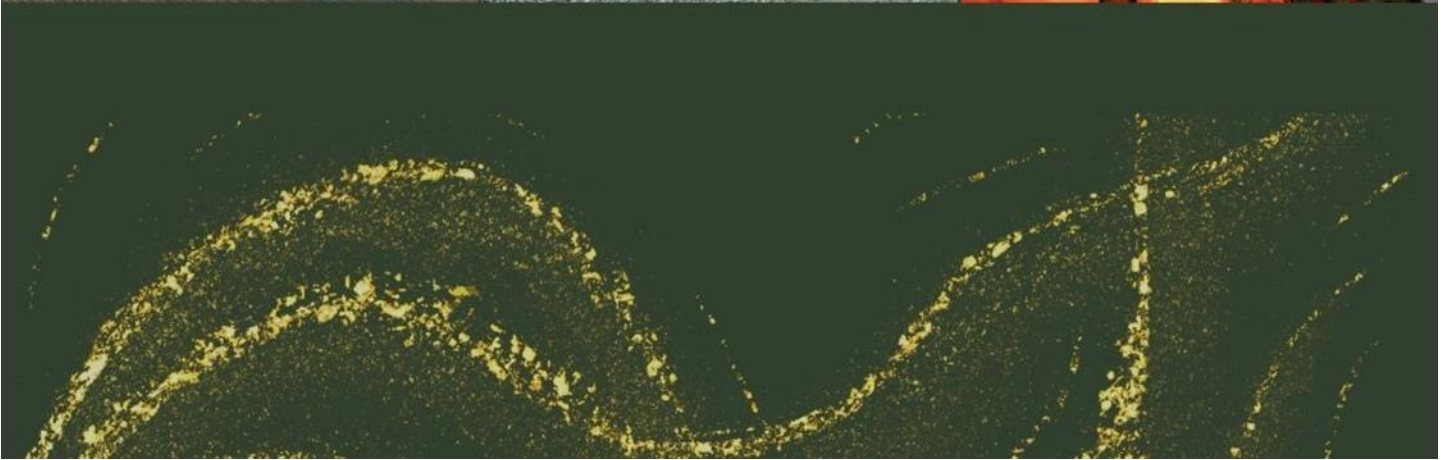




Environmental Review Committee Minutes

11 August 2026

ERC MEETING AGENDA

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

1. OPEN MEETING

1.1 ATTENDEES

ERC Members	Geoff Stratford, Rosalind Byass, Stephen Fielding
SGM	Cameron Hope (Manager – Environment & Community), Peter Gross (Senior Environmental & Community Advisor), Annie McPherson (Community Engagement Officer), Stephanie Koziol (Environmental & Community Officer), Ashleigh Mostert (Environmental & Community Advisor)
Regulators	Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Georgia Lannen (ERR), Denise Sumper (NGSC), Jake Morris (EPA), Bryana Bisset (WCMA), Cody Heylar (WCMA)
Chair	Kieran Murrihy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

2.1 APOLOGIES

Margaret Taylor (ERC), Kate van Dyck (ERC)

2.2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 12 May 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
120526.1	SGM will display the historic mine maps at the August meeting. Complete
120526.2	SGM to provide the Chair with an Organisational Chart or Model of Key Departments/Functional Areas. This will be loaded onto Basecamp. On-going

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q2 2026 Environmental Monitoring Results. Drawing on the ERC Environmental Notes, the slide-deck focused on Dust, Groundwater, Noise, Blasting, Hydrogen Cyanide, Complaints, Environmental Incidents, Regulatory Notices and HCS updates. (see Table 1).

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND COMPLIANCE STATUS

Aspect	Monitoring	Status	Comments
Air Quality	Dust deposition		Compliant.
	AAQMS		Non-mine-related exceedance in PM2.5 and PM10.
	Hydrogen cyanide		Compliant.
	Emissions		Compliant.
Blasting	Site		Fully compliant with all firings recorded ground vibration below 100 th %ile of 10mm/sec. Six firings >5mm/sec.
			Multiple complaints regarding upper-level blasting discussed in complaints section.
Noise	Site		Attended monitoring showed full compliance apart from nighttime monitoring results at west location showing elevated reading when compared to guidance values. West step back location recorded results below guidance values. No complaints from nearest receivers and no reports of nuisance noise.
Water	Offsite bores		Elevated readings at SP03 and SP795 for SCN. Containment system upgrades ongoing and annual reporting submitted to EPA Auditor.
	Offsite farm dams		Performed annually in Q3
	Offsite creeks		Performed annually in Q3
	Freeboard		Compliant.
Flora and Fauna	Site		Compliant. Strong strike on Davis rehab area. Animal damage in paddock rehab area (off lease). Ongoing program of weed and pest control.
Incidents	Site		6 environmental incidents reported. All closed out.
Regulatory Notices	Site		No new regulatory notices in force.
Community	Complaints		Twenty-four complaints were received from fourteen residences. All complaints have been 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 PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀.

