

Community Reference Group

MEETING #3

08 Aug 2025

Today's Agenda

Meeting Agenda

Starting Time >

	Duration	Time	Lead
Welcome & Introductions	0:15	13:00 13:15	Chair
Project Updates: Progress & Approvals, Mine Design & Studies, Community & Stakeholder Engagement	0:50	14:05	Michelle, Stefan, Ryan
BREAK + PHOTOGRAPHS	0:20	14:25	All
Open Discussion, Q&A	1:15	15:40	All
Meeting Wrap Up & Next Steps	0:20	16:00	Chair

Welcome & Introductions



John Mitchell
CRG Chairperson

Gippsland Critical Minerals acknowledges the Gunaikurnai People as the Traditional Custodians of Country that encompasses the proposed Fingerboards Project area.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and recognise their enduring connection to the land, waters, culture, and community.

Role & Composition of the CRG

The Community Reference Group (CRG) is a key advisory body designed to facilitate engagement between our project team and the local community.

The CRG provides feedback and input to guide our project decisions, ensuring community perspectives are considered throughout the process.

The CRG:

- consists of **16 members** appointed for a two-year term
- is facilitated by an Independent Chairperson
- attended by Project Representatives and specialists who are invited as needed

Project Updates

Project Progress & Approvals



Michelle Wood
CEO

Mine Design & Studies



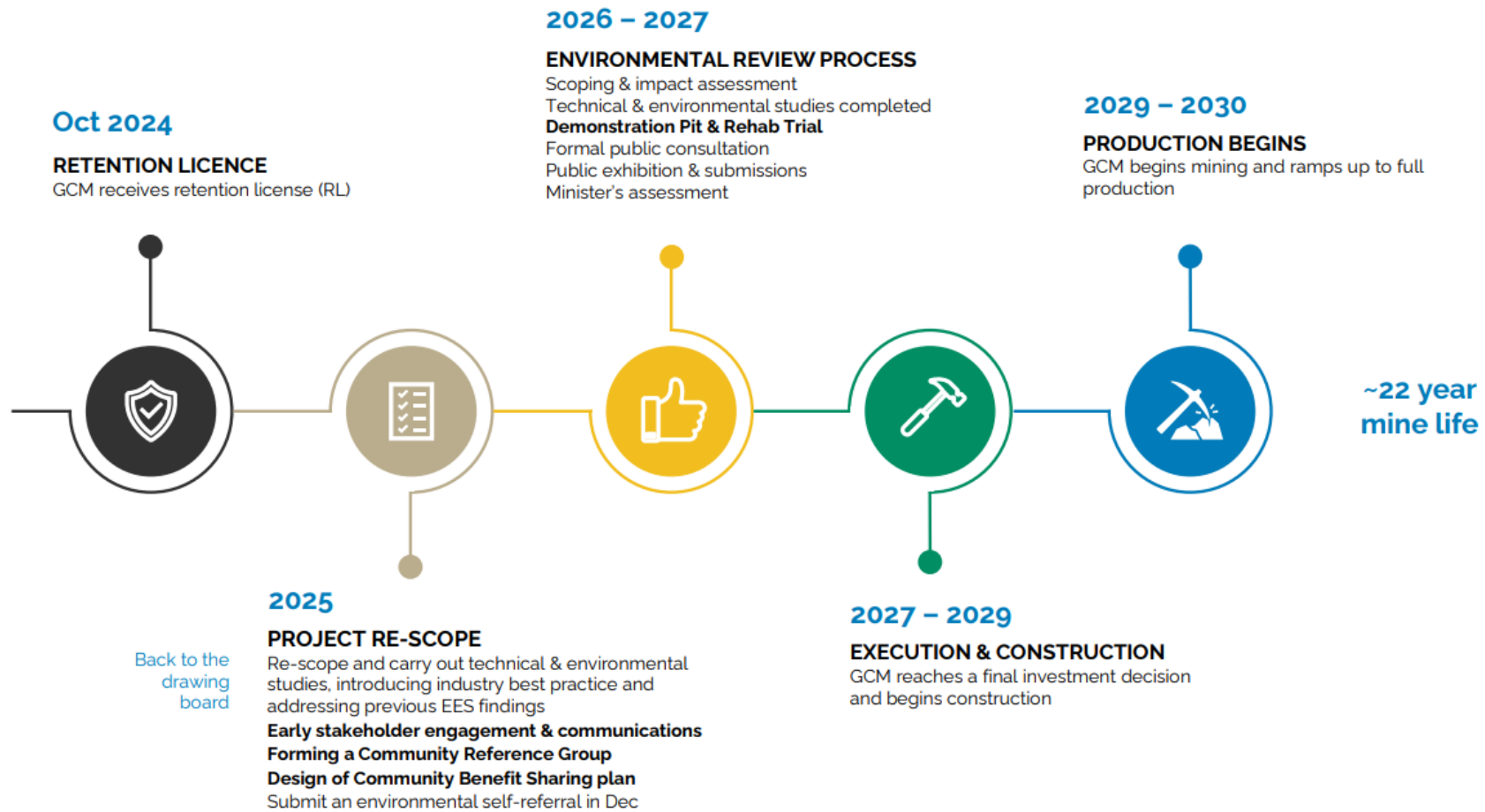
Stefan Wolmarans
Project Director - Technical

