect	Monitoring	Status	Comments
Air Quality	Dust deposition	●	Compliant.
	AAQMS	●	Compliant.
	Hydrogen cyanide	●	Compliant.
	Emissions	●	Compliant.
Blasting	Site	●	All blasts below 95 <sup>th</sup> 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 and no reports of nuisance noise.
Water	Offsite bores	●	No new exceedances. Compliant with HSC drawdown metric.
	Offsite farm dams	○	Performed annually in Q3
	Offsite creeks	○	Performed annually in Q3
	Freeboard	●	Compliant.
Flora and Fauna	Site	●	Compliant.
Incidents	Site	●	6 environmental incidents reported. All closed out.
Regulatory Notices	Site	●	No new regulatory notices in force.
Community	Complaints	●	Eight complaints were received. Fully Resolved.

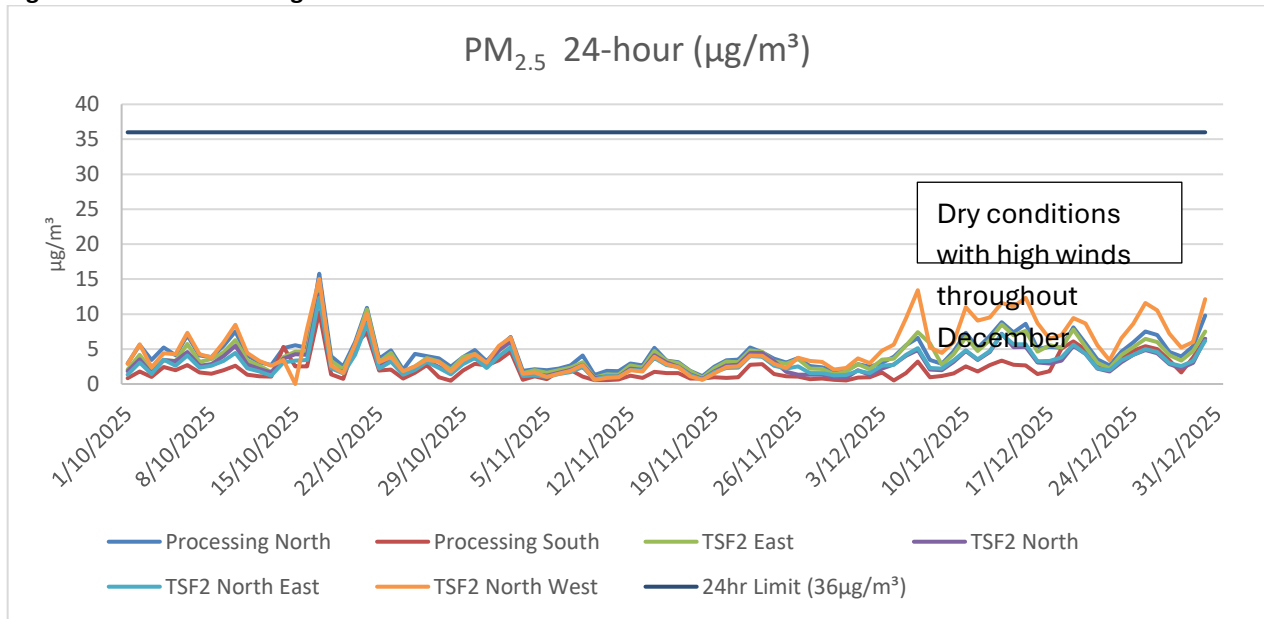
- Fully compliant with criteria.
- Irregular or isolated event. Requires further investigation and actions if applicable.
- Exceedance of criteria requiring action.
- Not monitored during reporting period.

