



# Stawell Gold Mines

Environment Review Committee Minutes

11 November 2025



## ERC MEETING AGENDA

1. Open Meeting\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhiy
2. Apologies, Previous Minutes and Actions\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhiy
3. Environmental Report\_\_\_\_\_Cameron Hope
4. EPA Presentation\_\_\_\_\_Alex Wells
5. SGM Geology Presentation\_\_\_\_\_Matt Stevens
6. Regulator & Council Update\_\_\_\_\_ERR, EPA, NGSC, DELWP, WCMA
7. Other Business\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhiy
8. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda\_\_\_\_\_Kieran Murrhiy

### 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, Ashleigh Mostert
Regulators	Alex Wells (EPA), Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Georgia Lannen (ERR), Denise Sumper (NGSC), Ewan Weaver (WCMA)
Chair	Kieran Murrhiy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

### 2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

#### 2.1 Apologies

Teresa Arnup (NGSC), Bryana Bisset (WCMA)

#### 2.2 Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 13 August 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
120825.1	Cameron Hope to share a screen grab of the active side of the mine with Kate van Dyck. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.2	SGM to share the photos from the presentation regarding the planting with Bryanna from WCMA. <b>(Completed)</b>
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. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.4	SGM to provide the Chair with a copy of Laura Chibnall's presentation that can be shared on Basecamp. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.5	SGM to provide ERR with a recorded copy of Chris Aitken's report given during the meeting. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.6	Chris Aitken to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp. <b>(Completed)</b>
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. <b>(Completed)</b>
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. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.9	SGM to invite a member of the Geology team to speak at the November meeting. <b>(Completed)</b>
120825.10	SGM to check availability of the venue with Stawell RSL and inform the Chair. <b>(Completed)</b>

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q3 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.
	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		Compliant.
	Offsite creeks		Compliant.
	Freeboard		Compliant.
Flora and Fauna	Site		Compliant.
Incidents	Site		3 environmental incidents reported. All closed out.
Regulatory Notices	Site		No new regulatory notices in force.
Community	Complaints		One complaint was received. Fully Resolved.

### 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 reminded the ERC that their Envirosuite Program is continuing to work well, allowing the team to see in real time any issues that arise. It was explained that this will be even more important leading into the drier summer season particularly around the tailings dam. SGM also explained that their TSF2 Dust Management Plan is now in place (this runs from 1 October- 31 May) which sees additional checks and measures undertaken in relation to dust management around the tailings dam during this period.

