

Environmental Review Committee Minutes

12 May 2026

ERC MEETING AGENDA

1. Open Meeting _____ Kieran Murrhy
2. Apologies, Previous Minutes and Actions _____ Kieran Murrhy
3. Environmental Report _____ Cameron Hope
4. Regulator & Council Update _____ ERR, EPA, NGSC, DELWP, WCMA
5. Other Business _____ Kieran Murrhy
6. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda _____ Kieran Murrhy

1. OPEN MEETING

1.1 ATTENDEES

ERC Members	Geoff Stratford, Rosalind Byass, Stephen Fielding, Margaret Taylor, Kate van Dyck
SGM	Cameron Hope (Manager – Environment & Community), Annie McPherson (Community Engagement Officer), Stephanie Koziol (Environmental & Community Officer), Ashleigh Mostert (Environmental & Community Advisor)
Regulators	Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Georgia Lannen (ERR), Shane Gannon (ERR), Denise Sumper (NGSC), Jake Morris (EPA)
Chair	Kieran Murrhy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

2.1 APOLOGIES

Bryana Bisset (WCMA), Peter Gross (SGM)

2.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 10 February 2026, 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
100226.1	SGM to provide ERR with vibration levels recorded in relation to the five complaints received in December 2025. Complete
100226.2	Clytie Robinson to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp. Complete
100226.3	ERC members not on Basecamp to let the Chair know so that they can be added. Complete
100226.4	SGM will display the historic mine maps at the May meeting. Moved to August meeting
100226.5	SGM will upload the North Stawell Minerals media release to Basecamp. Complete
100226.6	The Chair will invite WCMA to present at a future ERC meeting. Complete
100226.7	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp. On-going
100226.8	Denise Sumper to provide the Chair with a presentation that can be shared on Basecamp. Complete

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q1 2026 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 th percentile limit of 5mm/sec.
Noise	Site	●	Elevated readings at South location 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	●	2 environmental incidents reported. All closed out.
Regulatory Notices	Site	●	No new regulatory notices in force.
Community	Complaints	●	Fourteen complaints were received from eight residences. All complaints have been fully resolved with ongoing dialogue around upper level blasting.

- 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 PM2.5 and PM10.

