



Stawell Gold Mines

Environment Review Committee Minutes

8 February 2022



ERC MEETING AGENDA

1. Open Meeting _____ Kieran Murrphy
2. Apologies, Previous Minutes and Actions _____ Kieran Murrphy
3. Environmental Report _____ Cameron Hope
4. SGM Operations Update _____ Cameron Hope
5. Exploration Update _____ Bill Reid, South Stawell Gold
6. Regulator Update _____ ERR, EPA, WCMA
7. Council Update _____ NGSC
8. Other Business _____ Kieran Murrphy
9. Next Meeting - Date and Agenda _____ Kieran Murrphy

1. OPEN MEETING

1.1 Attendees

ERC Members	Margaret Taylor, Geoff Stratford, Steven Feilding, Kate van Dyck, Rosalind Byass
SGM	David Coe (Health, Safety and Environment Manager), Cameron Hope (Environment and Community Superintendent)
Regulators	Glenn Kilburn (ERR), Andrew Radojkovic (ERR), Paul Ratajczyk (EPA), Denise Beelitz (NGSC), Bryanna Bissett (WCMA)
Chair	Kieran Murrphy (Foresight Lane)
Minutes	Sarah Marriott (Foresight Lane)

2. APOLOGIES, PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS

2.1 Apologies

No apologies were received.

2.2 Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the previous meeting on 9 November 2021 were circulated to ERC Members. No attendees had comments or concerns with the Minutes.

2.3 Review of Previous Action Items

There were no actions from the previous meeting.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Stawell Gold Mines (SGM) presented a slide-deck for the Q4 2021 Environmental Monitoring Results. Drawing on the ERC Environmental Notes, the slide-deck focused on Dust, Groundwater, Noise, Blasting, Complaints, Environmental Incidents and Regulatory Notices. A traffic light report was provided (see Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of Environmental Aspects and Compliance Status

	Monitoring/Area	Status	Comments
Air Quality	Dust deposition	●	Compliant. Several non-mine related exceedances.
	AAQMS	●	Compliant.
	Hydrogen cyanide	●	Compliant.
	Emissions	●	Compliant
Blasting	Site	●	Compliant.
Noise	Site	●	Exceedance at one location during night period.
Water	Offsite bores	●	No new exceedances.
	Offsite farm dams	○	Surface water monitoring not undertaken in Q4
	Offsite creeks	○	Surface water monitoring not undertaken in Q4
	Freeboard	●	Compliant.
Flora and Fauna	Site	○	Flora and fauna survey report not complete, will be reported in Q1 2022.
Incidents	Site	●	Three environmental incidents reported for Q4 2021.
Regulatory Notices	Site	○	No new regulatory notices issued during Q4 2021.
Community	Complaints	●	One complaint received for Q4 2021, 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

Elevated PM2.5 readings were reported on 21/10/2021, however these readings were as a result of an off-site source burning off, therefore they were not considered an exceedance. All PM10 readings were below the 24h limit.

The TSF2 North monitor was sent for assessment after it was noticed that the gap between PM10 and PM2.5 readings was narrowing. The manufacturer assessment found no issue with the monitor. The monitor is being calibrated before reinstatement to ensure ongoing accurate data readings.

3.2 Groundwater

The most recent sampling event at SP585 (163mg/L) showed a slight decrease in SCN concentrations compared to the last quarter. Ongoing groundwater monitoring will continue to establish trend lines for SCN concentrations at bore SP585.

The most recent sampling event at SP585 (0.335 mg/L) showed an increase in Total-Cyanide concentrations from the previous reporting period. Although there was a slight increase in Total-Cyanide, compared to the previous quarter, the longer term trendline is still showing a downward trend. Results for Total Cyanide at SP585 since 2016

have been relatively stable ranging between 0.02 to 0.40mg/L.

The current network is assessed as part of the TSF2 Pollution Abatement Notice.

3.3 Noise

Noise monitoring was conducted by SGM on 16 November 2021.