FIGURE 1. 24 PM 2.5 AVERAGES

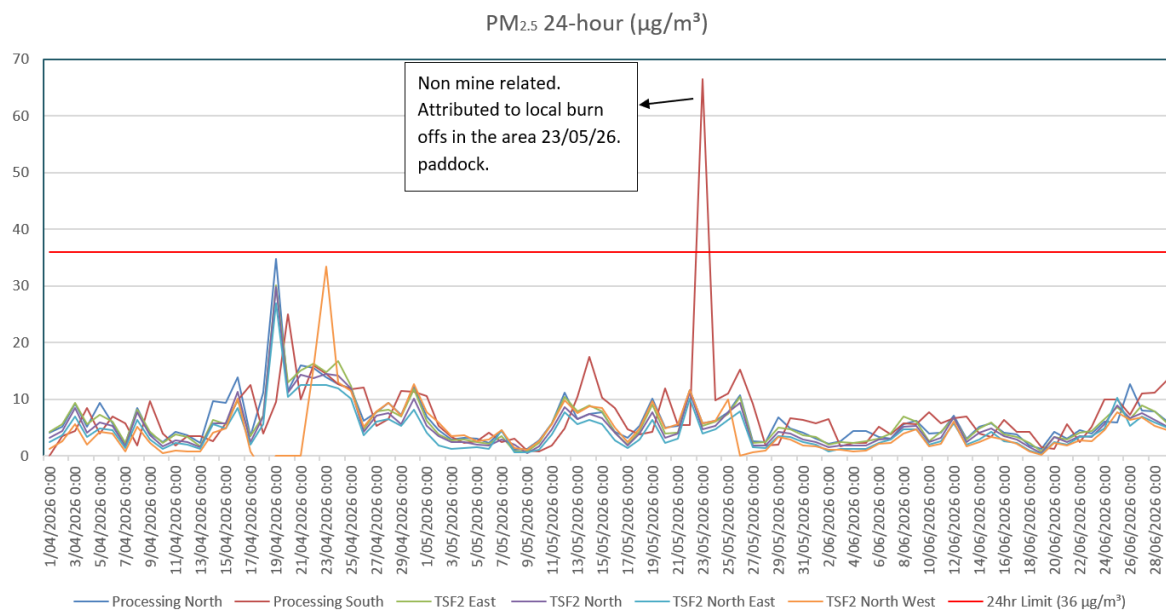
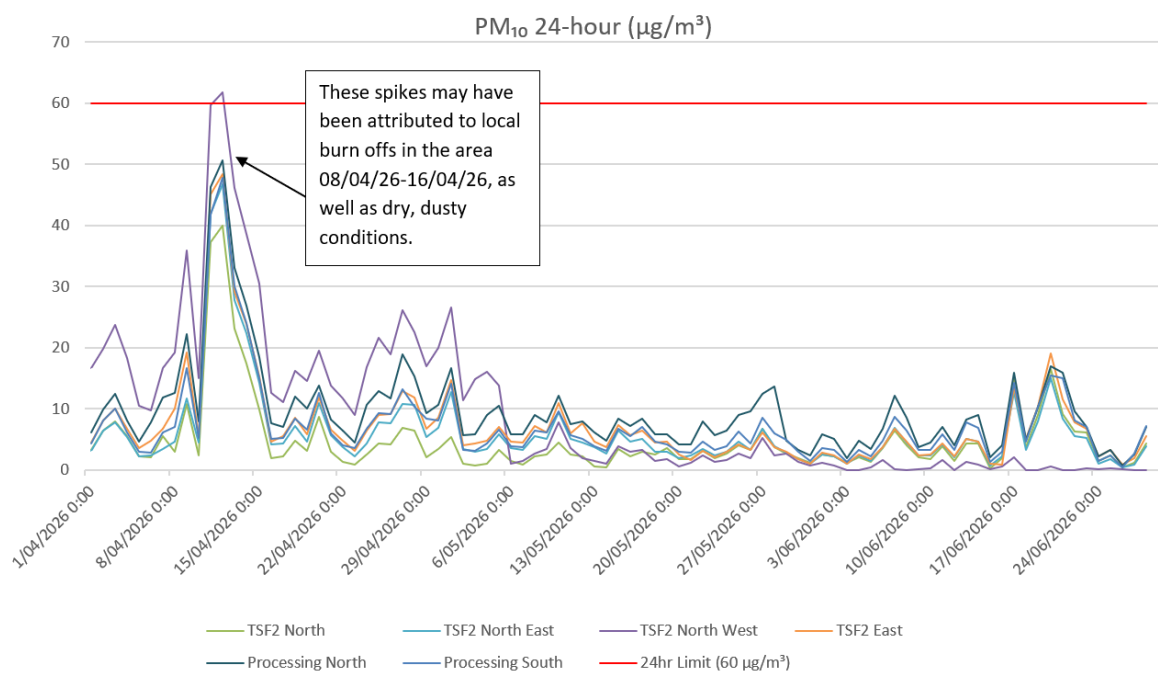