FIGURE 1. 24 PM 2.5 AVERAGES

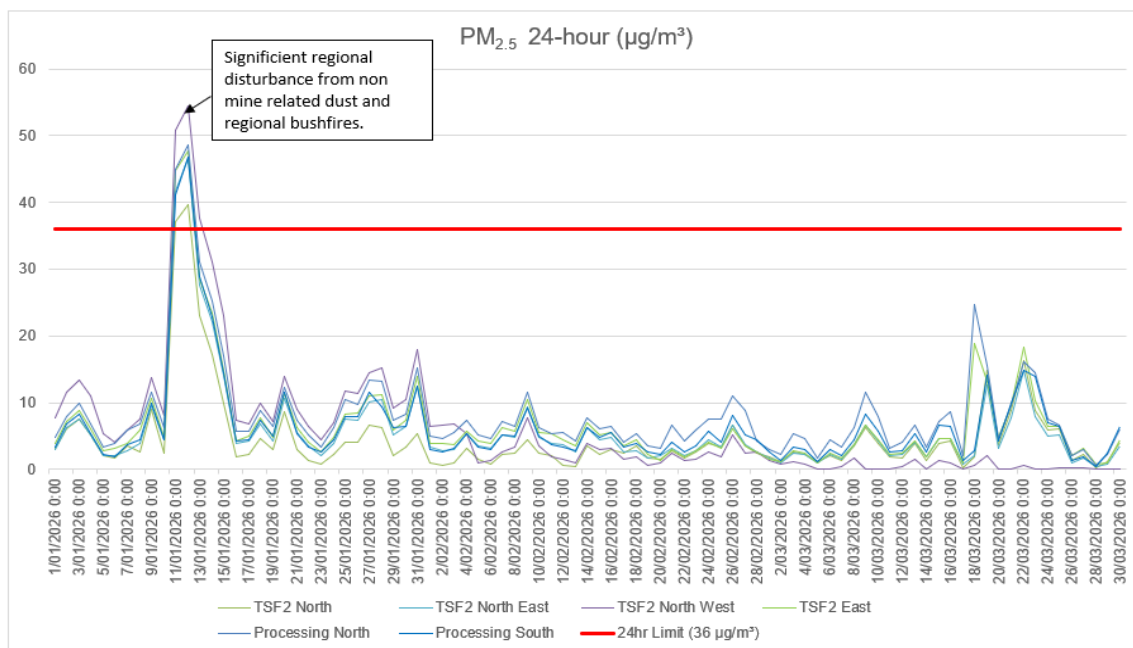
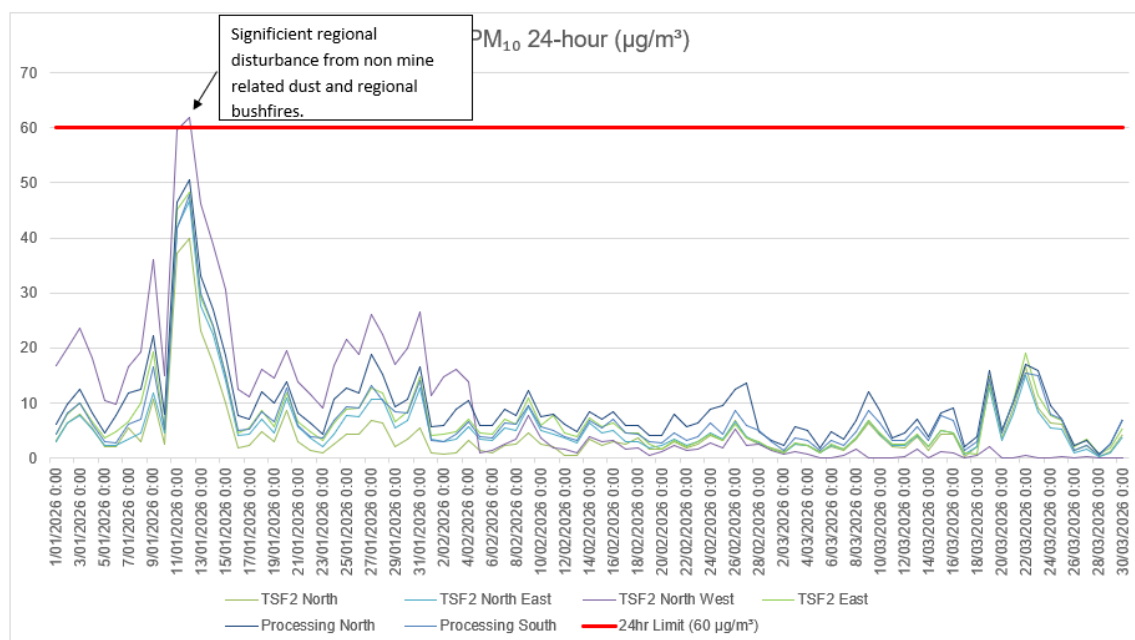