### 3.1 Real Time Air Quality Monitoring

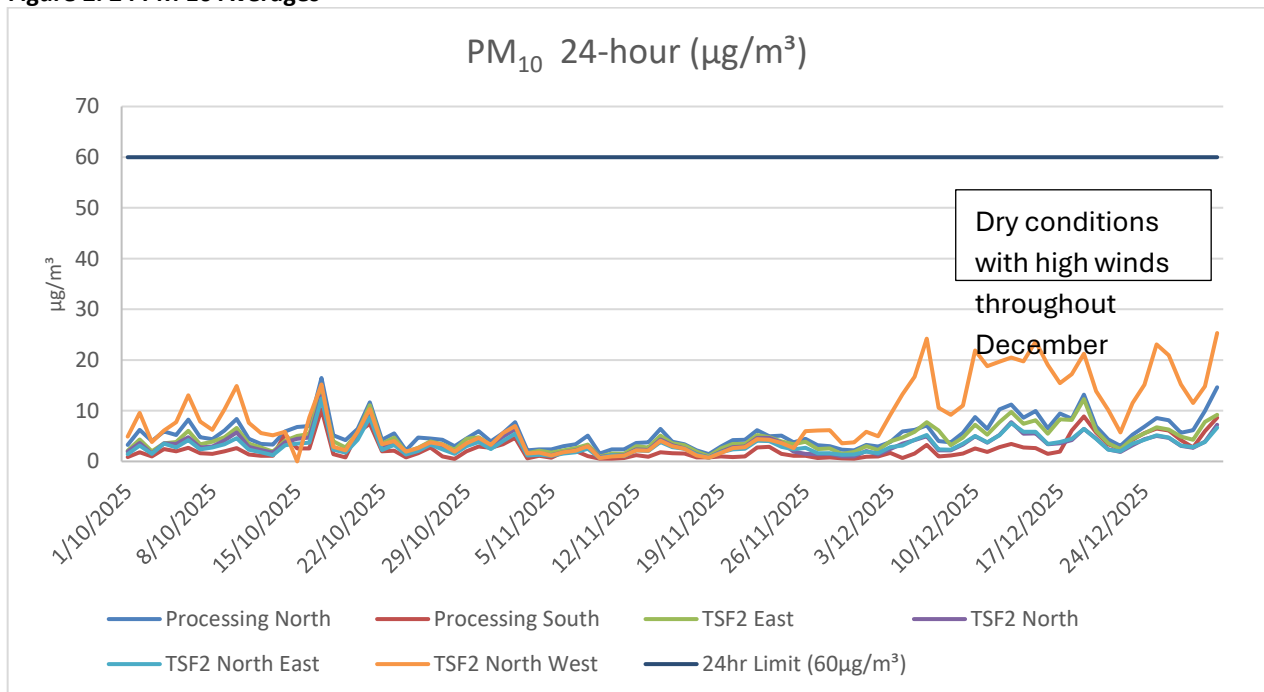
All mine related emissions were within their respective 24h guidance values for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>.

SGM noted there had been some recent challenges due to extreme heat conditions. One real time air quality monitor ceased operating on a 49-degree day. It was brought in from the field and placed under an air-conditioner to cool down. Once operational it was placed back in position on site.