FIGURE 2. 24 PM 10 AVERAGES

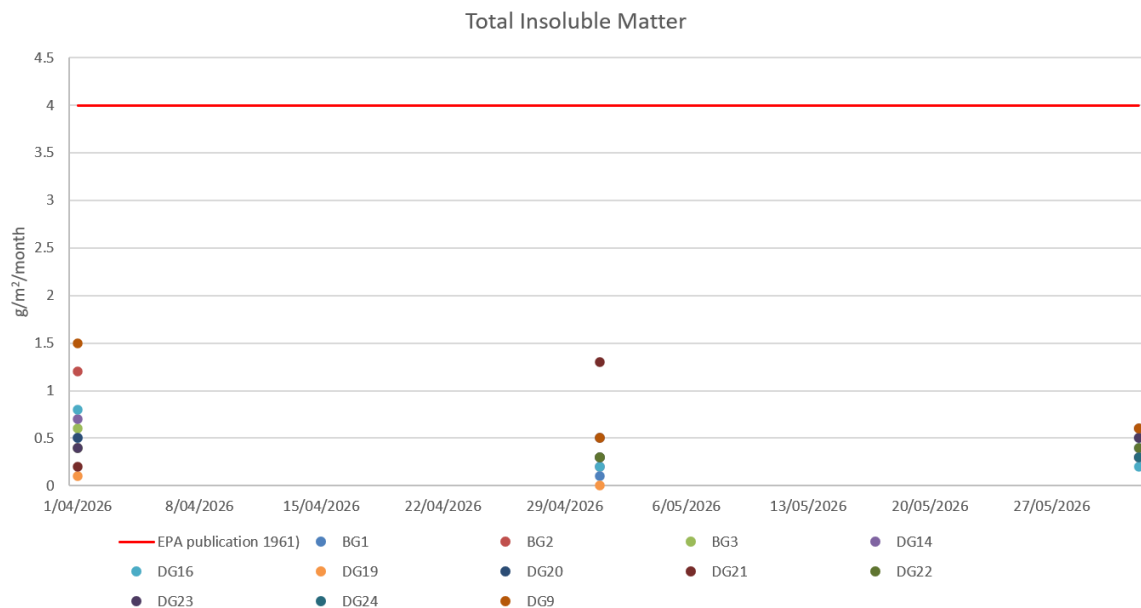


SGM noted that they purchased an additional air quality monitor during the quarter. This second spare unit can now be deployed immediately if an existing monitor fails, preventing future data gaps.

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 204mg/L for Thiocyanate & 0.194mg/L for Total Cyanide. This is consistent with previous monitoring rounds.

Ongoing groundwater monitoring will continue to establish trend lines for SCN & Total Cyanide concentrations at this bore.