FIGURE 2. 24 PM 10 AVERAGES



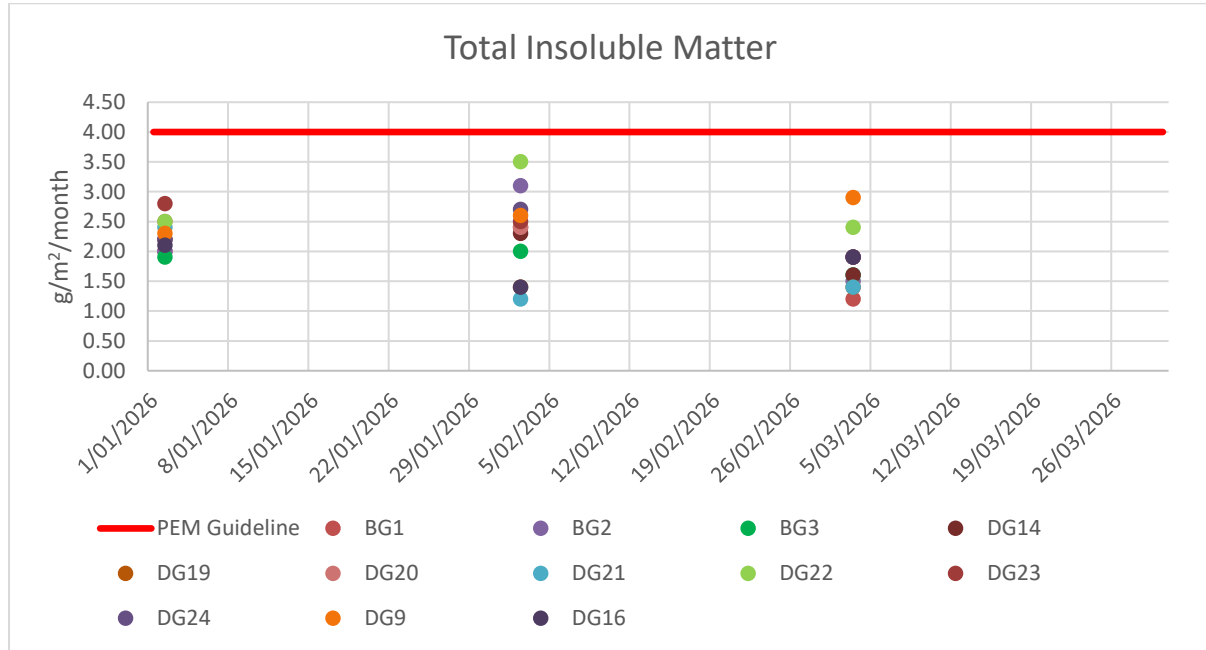
SGM observed that the high wind readings recorded during Q1 (outlined above) did not result in any dust generation from the tailings dam. This highlights the effectiveness of mitigation actions taken over recent years (including the use of a dust suppressant layer). The high-risk period has now passed with the onset of cooler, wetter weather

SGM reported that during Q1 a new weather station was installed on the most exposed corner of the embankment at TSF2. This will assist with generating accurate weather readings for the TSF. In response to a question, SGM advised that this is unlikely to be hit by lightning as it has cover from existing infrastructure.

3.2 DUST DEPOSITION

There were no dust exceedances during this quarter.