**Figure 1. 24 PM 2.5 Averages**



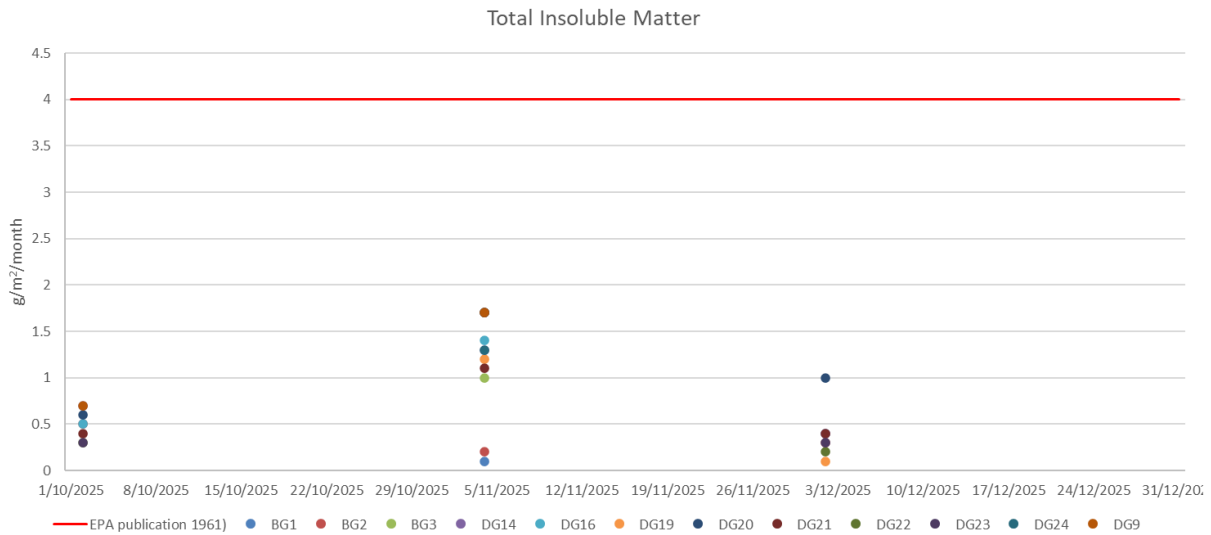
**Figure 2. 24 PM 10 Averages**



### 3.2 Dust Deposition

There were no dust exceedances during this quarter.

Figure 3. Dust Deposition Monthly Averages

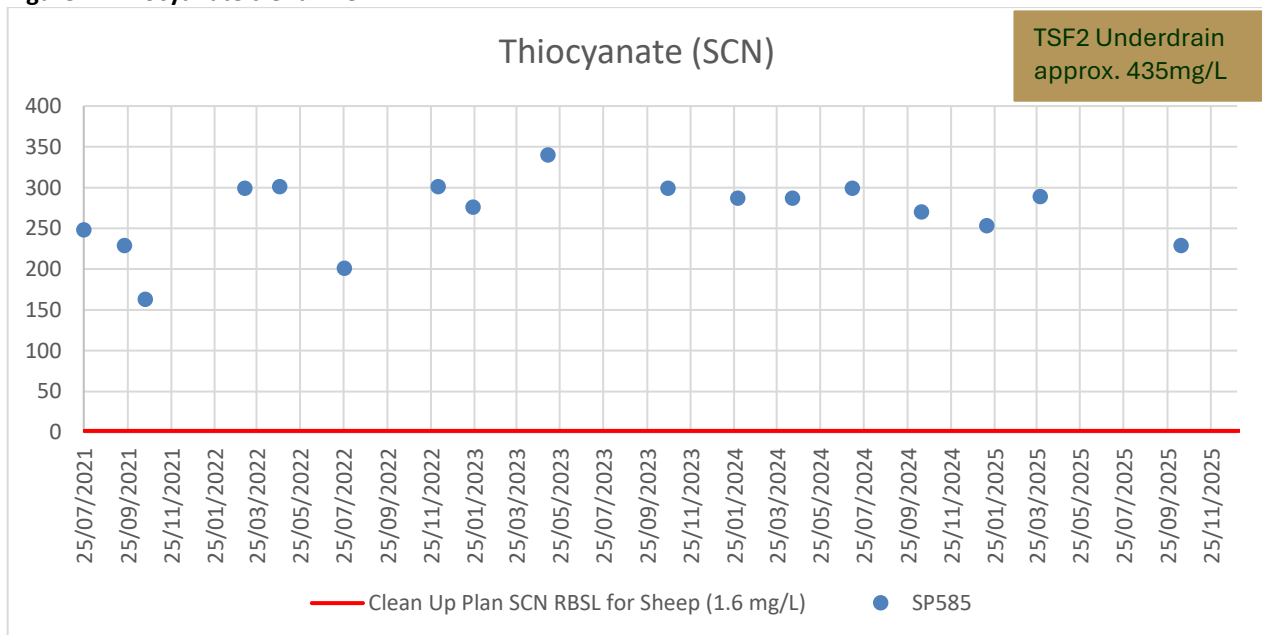


### 3.3 Groundwater

The most recent sampling event at SP585 showed a concentration of 229mg/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 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’.