2026 Mann Kendal Trend Analysis on data states that the trend at SP585 has been classified as decreasing.

FIGURE 4. THIOCYANATE RESULTS

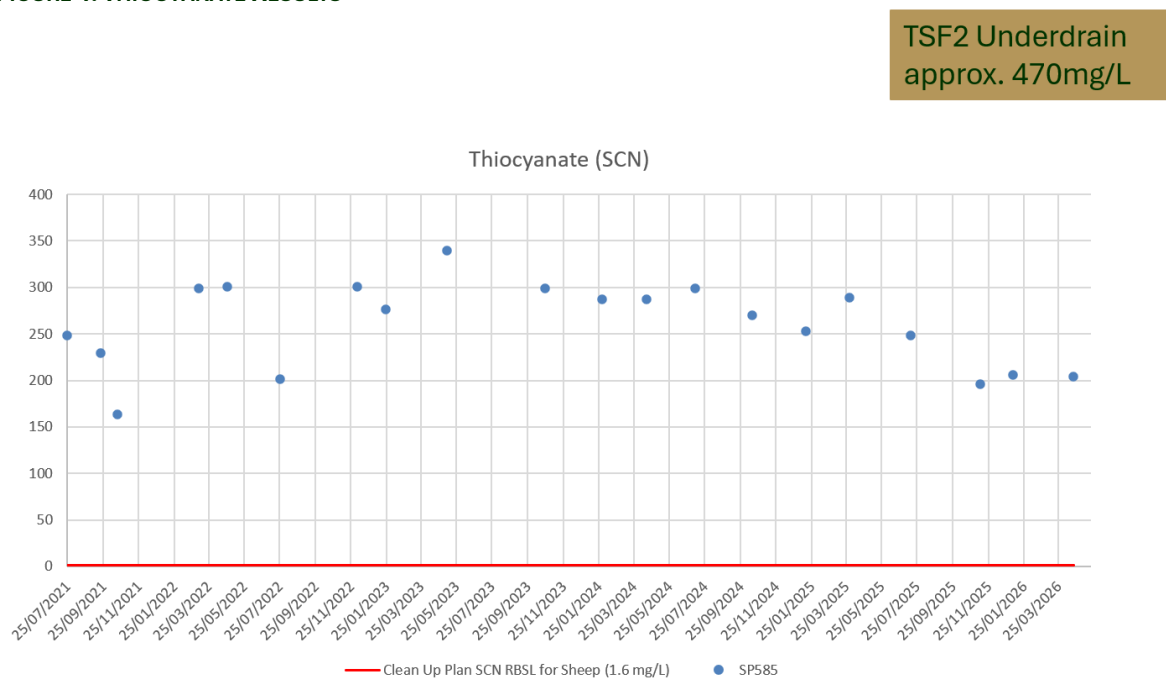
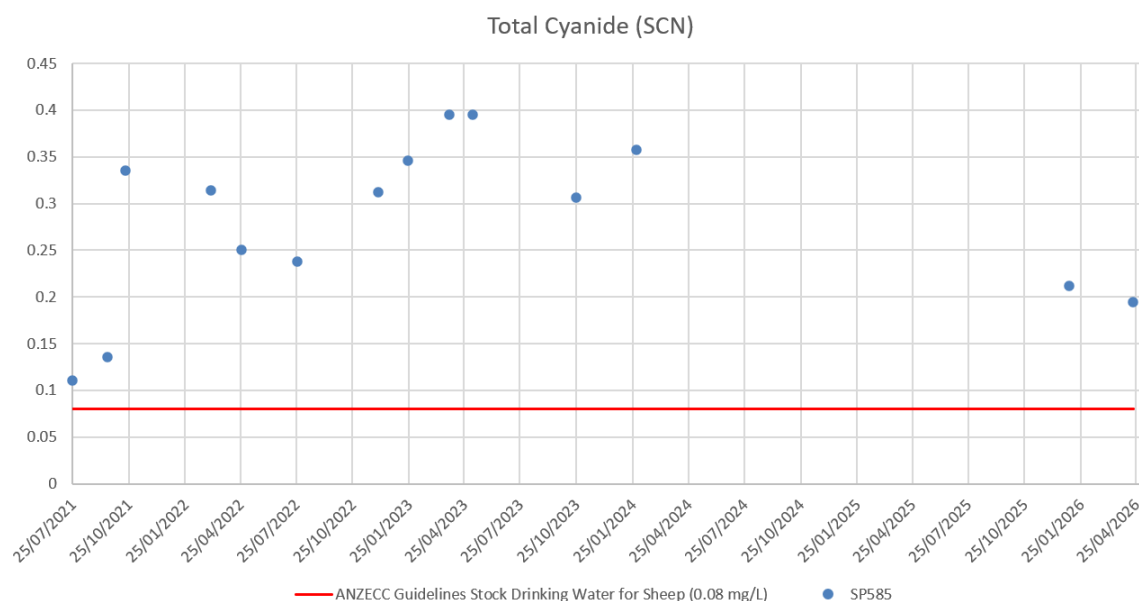


FIGURE 5. TOTAL CYANIDE RESULTS



3.4 NOISE

Daytime and evening monitoring confirmed compliance with guidance values at all locations.

Noise level emissions during the night periods were compliant with site guidance values at all monitoring locations except the west. The west step back location remained within the guidance values.

During the night time monitoring the processing plant was audible at the western monitoring location, along with intermittent heavy vehicle movement and potential alarm noises.

No complaints were received and no reports of nuisance noise recorded. Near sensitive receivers were contacted and no concerns were raised.

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	No result. Mine audible for 3 seconds of recording period.	42	41
West 2	-	-	39
South	46	36	34
North	Mine Not Audible	36	Mine Not Audible
East	47	42	39