Figure 1. 24 PM 2.5 Averages

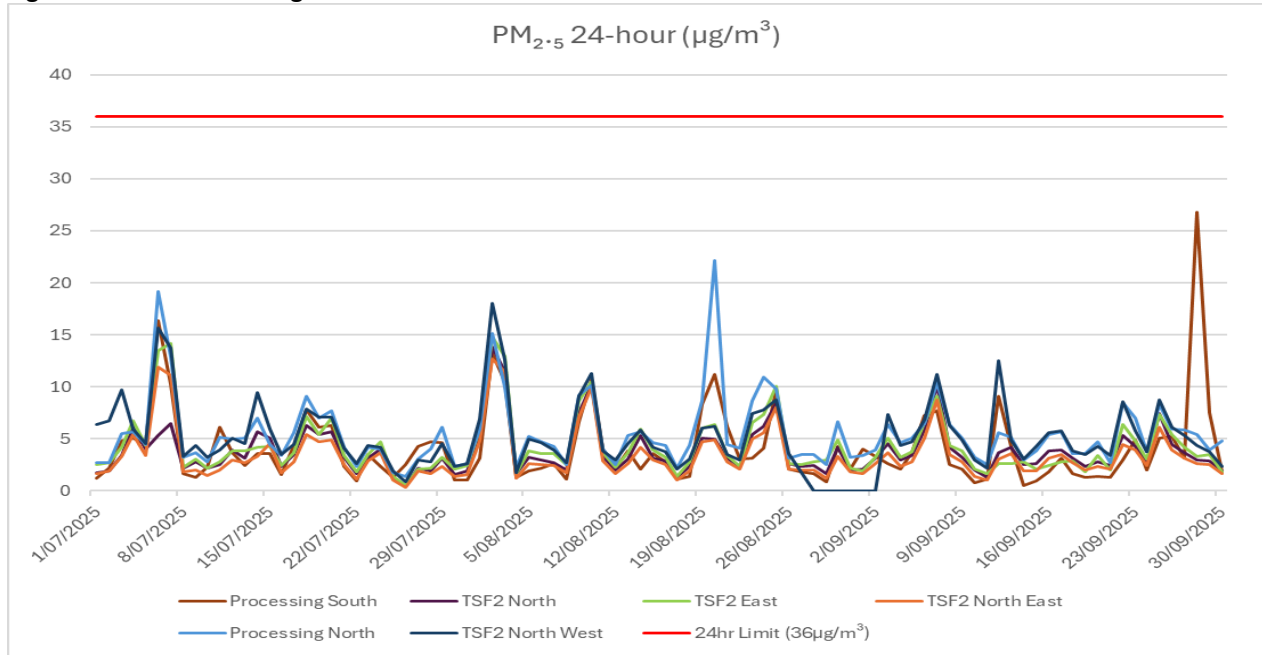
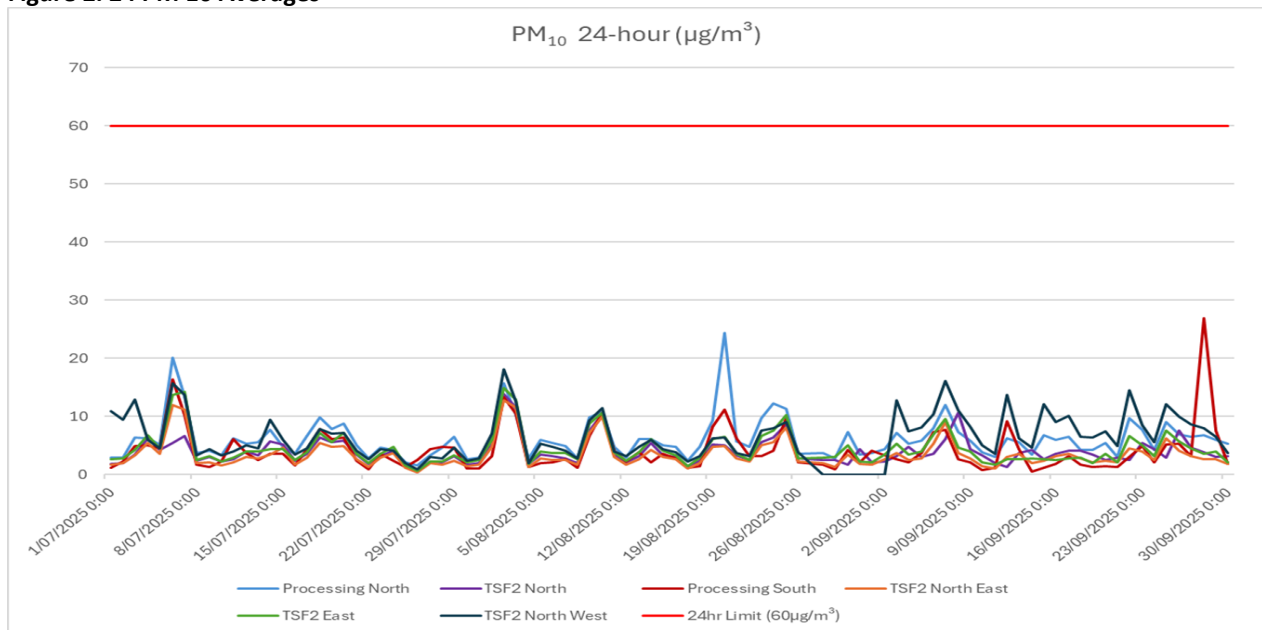