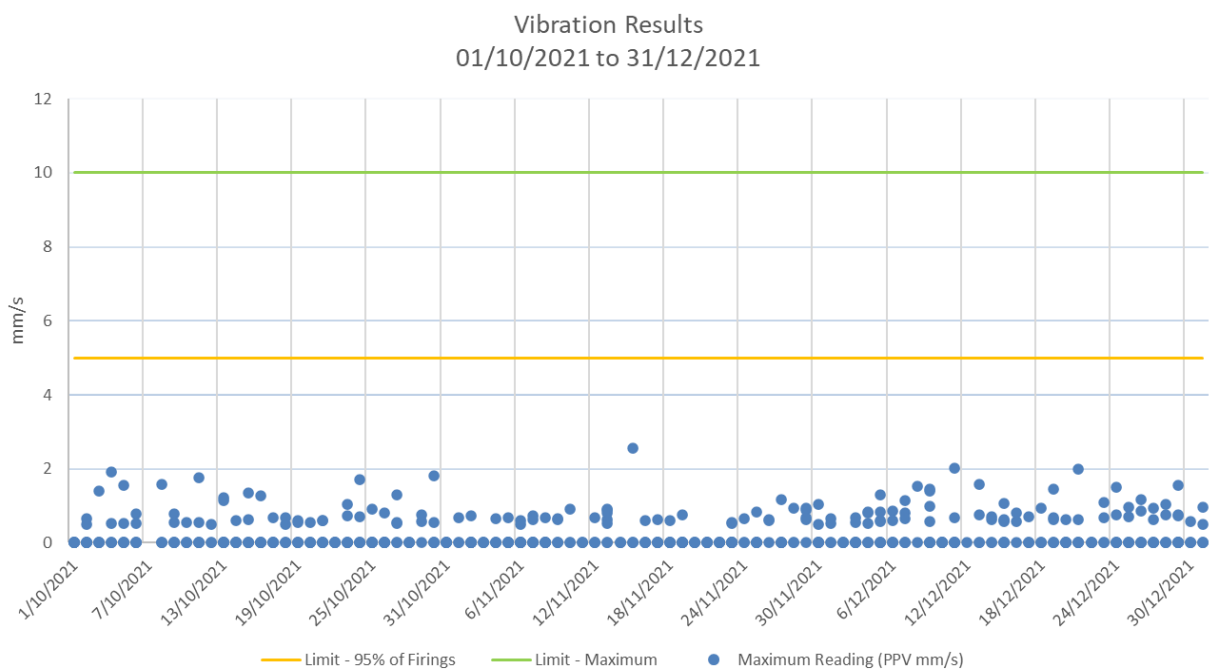
SGM achieved all site noise limits during Day and Evening periods. There was one Night period exceedance at the East location. Frogs and bats were audible at the exceedance location, in addition to noise from mine operations. Closest residents were contacted as per noise TARP and they reported no concerns with noise over the period.

One complaint was received in relation to operational noise during the Q4 reporting period. This complaint was also made to ERR and NGSC, the matter was investigated by all parties and closed with no further actions. No operational changes were noted at the time of the complaint.

Table 2. Q4 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
North	43.5	39.0	34.2
South	41.7	33.7	33.1
East	45.5	41.0	42.6
East 2	N/A	N/A	36.4
West	23.7	29.7	24.6

3.4 Q4 Blasting – Firings Graph



All firings were compliant during Q4.

3.5 Complaints

One community complaint was received during Q4 2021:

Noise

- The complaint received was regarding a general increase in noise from SGM's operations, particularly from 'trucks' at night. The complaint was followed up with complainant. It is not the first time this individual had complained about noise.

The complaint was also filed with NGSC and ERR. ERR closed the case within one week due as they were unable to substantiate the claim.

Quarterly noise monitoring found no excessive noise in that location and no operational changes were noted during the period.

NGSC informed the ERC that they had also received a complaint. They conducted an investigation which included on site checking of noise levels. NGSC closed the investigation as they were not able to verify that there are issues with noise at that site.

In answering questions, SGM advised that in terms of noise level variations (on receptors), where there has been no change to operations, the wind direction can often be a key determinant in variations.

3.6 Environmental Incidents

There were three environmental incidents, all negligible, during Q4 2021.

Negligible incidents:

- SGM003999: Bird faeces contaminated a dust deposition gauge, causing exceedance in total insoluble matter guideline criteria.
- SGM004202: Techflex was detected leaking out of a skip bin at a H Troon laydown yard.
- SGM004204: Bird faeces contaminated a dust deposition gauge, causing exceedance of total insoluble matter guideline criteria.

3.7 Regulatory Notices

PAN 90011650, was issued by the EPA on 08/10/2020.

Works undertaken to date include:

- All requirements of PAN 90011650 were completed on schedule and submitted to the EPA and EPA appointed auditor.
- Ongoing management and clean-up of contamination.