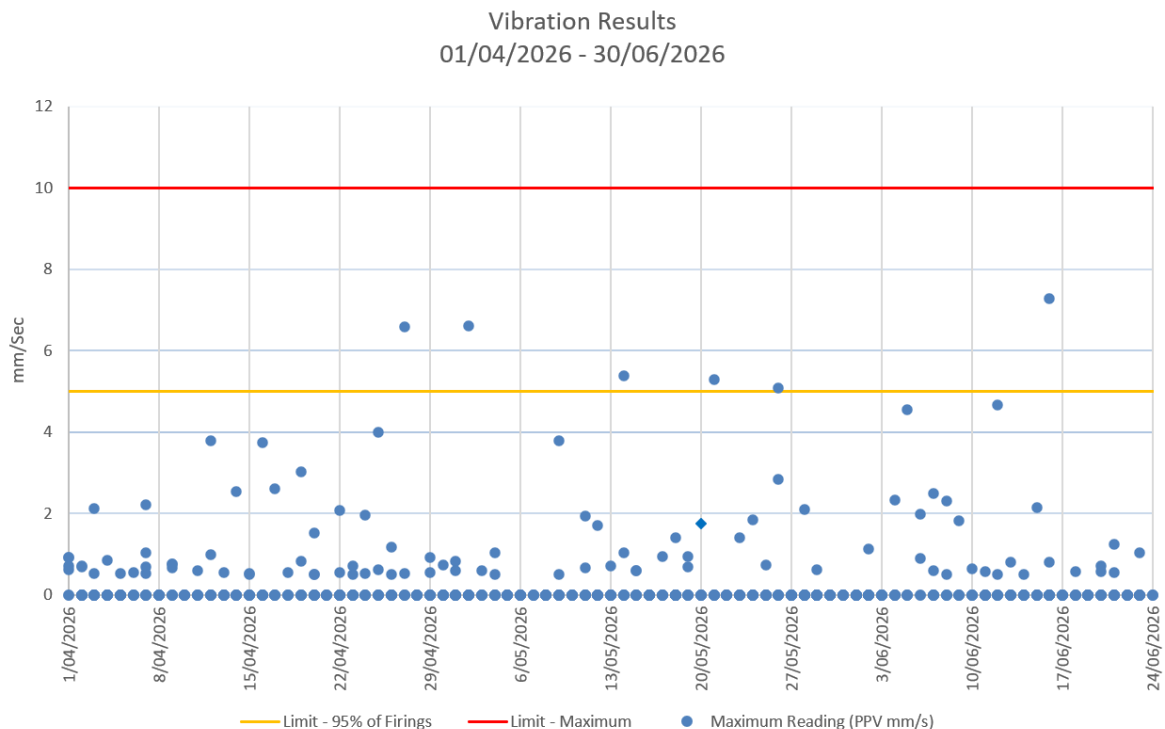
SGM was asked whether wind direction was considered when taking readings. SGM confirmed that broader weather conditions can influence results, so all weather data is logged as standard practice.

3.5 PRODUCTION AREAS FOR Q3 2026

The production areas remain relatively unchanged from the previous quarter. There will be a slight increase in blasting frequency in Zone 7.

3.6 Q2 BLASTING – FIRINGS GRAPH

FIGURE 6. VIBRATION RESULTS Q2 2026



There were 6 readings recorded above the 95th %ile limit of 5mm/sec during Q2. ERR asked whether the blasts recorded around 6mm/sec were close to the prediction in terms of design. SGM advised that blasts are generally designed with a prediction level below 5mm/sec. SGM noted that only one of the 23 registered complaints related to a blast that recorded above 5mm/sec.

Action 110826.1 – SGM to provide ERR with the predicted ppv levels for the readings recorded above the 95th %ile limit of 5mm/sec and the readings for the blasts that received a complaint. SGM will share any interesting findings at the next ERC meeting.

It was noted that SGM had received several complaints related to blasting during Q2. These complaints are addressed later in the meeting (see section 3.8).

3.7 HYDROGEN CYANIDE MONITORING

SGM's Hydrogen Cyanide readings showed a spike over ~30min period. It is believed to be a potential false positive due to activity in the paddock. No complaints or records of odour were received during the period in question.

3.8 COMPLAINTS

There were 24 community complaints during Q2 2026 from 14 residences.

- 23 complaints regarding a series of upper-level firings mainly in the 400RL and 435RL areas, with other complaints from the 505RL and 180RL areas.
- All complainants are known to SGM and the company regularly engages with each of the complainants.

- All blasts were complaint with SGM’s license requirements, and the Community and Tech team continue to work with complainants to both reduce the impacts of blasting vibration at sensitive receptors and manage expectations across the community.
- A temporary monitoring station was set up for the majority of blasts in the 400 and 435 levels to ensure that the permanent monitoring station was recording representative data. A temporary monitor recorded vibration levels at, or below, those recorded at the permanent monitoring station.
- Additionally, SGM personnel were present for majority of the 400 and 435RL blasts to gauge the ‘on the ground’ impacts of the blast vibration and engage with residents during and immediately after the event.
- One complaint was received on 30 June 2026 regarding water flows. Some water was found to be flowing off site onto public roads during heavy rainfall. Water was flowing off roadways and other non-disturbed areas down natural drainage lines. SGM contacted EPA and ERRV, with the regulators requiring no follow up actions. SGM used the opportunity to bolster on site surface water management structures to account for larger rainfall events going forwards.