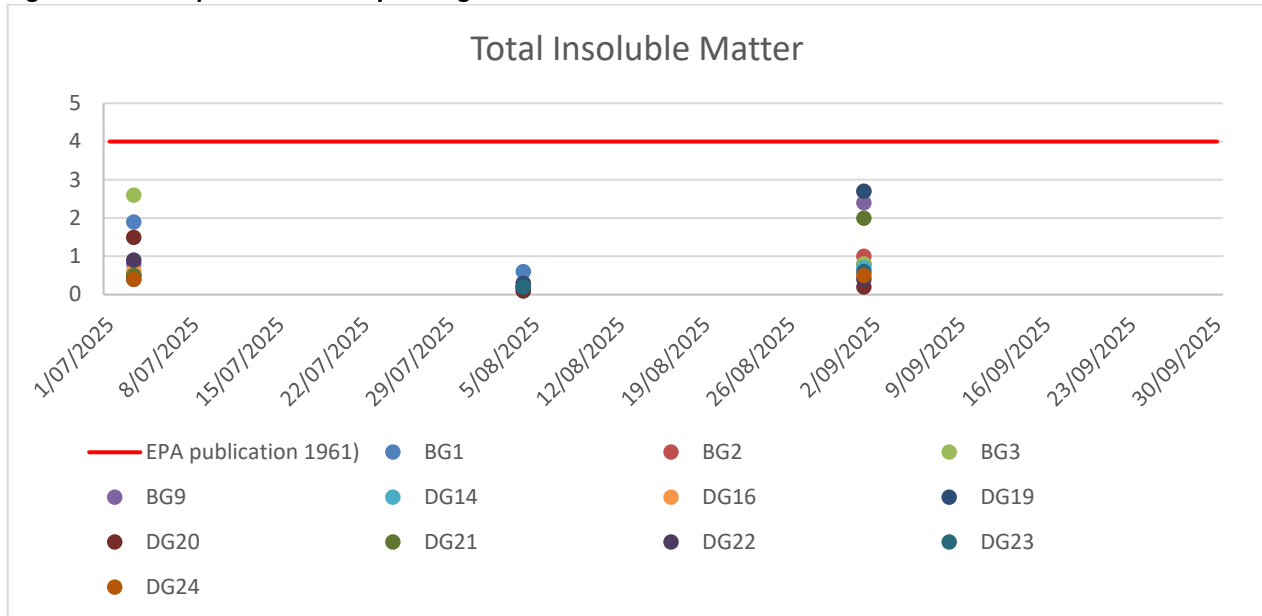
Figure 2. 24 PM 10 Averages



### 3.2 Dust Deposition

There were no dust exceedances during this quarter.

Figure 3. Dust Deposition Monthly Averages



### 3.3 Gaseous Emissions Monitoring

Emissions monitoring of Vent Shaft No. 4 is conducted 6-monthly. Monitoring was completed on 15 September 2025 by Ektimo Consultants. Emissions monitoring results from Vent Shaft No. 4 were all below the modelled point source limits for the September 2025 monitoring event (see Table 2).

Table 2. Vent Shaft No. 4 Emissions Monitoring Results 15 September 2025

Date	Mass Rate (g/min)		
	Carbon Monoxide	Nitrogen Oxides (as NO <sub>2</sub> )	Sulfur Dioxide
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	<20	<30	<40
Point Source Limit	N/A	26	55

Emissions monitoring at the mill afterburner was undertaken on 15 September 2025 by Ektimo Consultants. Emissions monitoring results were all below the modelled point source limits for the September monitoring event (see Table 3).