FIGURE 3. DUST DEPOSITION MONTHLY AVERAGES



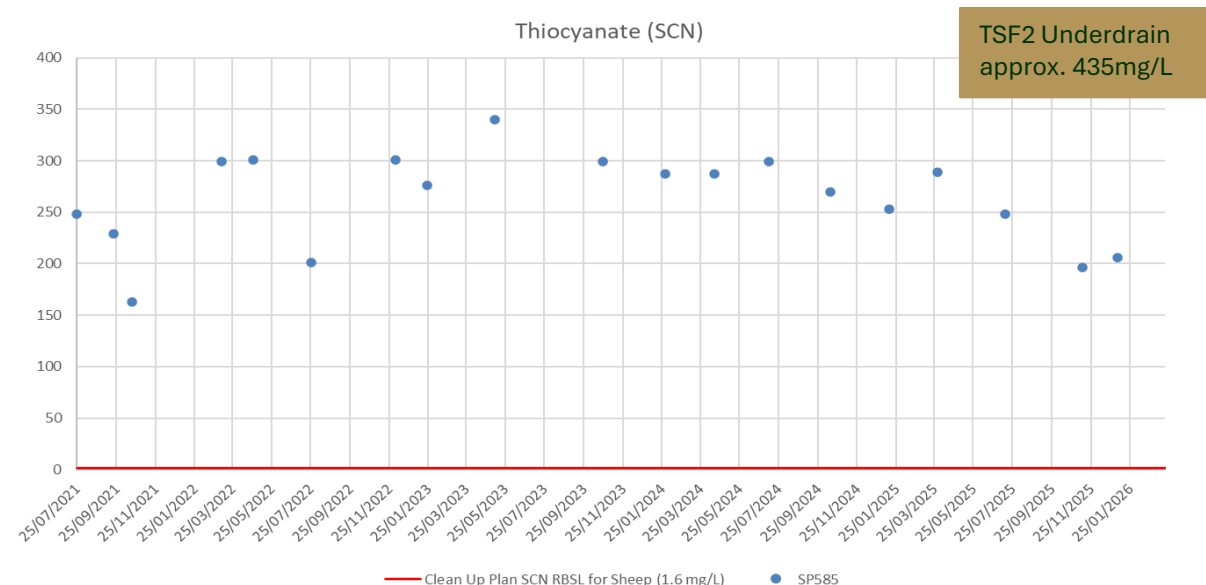
3.3 GROUNDWATER

Post-investigation, sampling and analysis for Total Cyanide have resumed.

The most recent sampling event at SP585 showed a concentration of 206mg/L for Thiocyanate and 0.212mg/l for Total Cyanide. 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.

Trends change each year. Previous trends have included ‘Increasing’, ‘Probably Increasing’ and ‘No Trend’.

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

Noise level emissions during the nighttime period were compliant with site noise level guidance value at all monitored locations except the South and South step-back locations.

Inconsistent and variable noises reported at the south location. No single noise source was identified.

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

TABLE 2. Q1 NOISE MONITORING RESULTS

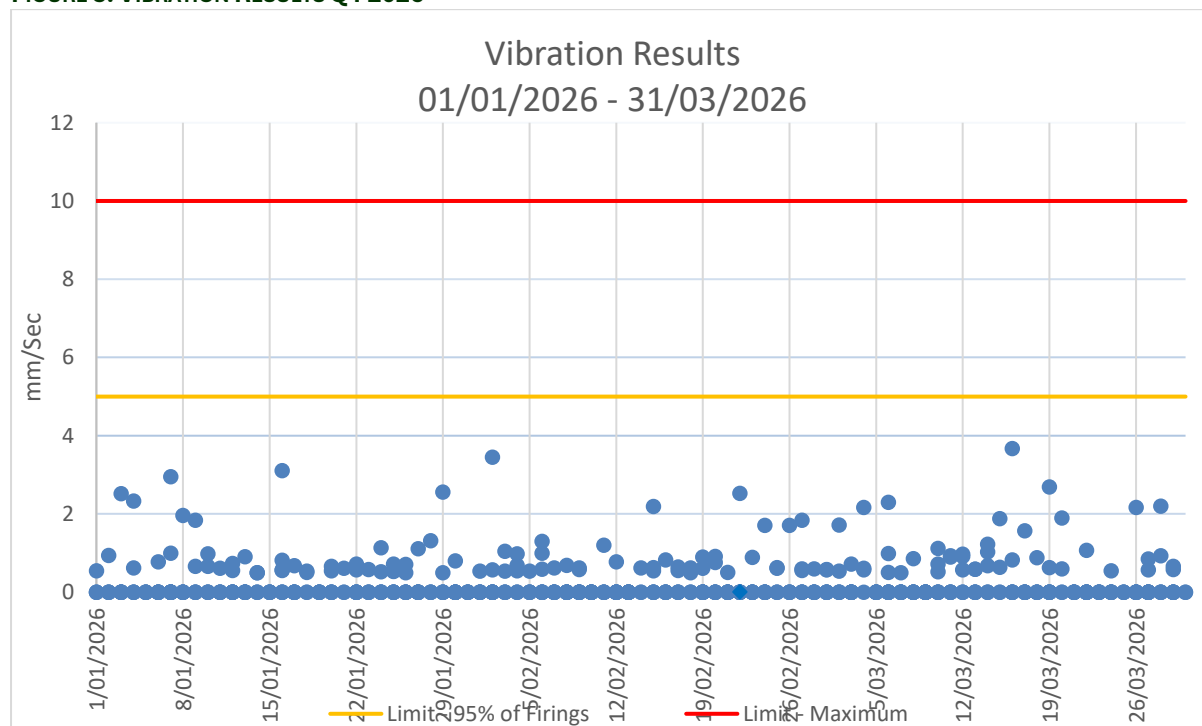
MONITORING SITE	DAY (07:00 TO 18:00)	EVENING (18:00 TO 22:00)	NIGHT (22:00 TO 07:00)
LIMIT (LAEQ)	50 dB	44 dB	39 dB
WEST	MINE NOT AUDIBLE	MINE NOT AUDIBLE	38
SOUTH	45	34	45
NORTH	44	38	MINE NOT AUDIBLE
EAST	44	42	38
SOUTH 2	-	-	43