TABLE 3. NOISE MONITORING RESULTS FOR BLASTS WHERE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Date	Location	PPV (mm/s)	No. of Complainants
03/04/2026	UG435	2.12	5
14/04/2026	UG400	2.55	1
17/04/2026	UG400	2.62	3
22/04/2026	UG400	2.08	1
24/04/2026	UG400	1.96	1
18/05/2026	UG400	1.41	3
20/05/2026	UG400	1.75	2
24/05/2026	UG400	1.84	3
8/06/2026	UG435	2.31	2
12/06/2026	UG505	4.67	1
16/06/2026	UG180	7.27	1

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

There were six environmental incidents during Q2 2026.

- **SGM290:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (01/04/2026)
 - Minor
 - Bird guano observed in dust deposition gauge DG24.
 - Contamination leading to data loss. The jar was returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM325:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (01/05/2026)
 - Minor
 - Dust Cassette in TSF2 North West AAQMS contained an ant and large ash pieces.
 - Inlet hose on monitor was found to be loose, allowing foreign bodies onto filter paper.
 - Dust cassette not sent for analysis leading to data loss.
- **SGM326:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (01/05/2026)
 - Minor
 - Bird guano observed in dust deposition gauge DG24.
 - BG2 was found to contain large insects.
 - DG24 outcome - contamination leading to data loss. The jar was returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
 - BG2 outcome – Lab was able to remove contamination, and analysis returned no unusual results.

- **SGM350:** Noise limit exceedance (22/05/2026)
 - Minor
 - Elevated noise readings at the western monitoring location during the night monitoring round. 41dB reading against guidance value of 39dB.
 - Intermittent noises from the processing plant were recorded as well as heavy vehicle movement and suspected alarm noises.
 - No complaints or reports of nuisance noise.
- **SGM357:** Flora and Fauna - Interactions (01/06/2026)
 - Minor
 - Bird guano observed in dust deposition gauges DG19 and BG3.
 - Contamination leading to data loss. The jars were returned to the laboratory for cleaning.
- **SGM374:** Vibration monitor equipment malfunction (01/06/2026)
 - Moderate
 - The monitor has since been fixed with no large blasts in the area during the period of failure.
 - No complaints received regarding blasting vibration from this area during period in question.

SGM noted that they had purchased a new Vibration Monitor and will now, for the first time, have a spare full-sized unit to deploy if a unit in the field breaks down.

In answering a question, SGM advised that it registers information as a complaint, even if it has been offered by a resident more in the spirit of feedback – rather than as a complaint.

3.10 SP603 UPDATE

FIGURE 7. LOCATION OF SP603



SGM confirmed that SCN has been detected in SP603 over the last few months, with concentrations sitting between 11 and 30 ppm. It is not the first detection in this location but higher than previously recorded. (circa ~2014).

AECOM have been engaged to investigate, and the AECOM analysis is currently sitting with the EPA auditor, Joe Duran, as part of SGM's annual reporting. AECOM's investigation concluded that the increase in detection at SP603 represents the leading front of the original SNC plume (or a slug of groundwater as AECOM referred to it). It was noted by SGM and an ERC member that groundwater plumes move at a rate of around 5-8m per year. This plume had migrated past the lease boundary post 2009 when the original detections were picked up in the groundwater, but prior to the hydraulic containment system installation in 2017. Therefore, by the time the hydraulic containment system was installed approximately 9 years ago, this groundwater had already moved past the hydraulic containment system zone of influence. AECOM anticipate that it will increase in concentration for a period of time, with an expectation that it will then decrease. SGM emphasised that the detection does not represent a failure of the hydraulic containment system because this section of groundwater had already passed past the hydraulic containment system area of influence.