SGM noted that another assessment at this site is currently being undertaken by AECOM.

Figure 4. Thiocyanate trend line



### 3.4 Noise

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

Noise level emissions during the evening period were compliant with site noise level guidance values at all monitored locations except the East location.

Noise level emissions during the nighttime period were compliant with site noise level guidance values at all monitored locations except the East location.

Noise level emissions independent auditor Norm Broner attended site in November and signed off each of the enviro team as compliant with requirements to attended noise monitoring.

**Table 2. Q3 Noise Monitoring Results**

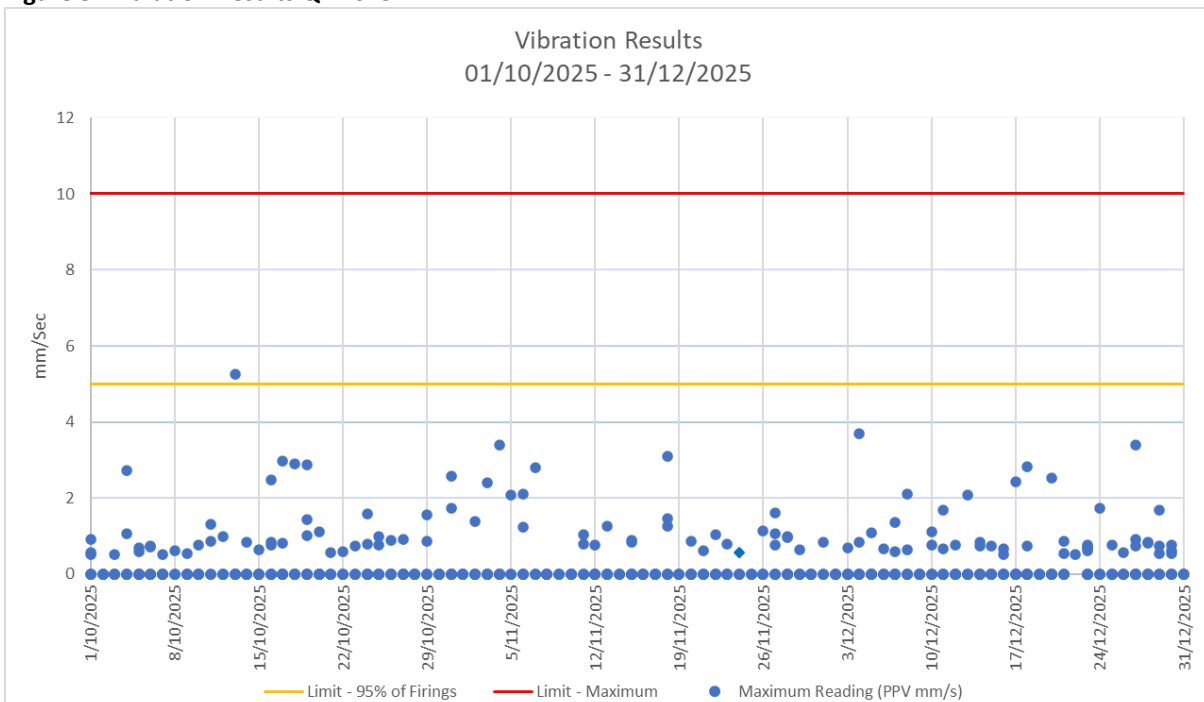
Monitoring Site	Day (07:00 to 18:00)	Evening (18:00 to 22:00)	Night (22:00 to 07:00)
Limit (LAeq)	50 dB	44 dB	39 dB
West	Mine Not Audible	Mine Not Audible	Mine Not Audible
South	42	38	34
North	Mine Not Audible	43	38
East	47	46	46
East 2	-	Mine Not Audible	39

### 3.5 Production Areas for Q1 2026

The production areas remain unchanged from the previous quarter.