3.5 PRODUCTION AREAS FOR Q1 2026

The production areas remain relatively unchanged from the previous quarter. There will be a slight increase in blasting frequency in Zone 3 in the 400 and 435 levels.

3.6 Q1 BLASTING – FIRINGS GRAPH

FIGURE 5. VIBRATION RESULTS Q1 2026



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

It was noted that SGM had received several complaints related to blasting during Q1. These complaints are addressed later in the meeting (see section 3.8).

SGM responded to questions relating to the complaints.

- It was noted that the complaints generally are from the same residents. The complainants are a combination of new residents and residents who have lived in Stawell for many years.
- SGM was asked if it is possible that complainants are reporting blasts to ensure they have cover for potential damage to property. SGM advised that they don't know if this is the case. If residents report property damage, SGM can, in some circumstances, engage a specialist to do independent engineering assessments on impact and damage. Each time this has occurred in the past, the assessment has concluded that any structural damage to buildings is not as a result of any mine related activity.
- Evening firings typically occur between 5:30pm and 6:00pm. Blasting typically synchs with shift change times to minimise the number of staff underground. There are occasional mid-day firings and there is not a substantial difference in the number of complaints between mid-day and evening firings.

3.7 HYDROGEN CYANIDE MONITORING

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

3.8 COMPLAINTS

There were 14 community complaints during Q1 2026.

- Two complaints from the same person were received regarding road signs left out after hours. The issue was raised with the traffic control contractor who was reminded to ensure all signage was removed once works are completed each day.

- One complaint was received at 19:47hrs regarding dust escaping from the TSF2 compound. SGM staff were onsite to conduct an inspection at 20:00hrs with another follow up inspection completed at 20:20hrs. On both occasions, inspections recorded no dust generation from the surface of the dam and no visible dust in the area. Security camera footage was reviewed, and no dust was observed and real time air quality monitoring stations recorded no exceedances.

Vibration Blast Complaints

- 11 complaints regarding a series of upper-level firings in the 400RL and 435RL areas were received. All complainants are known to SGM and engagement with all individuals is ongoing.
- Work with the mining engineering team to reduce the impact of vibrations has occurred prior to each event, with the permanent Fisher Street monitor showing results of less than 2.5mm/sec. (Maximum allowable 10mm/sec).
- An additional temporary monitor was set up prior to most upper-level blasts, with SGM staff attending in person to gain insight into the impacts upon amenity.
- Minimal vibration at the temporary monitor (~1/2 of permanent), with some audible noise, was recorded. SGM is working on balancing expectations around noise vs vibration.

TABLE 3. NOISE MONITORING RESULTS FOR BLASTS WHERE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Date	Location	PPV (mm/s)	No. of Complainants
04/01/2026	UG435	2.52	3
17/03/2026	UG435	1.57	3
28/03/2026	UG400	2.2	4
30/03/2026	UG435	2.4	1

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

There were two environmental incidents during Q1 2026.