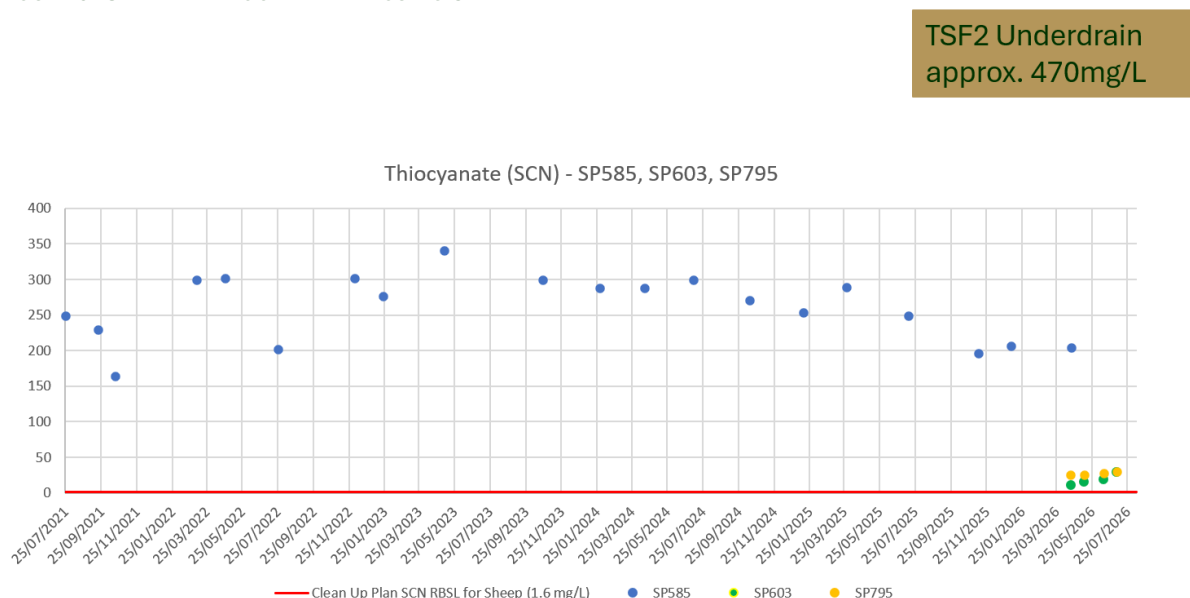
The risk to down-gradient receptors are considered low, with concentrations expected to dissipate over time through natural attenuation and dilution. AECOM has concluded that no additional infrastructure is required. Monthly sampling will continue at SP603 to establish a trend.

When questioned about the natural degradation, SGM explained that a large number of cyanide species will break down naturally, with one example being the exposure to UV rays (sunlight). SGM also noted that naturally occurring bacteria can 'eat' the cyanide. The SGM bioreactor system utilises this technique, in that indigenous, naturally occurring groundwater bacteria are present and actively degrading SCN as part of their normal biological function.

An ERC member, observing the graphs, asked if there is evidence that the natural degradation process is already occurring. SGM advised there is not enough evidence to state categorically that this is the case. SGM anticipate that this will become clearer as the bore samples are tracked over time.

Action 110826.2 – SGM to provide information outlining how the natural degradation process of cyanide occurs. This will be uploaded to Basecamp and shared at the next meeting.

FIGURE 8. UPDATED THIOCYANATE RESULTS GRAPH



The updated graph was shared, and SGM confirmed that this version - which now includes the detections at SP603 and SP795 - will be presented at future ERC meetings so the group can continue to track progress.

3.11 TAILINGS DAM MANAGEMENT

SGM has finalised annual works, with internal reporting and AECOM reporting. Auditor Review and Report expected at EOM August at which time all works will be submitted to EPA.

AECOM found HCS performance is considered to have been effective during the 2025/2026 reporting period. SP585 was classified as decreasing.

The next stage of the HSC expansion was completed during Q2.

Current work being undertaken by SGM includes:

- Changes to sampling methodology (in conjunction with AECOM) (Ongoing).

3.12 HYDRAULIC CONTAINMENT SYSTEM

Following detection at SP795 during Q1, AECOM were engaged to establish next steps to ensure ongoing containment.

Discrete corridor, delineated to the north by SE36 (green) and SE31 and SE37 (red) and the southern extent of the plume was identified between SE38 (red) and SE33 and SE44 (green). (See Figure 8 below)

Works have been undertaken to establish hydraulic containment in this zone:

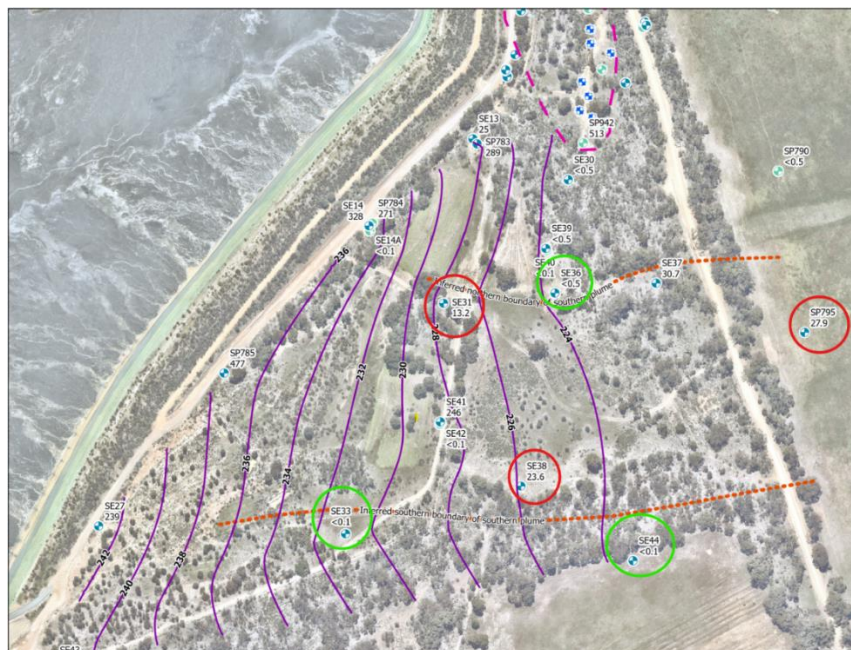
- Installation of 1 extraction bore and 2 monitoring bores.
- Install of 2 additional sentinel wells.