### 3.6 Q4 Blasting – Firings Graph

**Figure 5. Vibration Results Q4 2025**



SGM recorded one reading above the 95<sup>th</sup> %ile limit of 5mm/sec during the quarter.

### 3.7 Hydrogen Cyanide Monitoring

SGM's Hydrogen Cyanide readings showed no exceedances during the quarter.

### 3.8 Complaints

There were six community complaints during Q4 2025.

- One complaint regarding various issues was received via both Facebook and telephone in late November. The issues raised included an odour coming from TSF2, illegal rubbish dumping on public land and incorrect disposal of waste on site. SGM's Community team undertook an odour observation in line with the standard operating procedures for this type of complaint and were unable to detect any odour adjacent to the complainant's property. NGSC were contacted to dispose of the illegally dumped rubbish and the complainant was given further information on the various methods of waste disposal undertaken by SGM.
- In December five complaints from three residences were received for vibrations regarding blast activity across two blast events. All complainants are known to SGM and the company regularly engages with each of the complainants. Both blasts were under 5mm/s and SGM continues to work closely with the community to address all queries and concerns.

SGM was asked what the vibration levels were in regards to the complaints received. This question was taken on notice as SGM did not have the details to hand. This information will be provided to ERR.

*Action 100226.1 – SGM to provide ERR with the vibration levels recorded in relation to the five complaints received in December 2025.*

### 3.9 Environmental Incidents

There were six environmental incidents during Q4 2025.

- **SGM88:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (02/10/2025)
  - Minor
  - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring location BG1, DG19 & DG24
  - Glass funnel broke on DG22.
  - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM99:** Vibration – Exceedance (14/10/2025)
  - Minor
  - Firing the 960 level (960-2143-75) following Monday day shift had vibration recorded at 5.25mm/s at the Navarre Road Monitor.
  - 5% of blasting activity are permitted to be above 5mm/sec with an absolute limit of 10mm/sec.
  - In order to correctly analyse, log and mitigate future elevated results, SGM records blasts results about 5mm/sec as incidents.
  - No complaints were received from this event and no damage to property or infrastructure was recorded.
- **SGM117** Spill (24/10/2025)
  - Minor
  - A minor failure in the headworks of a pump on Big Hill resulted in minor emissions of water and sediment across an area of ~15m<sup>2</sup>.
  - The spill was identified and pumping ceased while clean up and repairs were made.
  - There was no environmental damage and the incident was reported to the regulator with no follow up actions required.
- **SGM175:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (02/11/2025)
  - Negligible
  - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring location BG3, DG9, DG16 & DG24
  - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.

- **SGM205: Dust - Emissions (30/12/2025)**
  - Moderate
  - During a period of high SSE winds, salt was observed to be raising from the surface of TSF2 and leaving the compound towards the bushland to the NNW of site.
  - Salt raising occurred intermittently over a period of ~3hours.
  - Additional personnel and water carts were deployed in response to the event and additional dust suppressant was applied to the TSF2 surface. These actions effectively controlled salt mobilisation and prevented additional potential offsite impacts.
  - Elevated readings were seen in instantaneous TSF2 NW monitoring results however all monitors were complaint for 24hour averages.
  - The event was reported to EPA and ERR.
  
- **SGM219: Noise - Exceedance (18/11/2025)**
  - Minor
  - Elevated readings at the East monitoring location during the evening and night monitoring period.
  - Mine noises were intermittently audible, along with non-mine noises such as sheep, cars on public roads and air traffic.
  - Noise limits were not exceeded at the step-back locations.
  - No complaints were received and no reports of nuisance noise.