The EPA provided an overview and an update in relation to the PAN and the works undertaken by SGM to date. They noted that the PAN was issued due to groundwater impacts from the tailings dam and that the Notice required works to address the identified seepage. Bores were installed to intercept and pump back groundwater intercepted. Bores were also installed to stop the groundwater area of contamination expanding and to reduce the extent of the zone impacted by the seepage. They also explained that the EPA Notice requires EPA Auditor verification of the results of monitoring.

If the EPA identifies that the actions implemented to comply with the Pollution Abatement Notice are not achieving the required outcomes (which is that there should be no increase in levels/size of the zone impacted by the seepage, and a reduction over time), then they will address this directly with SGM.

Under new legislation there is a duty to prevent harm to human health and environment, and a duty to manage contaminated land (this includes contaminated groundwater). It was explained that the current Pollution Abatement Notice will soon be converted into a Site Management Order, which will have similar requirements to the pollution abatement notices. The EPA will continue to review the results of monitoring each year.

3.8 Electric Underground Loader Trial

SGM shared with the ERC that they are progressing with the purchase of a new Epiroc Scooptram ST18, which is a battery-operated version of the existing diesel loaders they currently use underground. This will be the first unit in Australia and it is expected to be delivered within 18 months.

The loader has a 17.5 tonne bucket capacity and can operate for six hours before the battery needs to be changed. This change will take less than five minutes.

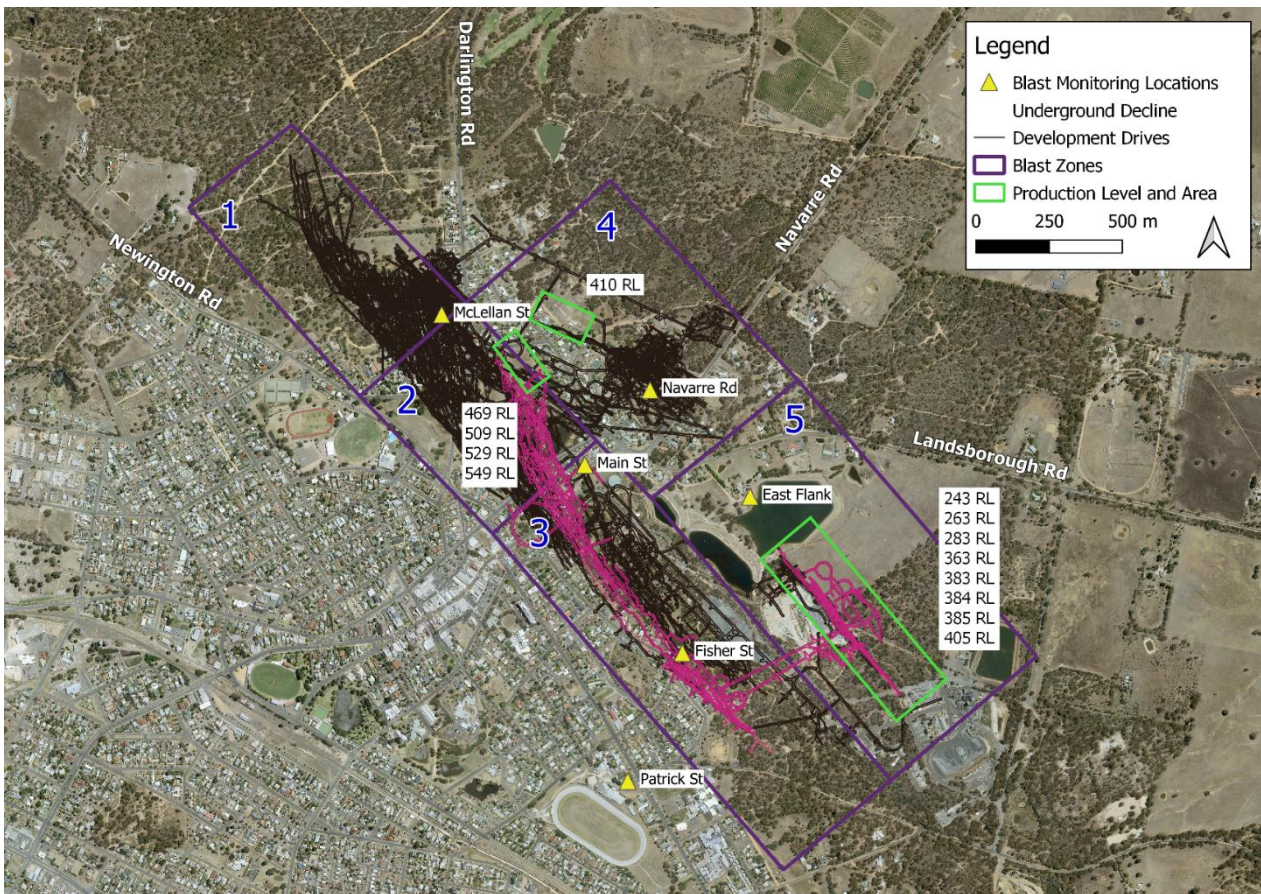
The use of these loaders will reduce carbon and particulate emissions, lower SGM’s greenhouse footprint and improve air quality both inside and external to the mine.