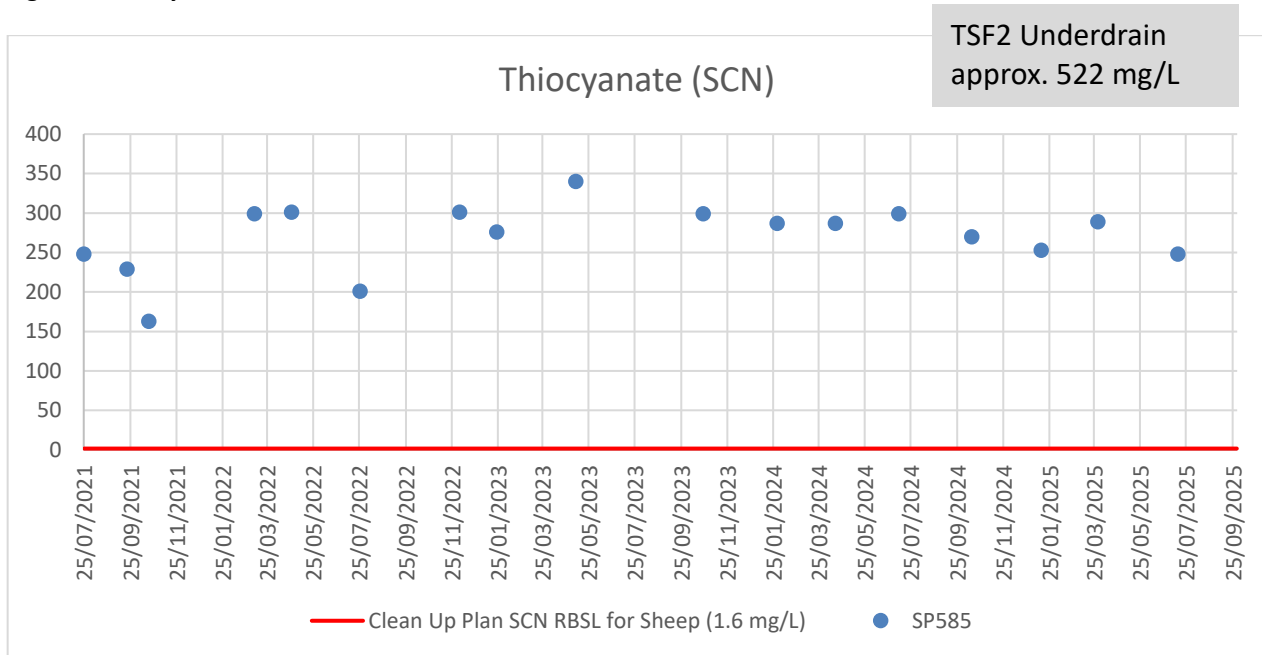
Table 3. Mill Afterburner Emissions Monitoring Results 15 September 2025

Date	Mass Rate (g/min)		
	Carbon Monoxide	Nitrogen Oxides (as NO <sub>2</sub> )	Sulfur Dioxide
15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	3.9	2	1.2
Point Source Limit	75,060	511.2	978

### 3.4 Groundwater

The most recent sampling event at SP585 showed a concentration of 248mg/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’.

Figure 4. Thiocyanate trend line



A member of the ERC asked if there was any long-term trend showing decline. SGM explained that there has not been – figure 4 illustrates that concentration levels have held relatively steady over recent years, including for the most recent reading.

### 3.5 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 guidance values at the Southern and Western locations but elevated readings were recorded at the Northern and Eastern locations.

Some of the noise recorded was instinct in nature and as a result, it was impossible to attribute whether this was emanating from SGM or elsewhere.

No noise complaints were received and no reports of nuisance noise were recorded.