When asked if there was a solution to the ongoing and consistent guano contamination issue, SGM explained that this is an industry wide issue, operation of dust deposition gauges are governed by an Australian Standard and they have not been able to find a viable and practical solution.

ERR noted they were satisfied with the speed and effectiveness of the response from SGM in relation to the dust emission incident that occurred on 30/12/2025.

### 3.10 Tailings Dam Management

SGM has finalised its annual works and completed annual internal reporting. AECOM has conducted their annual review and report and EPA accredited auditor has reviewed and issues a report and recommendations. These recommendations have been accepted by SGM and the company has committed to an implementation program.

All reports have been submitted to the EPA. The EPA confirmed they are finalising their review.

The independent EPA Auditor made several recommendations that are now being looked into by SGM. They include:

- An update to the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). This has been actioned by SGM and three new on-site wells and a two new extraction bores have been written into the plan.
- Rationalisation of sampling frequency. SGM have been working with AECOM and the independent auditor regarding this recommendation. It has been completed.
- Reduction in pumping rates at high flow locations. This is optimisation will be ongoing.
- Install an additional 7 monitoring bores that will be become part of the sampling regime. Installation will commence in January 2026 and the initial phase will cost approximately \$125k.
- Changes to sampling methodology (in conjunction with AECOM). SGM reported that they have been investigating different sampling technology to enhance collection efficiencies and effectiveness while also ensuring EPA standards continue to be met.

### 3.11 Flora & Fauna Update

- The Annual Ecological Assessment of Vegetation surrounding TSF2 was undertaken of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2025.
- All the monitoring sites as well as the general reconnaissance of TSF2 did not show vegetation decline or degradation.
- The current management procedures indicate that the health of the plant cover is satisfactory to maintain an adequate vegetation community which is necessary to maintain surface stability and control erosion.

### 3.12 Davis Pit Rehabilitation

SGM reported on the progress of the 1980 plants that were planted last year. There has been a 90% strike rate at this stage and a watering and moisture program is currently underway.

## 4. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

### 4.1 Blasting Presentation – Clytie Robinson

SGM's Clytie Robinson provided an overview of blasting at SGM. Key insights include:

- The primary purpose of blasting is to make big blocks of ore into smaller manageable sizes for transportation, processing and production requirements.
- Development blasting is used to make the tunnels to get to the ore. These are typically smaller and shorter blasts.
- Production blasting makes blocks of ore into smaller blocks.
- The drill design for blasting is created by engineers based on site standards and includes a process for quality control and checks by senior staff.
- Detonators are used to initiate explosives at a determined time. SGM uses ANFO (Ammonia Nitrate Fuel Oil) blast and package. SGM is researching the potential use of alternative materials that may reduce shockwaves – if there is any change this would not be in the short term. In responding to a question, SGM confirmed that the packages contain chemicals (emulsions).
- In responding to a question, SGM advised that it is exceptionally rare for detonators to not go off – and there are protocols and training that mitigate risk in the event of this occurring.
- Vibration is the shock waves being felt at a distance from the blast. Vibrations are measured by monitors situated at various locations around Stawell- including in areas of community concern.
- SGM operates under licence conditions with limits for blast vibrations – which cannot exceed 10mm/s and 95% of all blasts must not exceed a limit of 5mm/s.
- SGM uses a prediction model and in instances where the prediction exceeds 5mm/s a revision is undertaken, with an aim to have firings below 3mm/s.
- In responding to a question, SGM advised that there are approximately 4-5 production blasts a week. These typically occur at 5:30pm. It was also noted that 48 development firings had occurred in the week preceding the meeting, and that these can occur on any day of the week.
- SGM is undertaking a range of vibration management activities including:
  - Currently engaging with specialists to ensure the ore ppV prediction calculator is correct.
  - Quality Control- engineers are checking the holes and charging practices are to design and follow standards.
  - Engineers are receiving ongoing training to improve their hole and charge designs.
  - Improved communication with the community-engineers have updated process for notifications.
  - Explosive Type- Investigating different products that do not create such shock waves.