SGM noted that they are also looking at other ways to introduce environmentally friendly mining methods.

4. STAWELL GOLD MINES OPERATIONS UPDATE

4.1 Production Area for Q4 2021

The updated blasting locations map is available on the Community Hub website and is also on the SGM Facebook page. SGM will upload the Q1 2022 Production Area Map on Basecamp for ERC members to access.



5. REGULATOR UPDATES

5.1 Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

In regards to the proposed tailings dam lift, the EPA reported that they require further evidence from SGM that the proposed lift on the tailings dam will not cause any adverse impacts on the current bore and pump back system used to intercept and manage seepage from the tailings facility.

5.2 Earth Resources Regulation (ERR)

ERR reported that they are also reviewing the lift to the tailings dam, and that an audit of the latest lift will be undertaken in the coming months.

5.3 Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)

The WCMA had nothing to report.

5.4 Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

No report was given by DELWP as there was no one in attendance.

6. NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL (NGSC) UPDATE

The NGSC had nothing to report.

7. EXPLORATION UPDATE

Bill Reid, Exploration Manager from South Stawell Gold Pty Ltd (SSG), provided a comprehensive overview of their current exploration plans.

It was explained that SSG is a 100% subsidiary of Stawell Gold Mines, and that their focus is:

- Exploration of the Stawell Zone in Victoria;
- Stawell-like exploration opportunities (5Moz historic and ongoing);
- Wonga-like opportunities (0.25Moz Au historic).

It was noted that the Stawell Zone is significantly underexplored compared to the Bendigo Zone to the east.

SSG holds a strategic 1,600km² portfolio of near-mine and regional tenements throughout the Stawell Zone. Exploration planned includes regional geophysics re-interpretation to better understand and target high priority geology, regional geochemistry to further refine targets and low impact exploration to assess best results.

A strong focus on community and environment (and other stakeholders) is imperative for sustainable exploration.

Name	Tenement	Type	Status	Owner
South Stawell	EL007116	EL	Current	SGM
Cathcart	EL007478	EL	Current	SGM
Foxhow	EL007479	EL	Current	SGM
Darlington	EL007547	EL	Current	SSG
Trawalla	EL007549	EL	Current	SSG
Downpatrick	EL007610	EL	Current	SSG

Bill highlighted that this is very early stage, low impact exploration and that relevant stakeholders will be engaged over the coming months. When asked where ERC members can access further information about SSG's exploration plans, Bill noted that this information is currently being developed and will be available in the coming months through SGM or SSG's website. It was also decided that it would be beneficial for all ERC members to be able to access this information when it becomes publicly available.

Action 080222.1 – As information relating to SSG's exploration is made publicly available, it will be uploaded to Basecamp and ERC members will be made aware of any additional places it can be accessed.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Andrew Radojkovic, ERR shared with the ERC that he had toured the Davis Pit rehabilitation site prior to the meeting and was very impressed with what he saw. An update regarding this project will be provided by SGM at the May meeting.

ERC members were reminded that there are still community places available on the ERC and that they should continue to promote these positions to people who may be interested. SGM also noted that the positions will be advertised in the local paper, and on their Facebook page, in coming weeks.

9. ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING

9.1 New Action Items

Action number	Action item
080222.1	As information relating to SSG's exploration is made publicly available, it will be uploaded to Basecamp and ERC members will be made aware of any additional places it can also be accessed.

9.2 Next Meeting

Next meeting is at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 10 May 2022. The meeting will be held at the Stawell RSL.