

NEWSLETTER



STOCKMAN PROJECT UPDATE

The Selection Phase Study (SPS) completed in 2019 narrowed the focus of Project considerations for the Definition Phase Study, elements of which have been commenced in 2020. The SPS also incorporated updates to the mine design and to the financial estimates based on current market conditions.

Study Update

A number of studies are underway or are close to completion. These studies provide information on several technical aspects prior to the commencement of a Definition Study Phase and include work on paste backfill and confirmation of metallurgical parameters.

A draft metallurgical testing report has been received and is currently being assessed. This work was commissioned to generate tailings samples for paste backfill test work and the opportunity was taken to confirm some of the metallurgical parameters. The report will provide insights into the expected plant performance and will inform the mine design team to enable the optimisation of the ore extraction sequence.

Tailings paste strength testing has commenced on the tailings samples generated by the metallurgical test work and will continue during the next six months. This testing will demonstrate the suitability for tailings as paste backfill at the mine.

Infrastructure

A functional design for the unsealed sections of Limestone and McCallums Roads has been completed and preparations are being made to present this to council for review and feedback.

A Functional Design for the two intersection upgrades that are required as part of the Projects planning approval have been drafted. These detail the road layout plans and have been provided to Department of Transport (Regional Roads Victoria) for comment. Once road traffic has returned to normal following COVID-19, a number of traffic count and vehicle use studies will commence.

Exploration

The Exploration team continues to undertake preparations for establishing access tracks to a number of planned prospect drilling areas.

COMMUNITY

Community Reference Group (CRG) meetings were held in August and November 2019 and also in February 2020. (The meeting scheduled for May was cancelled due to COVID-19 related restrictions.) This group and its members act as a conduit for understanding and addressing community issues.

The names of the members and their contact email is provided below. Members can be contacted to communicate queries through to the Stockman Project team.

Round Oak encourages that all community queries are sent to:

info@stockmanproject.com.au

or phone the Stockman office on (03) 5159 1300.

To contact our CRG Members with Project related queries:

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Russell Pendergast <u>evandale@skymesh.com.au</u>

Keren Walker <u>kw@skymesh.com.au</u>

Unfortunately visitors can not currently be welcomed at our Project Office in Omeo while COVID-19 restrictions are in place, but it will reopen as soon as the appropriate COVID-19 related restrictions have been relaxed.

ENVIRONMENT

Flora and fauna baseline surveys were completed during the 2019-20 summer period and the resulting reports are to be submitted to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). These surveys were carried out to fulfill obligations associated with shire, state, and federal approvals. The surveys were further to the baseline surveys completed for the EES assessment. These included:

- Riparian vegetation survey;
- [Aquatic] Macroinvertebrate survey;
- Kiandra Greenhood survey; and
- Weed survey (village and road widening locations).

The extended baseline water quality monitoring program, looking at surface and groundwater, continued, but with sampling not being possible during January due to the bushfires that were occurring.

In April baseline dust monitoring commenced along the transport corridor between Benambra and the mine site. This involves the use of dust deposition bottles at six locations along the route.

Baseline noise monitoring adjacent to the proposed Benambra transport hub, which requires access to residential properties, will commence as soon as appropriate within the context of COVID-19 management considerations.

Work continues on the development of a range of environmental management documents to support the on and off-lease activities associated with the Project. Plans have been drafted for biosecurity management associated with the off-lease construction activities, as well as animal pest and weed management at the village during its operation. These documents will be submitted to DELWP for review prior to implementation.

Several documents relating to the operational management of the Benambra transport hub and the accommodation village have also been drafted for submission to the East Gippsland Shire Council.

COMPANY PROJECT UPDATE

A venture partner is being sought to invest in the Stockman Project. The venture partner engagement process is on schedule and a number of investors have shown an interest in partnering in the project. The next round of investor due diligence activities commences in July and is likely to take some months as investors assess in more detail the projects potential. An outcome is expected sometime in the second half of 2020 and would likely trigger the commencement of the definition study. The definition study is planned to take 12 months and will inform the board of the project potential and enable a final investment decision.



COMMUNITY cont.

Environmental Review Committee

An Environmental Review Committee (ERC) will be established for the Stockman Project before construction begins on the mining lease.

Health & Safety

Round Oak is committed to conducting its business without compromising the health and safety at any of our projects and operations. The well-being of our employees, stakeholders and the general public on whom our activities might impact is of fundamental importance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Round Oak has continued to monitor and adhere to the guidance provided by both Federal and State Governments. Round Oak is taking a riskbased approach to guide the planning at our operations for the staged easing of restrictions to ensure we protect everyone's health and safety.

A new face in the Omeo office

After being with the Stockman Project for longer than the project has been with Round Oak, Ronda Manhire has retired as the Office Administrator. Round Oak would like to thank Ronda for her contribution to the Project and wish her well as she continues to support the local community through her involvement with a range of clubs and organisations.

We are very pleased to welcome Natalie O'Connell to the role and look forward to her bringing her extensive knowledge of the local community to the Project.



Join our mailing list by emailing info.stockmanproject@roundoakmin .com.au with your request.