The presentation was well received and Clytie was thanked by the Chair and ERC for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**Action 100226.2** – Clytie Robinson to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

## 5. REGULATOR UPDATES

### 5.1 Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

The EPA had nothing to report.

### 5.2 Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)

The ERR informed the ERC that they have a new Chief Inspector in their Compliance Team – Renee Palmer. They also informed the ERC that they will be visiting the mine in the next quarter.

### 5.3 Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)

The WCMA had nothing to report.

### 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)

See section 7 for NGSC presentation.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the ERC that committee member Peter Mueller has resigned from the ERC due to work commitments. He was thanked by the Chair for his valued contributions to the ERC whilst a member.

The Chair reminded members there are still vacancies on the committee. Members are encouraged to promote vacancies within their networks.

The Chair asked any members who aren't on Basecamp to let him know so that they can be added.

SGM informed the committee that they are staging a Community Engagement Pop-Up in shop 108 in the Main Street from 26-28 February. A selection of historic mine maps will be on display. SGM agreed to bring maps along to the May meeting so that they can be viewed by the committee.

A member questioned a news item he had heard on ABC news earlier in the day regarding North Stawell Minerals. SGM noted that the story had been incorrectly reported by the media and that they would upload the media release to Basecamp to ensure all members had the correct information regarding extension of the current exploration being undertaken by North Stawell Minerals.

**Action 100226.3** – ERC members not on Basecamp to let the Chair know so that they can be added.

**Action 100226.4** – SGM will display historic mine maps at the May meeting.

**Action 100226.5** – The Chair will invite WCMA to present at a future ERC meeting.

**Action 100226.6** – SGM will upload the North Stawell Minerals media release to Basecamp.

**Action 100226.7** – SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp.

## 7. NGSC PRESENTATION

Denise Sumper from NGSC provided an overview of Council’s key functions, responsibilities and organisational structure. NGSC provided additional context relating to how their regulatory responsibilities relate to the operations of SGM – as well as the operations of other regulators including ERR and EPA. Key observations made in the presentation include:

- Local government serves as the closest form of government to the community, providing essential services, infrastructure, and representation for residents within specific geographic areas. A primary purpose of Local Government is to bring decision-making power closer to the people it affects.
- NGSC covers almost 6,000 square kilometres and possesses spectacular natural scenery, productive farmland and rich gold heritage. More than 11,900 people call Northern Grampians home.
- SGM is located on land that is covered by many local government planning zones and the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO).
- There are a broad range of tasks undertaken by an Environmental Health Officer. Those that are most pertinent to the operations of SGM include:
  - Monitor and control water, air and noise pollution.
  - Initiate and conduct environmental health impact or risk assessment.
- Residents oftentimes use NGSC as their initial point of contact for complaints. NGSC provide multiple ways for residents to register complaints including through their website, via the Snap Send Solve App, or face to face at the Customer Service Centre.
- In the event that NGSC receives a complaint relating to SGM, NGSC will liaise with SGM (and any other relevant authorities) in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and Acts (e.g. Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008)

The presentation was well received and Denise was thanked by the Chair and the ERC for making the presentation.

**Action 100226.8** – Denise Sumper to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

### 8.1 New Action Items

Action number	Action item
100226.1	SGM to provide ERR with vibration levels recorded in relation to the five complaints received in December 2025.
100226.2	Clytie Robinson to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.
100226.3	ERC members not on Basecamp to let the Chair know so that they can be added.
100226.4	SGM will display the historic mine maps at the May meeting.
100226.5	SGM will upload the North Stawell Minerals media release to Basecamp.
100226.6	The Chair will invite WCMA to present at a future ERC meeting.
100226.7	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp.
100226.8	Denise Sumper to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

## **8.2 Next Meeting**

Next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 12 May 2026. The meeting will be held at the Stawell RSL.

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