Table 4. Q3 Noise Monitoring Results

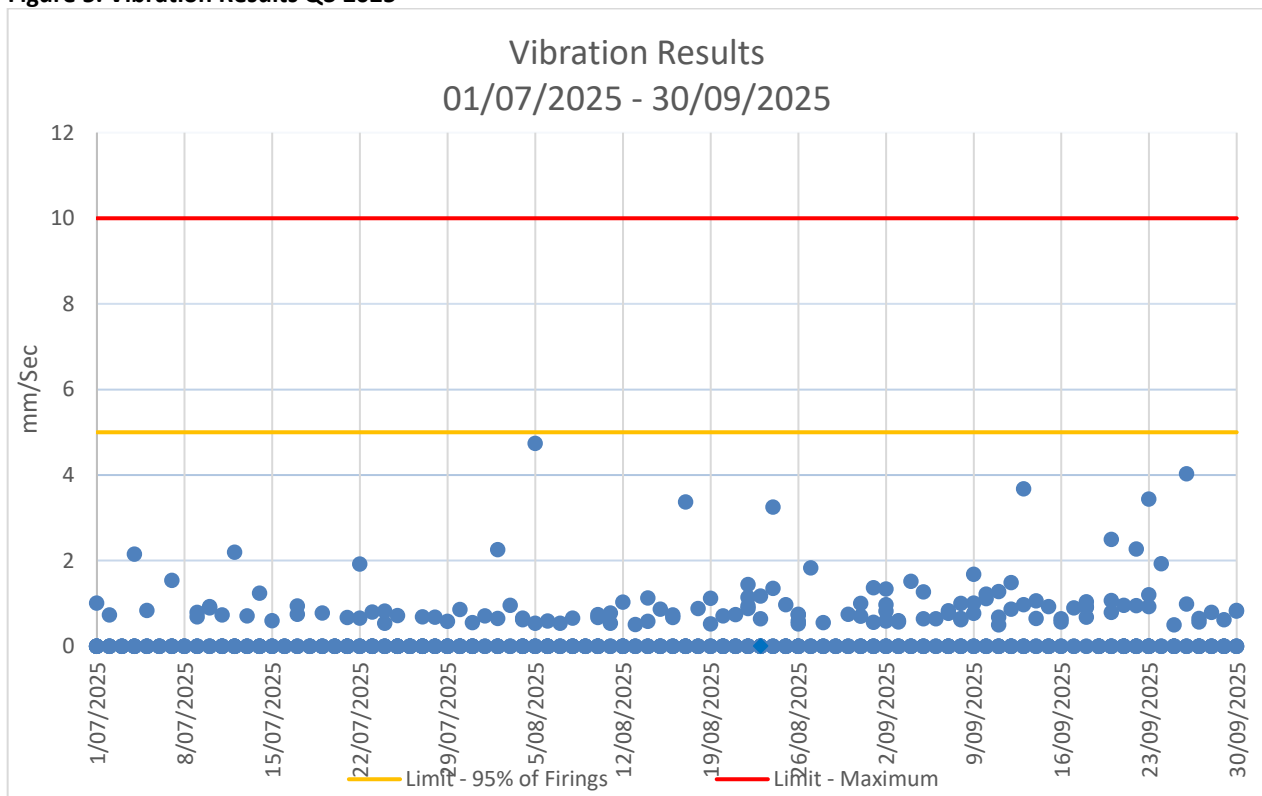
Monitoring Site	Day (07:00 to 18:00)	Evening (18:00 to 22:00)	Night (22:00 to 07:00)
Limit (LAeq)	50 dB	44 dB	39 dB
West	40	41	39
South	44	37	26
South 2	-	-	-
North	47	43	41
North 2	-	-	42
East	45	46	45
East 2	-	39	40

### 3.6 Production Areas for Q4 2025

The production areas remain unchanged from the previous quarter.

### 3.7 Q3 Blasting – Firings Graph

Figure 5. Vibration Results Q3 2025



All readings were below the 95<sup>th</sup> %ile limit of 5mm/sec.

### 3.8 Hydrogen Cyanide Monitoring

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

### 3.9 Complaints

There was one community complaint during Q3 2025.

#### Vibration

- One complaint was received from a resident on 9 September 2025 relating to vibration from a site blast. Maximum reading 1.37mm/sec at Navarre Road monitoring location. Complaint fully closed out.

The team at SGM continues to work closely with the community to address all queries and concerns.

