

Fingerboards Project Newsletter

Developing a World-class Critical Minerals Opportunity

Gippsland Critical Minerals (GCM) has had its licences renewed to continue developing its Fingerboards Critical Minerals and Rare Earths Project which has now been listed by the Victorian Government in its Critical Minerals Roadmap.

The Roadmap highlights the Fingerboards Project as a world-class source of titanium, zircon and other rare earth elements. It also states that, in the coming decades, there will be unprecedented global demand for these minerals to make, among other things, wind turbines, electric vehicles and advanced technologies, including MRI machines and semiconductors used in computers and smartphones. These are essential to the transition to a net-zero economy and to securing Australia's critical minerals supply chain.

Work has begun to rescope the project

As part of its license renewal conditions, GCM is required to rescope its old project. We have started with a range of commitments for the Fingerboards Project that do more to protect local horticulture and the environment.

These include:

- Establishment of a 'buffer' zone of approximately 1.5 kilometres from any mining to the existing Lindenow Valley horticultural area to safeguard local agriculture
- Fencing off and establishing conservation areas in gullies to reduce impacts on native vegetation and the environment
- Ensuring positive outcomes for the local community with stronger community engagement and through co-designed benefit sharing initiatives.

GCM will not undertake any mining until these studies are completed and necessary approvals are obtained.

Victoria's Demonstrated Critical Mineral and Strategic Material Resources



Our current priorities

After having received licence renewals for the Fingerboards Project, we now have 12-18 months of work to undertake technical and environmental studies and to consult the community. We currently have three priorities.



1. Commencing work on technical and environmental studies as we prepare for the submission of a new mine design and scope to the Victorian Government in December 2025. This is known as EES self-referral.



2. Continuing conversations in East Gippsland to understand the issues of importance to the community. This input will also help to inform the technical and environmental studies and our work on mine design.



3. Working on the design and detailed scope of the mine with a view to discussing this with the community in 2025. The conversations we have now are already helping to shape that work.



Message from GCM's CEO

It has been a busy couple of months for the Fingerboards Project and I have been reaching out to our stakeholders in the community to introduce myself and the team.

The licence renewals granted by the Victorian Government in October have kick-started a new process to rescope the Fingerboards Project. There is a lot to do, including environmental, technical, and cultural studies and talking to the Gippsland community.

The conversations we are having with the community are already helping to shape our work and as we listen and gather more information, we will broaden our engagement activities. This includes the establishment of a Community Reference Group (CRG) early in 2025. More information about the CRG, including how to nominate to join the Group, is available on our website.

Completing the work on the proposed scope will also help us speak in much more detailed terms with those community members who have ideas for partnership, skills and ideas to offer, or would like more detail and answers to specific questions.

I want to thank all of those people who have made time to meet with me so far and to put their points of view and their ideas forward.

We are genuine about developing the best project we can for Gippsland and following the proper processes and providing useful information to help inform and engage with the community.

I look forward to meeting many more people over the coming months.

Michelle Wood
CEO

GCM is committed to open engagement and communication.

Whether you have a question, a suggestion, or simply want to learn more, please get in touch.

