



Community Benefit

The Stockman Project contributes to the Omeo Region in a variety of ways.

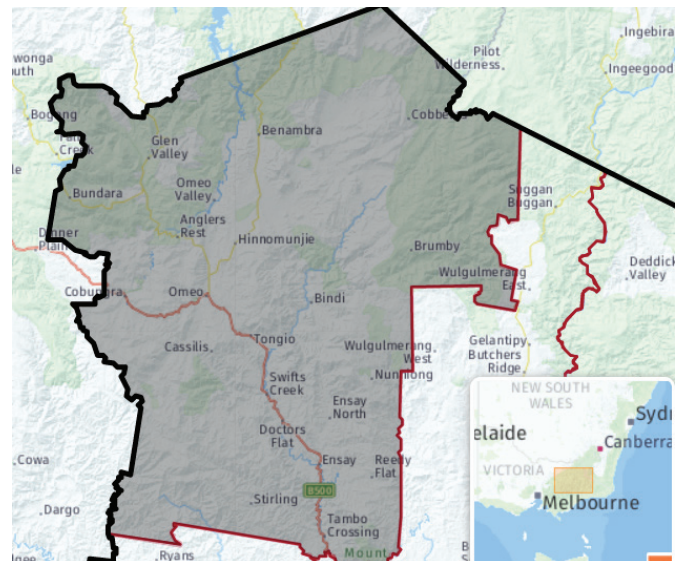
Aeris Resources, through the Stockman Project, is an important economic contributor to the Omeo Region through employment, sponsorship, grant contributions, and local spend on goods and services.

The Stockman Project was established in 2008, and whilst it has changed ownership several times, the Project has always retained a presence since this time. During this period the level of activity has ebbed and flowed depending on the phase underway, from exploration, to the EES, and Feasibility Studies.

A Community Engagement Plan, supported by a Social Management Plan, as developed to assess the potential social and economic effects of the Project on the local communities, and put forward measures intended to maximise the socioeconomic benefits for the community.

The Project's primary zone of influence was assessed to be the townships in close proximity to the Project; Benambra, Omeo and Swifts Creek. The broader Project Region for sources of employees and goods and services comprises East Gippsland Shire, Towong Shire, and Alpine Shire.

The Stockman Project works in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council to maximise the local social and economic impacts of the Project, while seeking to understand and minimise any negative impacts





INVESTMENT

Since 2008 the Project entity has invested in properties in the local area as well as rented properties for various ongoing needs. These have been part of the actions to minimise impacts on the local property market while preparing for the needs of the mine.

The Project has had an office front for almost 15 years, which is leased from a local landlord. This enables the local workforce and visiting Aeris staff to have an office to work from. It also allows community members to drop in and find out what is happening with the Project, and it is where the quarterly Community Reference Group meetings are held. Stockman also leases a property at Benambra that is used as a core yard.

A former motel was purchased by the Project which is used for accommodating staff and contractors working for the Project to minimise pressure on local accommodation which is also relied upon by government agencies, their contractors, and tourists. Aeris has also recently entered into a lease with the East Gippsland Shire Council for the old Benambra School site, which will be used as a transport hub and as a facility where inductions and training can be undertaken by staff and contractors. Aeris has committed to fund capital works to undertake upgrades, repairs, and maintenance of the school buildings.



COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The community grants program operated by the Project has become an important source of funding for many local events and services provided by various community organisations. The community grants program has supported events and services across the Omeo Region.

Some of the community events and services that have recently been supported by the Stockman Project include:

- Omeo District Health - GP outreach clinic at Benambra
- Tambo Valley Racing Club - Tambo Valley Picnic Races
- Omeo & District Agricultural Show
- Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre - COVID vaccination program



LOCALLY BASED STAFF

There are four locally based staff currently working on the Stockman Project. A Senior Geologist, Community Liaison Officer, Senior Field Technician, and Site Administrator who all work from the Omeo office. These staff all live in the area and are part of the community through schooling, childcare and various community and sporting organisations.

Stockman utilises the services of many local businesses within the Omeo Region, including cleaning, gardening, mechanical, transport, among others. With almost \$300 000 spent within East Gippsland last financial year.