### 3.10 Environmental Incidents

There were three environmental incidents during Q3 2025.

- **SGM134:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (03/07/2025)
  - Moderate
  - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring location DG19
  - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM006041:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (04/08/2025)
  - Moderate
  - Guano in dust sample jar at monitoring location DG24
  - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM139:** Elevated noise levels during evening and night noise monitoring rounds (13-14 August 2025)
  - Moderate
  - Whilst conducting quarterly noise monitoring, elevated readings were recorded at the East monitoring location during the evening monitoring period and at the North and East during the night monitoring period.
  - Monitoring observed inconsistent noises such as vehicle movements and alarms as well as a distant clanging, the source of which (mine related or non-mine related) was unable to be identified.
  - 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.

### 3.11 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 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.

## 4. EPA PRESENTATION

Alex Wells from the EPA provided a comprehensive overview of the EPA and the role they play in Victoria to protect the health of the community and environment from pollution and waste.

Particular focus was placed on the role they play within the mining sector and how they work with mines across the state to ensure they are complying with all rules and regulations. Key observations made in the presentation include:

- EPA does a lot of proactive work to build knowledge within industry of good practice.
- The size and sophistication of the business informs what types of controls are put in place (eg. registration, permits, licence).
- EPA's involvement with SGM is managed through the North West (NW) team. There are 4 mines currently operating in NW region and 4 future projects in the pipeline.
- In terms of SGM oversight, ERR primarily takes the lead, with EPA primarily providing an advisory role.

**Action 111125.1** – Alex Wells to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.

## 5. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

### 5.1 Geology Presentation – Matt Stevens

SGM's Matt Stevens provided an overview of the role of a mine geologist including insights into how exploration is undertaken at SGM. Key insights include:

- GeoVic has great information and maps on their website – see [GeoVic](#)
- There are a range of different methods for gathering information on what is happening below ground including the use of drones for gravity readings and sending electrical impulses into the ground.
- There are a range of different methods for drilling including Aircore (fast and relatively cheap), Reverse Circulation and Diamond Drilling. Diamond Drilling generally provides the most accurate data.
- The geologists gather layers of data over time to make decisions on where and how to drill.
- Knowing the rock (ore body) is just as important for geologists as having the geological technical skills.
- Simply stated – from a geological perspective, the SGM mine area is a basalt dome with a skin of gold.
- The price of gold is a big factor - lower grades of gold become more economically feasible to mine when gold prices are high.

The presentation was well received by all in attendance and Matt was thanked by the Chair and the ERC for taking the time to attend the meeting.

## 6. REGULATOR UPDATES

### 6.1 Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

The EPA had nothing further to report.

### 6.2 Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)

The ERR informed the ERC that they will be visiting the mine at the end of the year to complete an audit.

### 6.3 Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)

The WCMA had nothing to report.

### 6.4 Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

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

## 6.5 Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC)

There was no report from NGSC.

*Action 111125.2 – NGSC will present at the February 2026 SGM meeting.*

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

SGM took the opportunity to thank all ERC members for their commitment during the year and reminded members there are still vacancies on the committee. Members are encouraged to promote vacancies within their networks.

It was noted that the SGM staff presentations are highly valued by the ERC. In considering potential presentations a member suggested that an overview of the blasting methods and techniques would be interesting, SGM will invite a Blasting team member to speak at the February meeting.

The Chair noted that it would be of great value if SGM could provide an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will help members identify presentations of interest.

The Chair also thanked the Committee for their commitment and involvement during the year and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

The meeting concluded with afternoon tea.

*Action 111125.3 – SGM to invite a member of the Blasting team to speak at the February meeting.*

*Action 111125.4 – SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp.*

## 8. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

### 8.1 New Action Items

Action number	Action item
111125.1	Alex Wells to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp.
111125.2	NGSC will present at the February 2026 SGM meeting.
111125.3	SGM to invite a member of the Blasting team to speak at the February meeting.
111125.4	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp.

### 8.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 10 February 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.