- **SGM206:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (02/01/2026)
 - Minor
 - 30+ beetles in dust sample jar at monitoring location DG19
 - Contamination leading to data loss. The jar was returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM242:** Noise – Elevated readings (11/02/2026)
 - Minor
 - Elevated readings at the South and Southern step-back monitoring locations during the night monitoring period.
 - Mine noises included traffic movement, intermittent alarm and mill noise.
 - No complaints were received and no reports of nuisance noise recorded.

3.10 TAILINGS DAM MANAGEMENT

SGM has finalised annual works, with internal reporting, AECOM reporting and Auditor Review and Report. All works have been submitted to the EPA.

Current work being undertaken by SGM includes:

- Planning for the expansion of the extraction and monitoring network (Ongoing).
- Changes to sampling methodology (in conjunction with AECOM) (Ongoing).

3.11 FLORA & FAUNA UPDATE

The Annual Ecological Assessment of vegetation surrounding TSF2 was undertaken on the 2 September 2025, with the report received during Q1. All the monitoring sites, as well as the general reconnaissance of TSF2, did not show vegetation decline or degradation.

The report indicated that the health of the plant cover is satisfactory to maintain an adequate vegetation community. This is necessary to maintain surface stability and erosion control.

3.12 DAVIS PIT REHABILITATION

SGM reported on the progress of the 1980 plants that were planted last year.

The summer period finished with a >80% strike rate which is a remarkable success. Maintenance of drainage lines is currently underway and will be completed prior to winter period.

A Mineral Councils Australia photography program is being undertaken during May on the site. Any coverage received will be shared with the Committee at a future meeting.

4. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

4.1 VENT SHAFT MAINTENANCE WORK

SGM reported that the underground mining operation was recently shut down for a short period of time so that maintenance work could be completed on the surface infrastructure around the vent shaft.

SGM was asked if wildlife can enter the shaft and if the area in front of the shaft is subject to flooding. SGM advised that animals are unable to access the shaft and that there are numerous controls in place to mitigate risks associated with flooding (including significant drainage work).

4.2 HYDRAULIC CONTAINMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Seven new bores were installed during January with aim of further identifying the extent of HCS plume.

The first round of monitoring undertaken in the bores in Q2 saw SCN detected in the east bore SP795. The detection has been reported to the regulators. The southern extent of the plume is shown below. SGM are working with the consultant (AECOM) and the EPA on a response and actions going forward.

As this event occurred in Q2, SGM will provide more comprehensive reporting at the Q2 meeting. SGM was asked if this was an issue at other gold mines or unique to SGM. SGM noted that every mine has a unique set of challenges, although leakage from dams is not uncommon.

FIGURE 6. HYDRAULIC CONTAINMENT SYSTEM – NEW BORE LOCATIONS



5. REGULATOR UPDATES

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

The EPA noted that the detections related to the hydraulic containment system (section 4.2) will be a priority moving forward.

5.2 EARTH RESOURCES REGULATION (ERR)

ERR informed the ERC that they will complete a rehabilitation audit at SGM during June and will report on the findings at the next meeting.

5.3 WIMMERA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WCMA)

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

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)

The NGSC had nothing to report.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised that a resident has indicated interest in submitting an application to join the ERC. Members were again encouraged to continue promoting other vacancies within their networks.

The recent Community Engagement Pop-Up in Main Street in February was a huge success. 200+ people attended the Pop-Up and 7000+ online engagements were received. No negative interactions were recorded with overwhelmingly positive feedback during the event. The Committee was informed that another Pop-Up will take place in June/July.

An ERC member noted that the recent SUPL Pop-Up was not a positive experience, as information was not presented in a manner that was suitable for the general community. It was felt that this reflected badly on the mine, even though the member is aware the mine does not control/run the SUPL. SGM said they had received similar feedback which has been passed onto the SUPL organisation.

The Committee were asked if they would like SGM to include information about community engagement activities in future presentations. It was agreed that this would be of interest and the ERR noted it also met aspects of SGM's licencing requirements.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

7.1 NEW ACTION ITEMS

Action number	Action item
120526.1	SGM will display the historic mine maps at the August meeting.
120526.2	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp.

7.2 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 11 August 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.