There will be an extraction well trial for ~4-6 months to establish a data set on drawdown/cone of depression.

It is expected that additional extraction wells will be installed in early CY27.

A portable power station trial is also occurring on site. It was noted that this has both an economic and environmental efficiency, along with a favourable cost comparison compared to mains power. The power station can also be monitored remotely. SGM was asked whether the power station was already on site and operational. SGM explained that while the unit is onsite, it has not yet been connected or brought online.

FIGURE 8. HYDRAULIC CONTAINMENT SYSTEM – DETECTION LOCATIONS



Green Circle = No detection Red Circle = Detection

4. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

SGM reported that they had been very busy in the community during Q2.

Some of the activity included:

- On-site school visits, in conjunction with the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA), that showcase the career opportunities in mining, and what mining looks like to local and regional students. The visits provide an opportunity for the students to explore the site and see what an active mine site looks like; meet with different departments and satisfy their curiosity and ask any questions they might have. There is a strong focus on the trades available onsite, with students meeting with fitters, diesel mechanics and electricians.
- Attending Careers Days/Quick Chats at Ararat College and Lake Bolac Secondary College which again provide an opportunity for SGM to highlight and talk about the careers available in mining sector.
- Community Pop-in Week in the main street. Approx. 120 people attended with the majority of feedback being very positive.
- The 6-monthly community newsletter has recently been published and is now available on SGM's website and social media platforms. ERC members were encouraged to share it with their networks.

5. WIMMERA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WCMA) PRESENTATION

Bryana Bisset from the WMCA provided a comprehensive overview of the role of the WCMA.

Key insights included:

- The WMCA is one of 10 Catchment Management Authority's in Victoria.
- Wimmera CMA's area covers 30,000 km² (13% of Victoria) and they have roles under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLPAct) and Water Act 1989. They help protect and improve the health of our waterways, wetlands and floodplains.
- They work with emergency services and councils to reduce flood risks and improve flood preparedness and support projects that reduce flood impacts while also creating benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy.
- Assessment benchmark: 1% AEP flood event — All new development in Victoria is assessed against the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. A 1% AEP flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, meaning it can occur more than once within a century.
- A Stawell Flood Study was completed in 2024 and it found that most flooding in Stawell comes from heavy local rainfall and stormwater runoff. The study will help inform updates to flood overlays in the Northern Grampians Planning Scheme.

Action 110826.3 – Bryanna to provide the Chair with a link to the Stawell Flood Study. This will be uploaded to Basecamp. The WCMA presentation has been loaded to Basecamp and can be accessed by the ERC.

6. REGULATOR UPDATES

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

The EPA had nothing to report.

6.2 EARTH RESOURCES REGULATION (ERR)

ERR apologised for not being able to attend the meeting in person and thanked Cameron and the team for hosting Glenn and members of the Resources Victoria Communications staff in June.

6.3 WIMMERA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WCMA)

WCMA presented earlier in the meeting.

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)

The NGSC had nothing to report.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee were invited to view the Historic Mine Maps that had been brought to the meeting and to use the Virtual Reality headset that SGM has been using at community events as an engagement and educational tool.

The EPA enquired about a copper exceedance they had noted in the Environmental Notes circulated to the ERC prior to the meeting. As this item was not discussed during the meeting, SGM advised that, from memory, the exceedance occurs each quarter in that bore. SGM confirmed they would investigate further and report back to the EPA.

Action 110826.3 – SGM will investigate the copper exceedance identified in the Environmental Notes for the relevant bore and report findings back to the EPA.

8. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

8.1 NEW ACTION ITEMS

Action number	Action item
110826.1	SGM to provide ERR with the predicted ppv levels for the readings recorded above the 95th %ile limit of 5mm/sec and the readings for the blasts that received a complaint. SGM will share any interesting findings at the next ERC
110826.2	SGM to provide information outlining how the natural degradation process of cyanide occurs. This will be uploaded to Basecamp and shared at the next
110826.3	Bryanna to provide the Chair with a link to the Stawell Flood Study. This will be uploaded to Basecamp. The WCMA presentation has been loaded to Basecamp and can be accessed by the ERC.
110826.4	SGM will investigate the copper exceedance identified in the Environmental Notes for the relevant bore and report findings back to the EPA.

8.2 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is at 2.00pm on Tuesday 10 November 2026. The meeting will be held at the Stawell RSL and will be followed by afternoon tea.

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