Community & Stakeholder Engagement

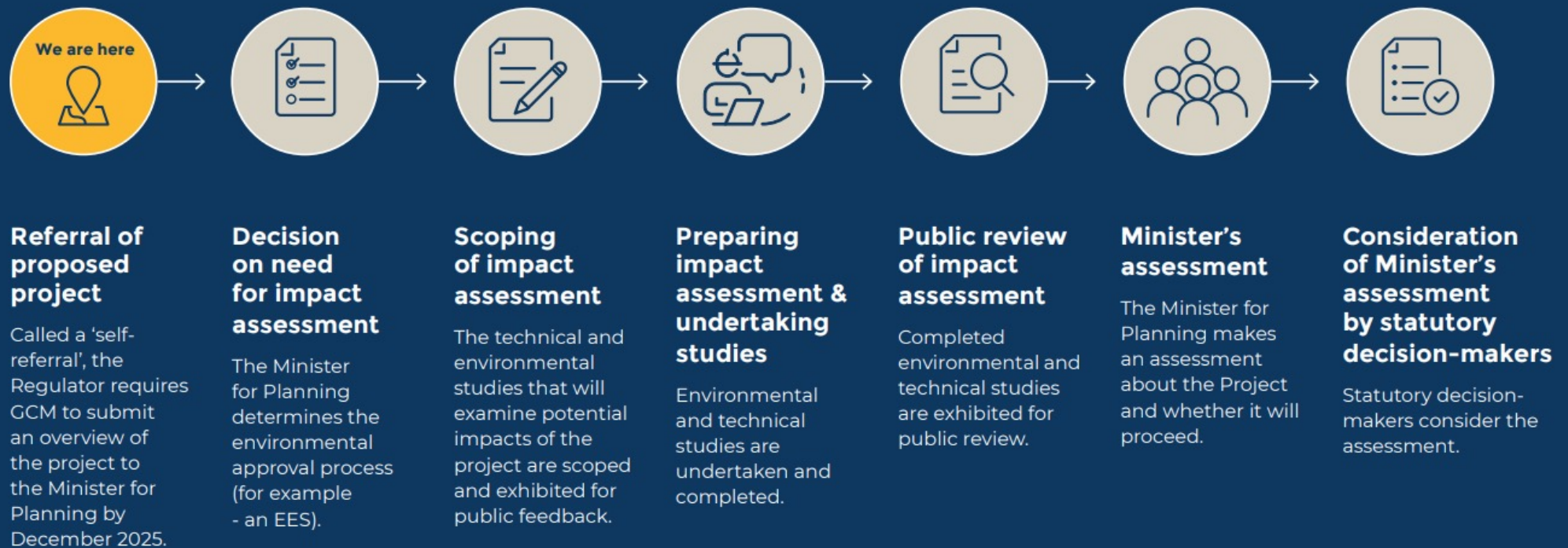


Ryan Leslie
Project Director – Community & Stakeholder Engagement

Project Timeline

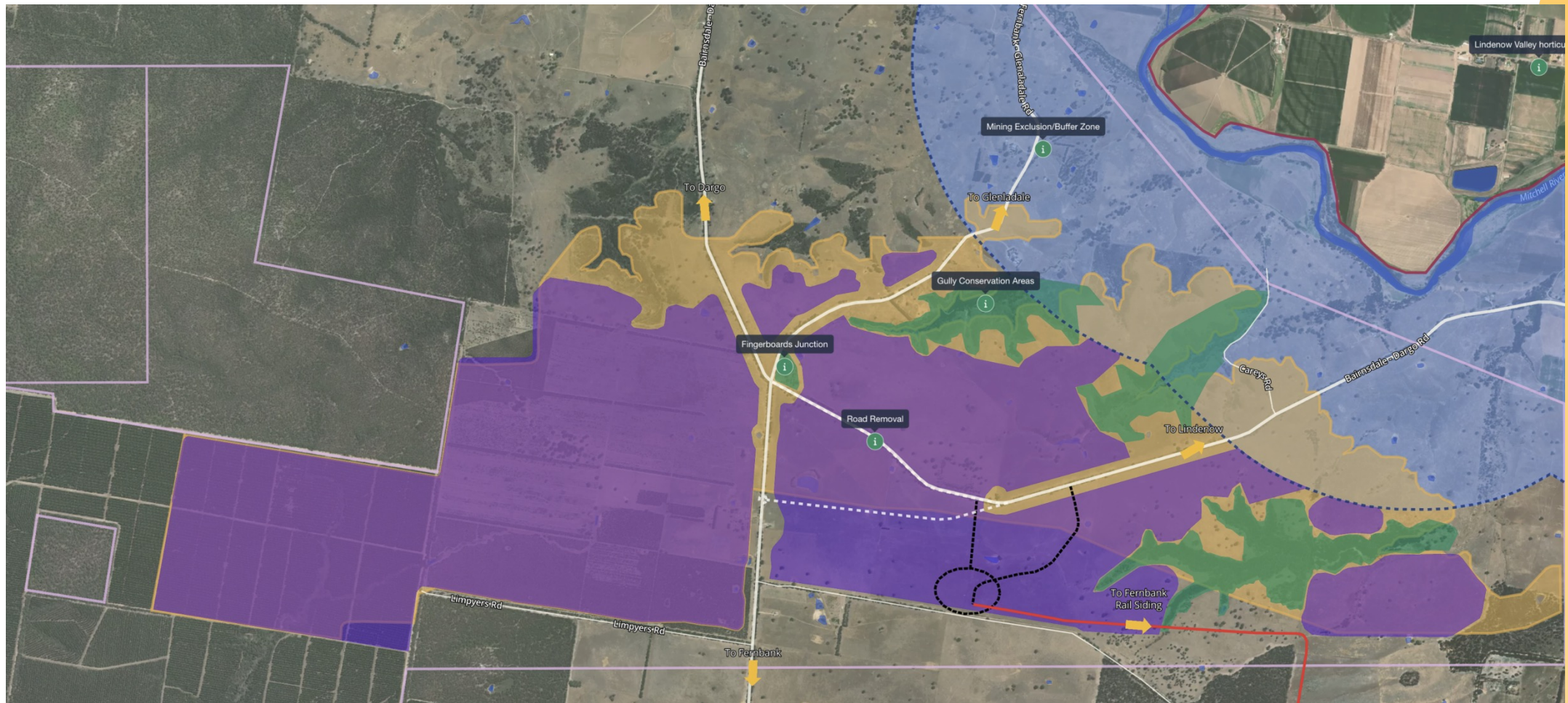


Environmental Assessment Process



Source: planning.vic.gov.au

Project Layout



Mine Design Update

Work has focussed on the development of the final landform and the rehabilitation surface.

Our design starts at the rehabilitation surface and then we design mining to achieve the landform.

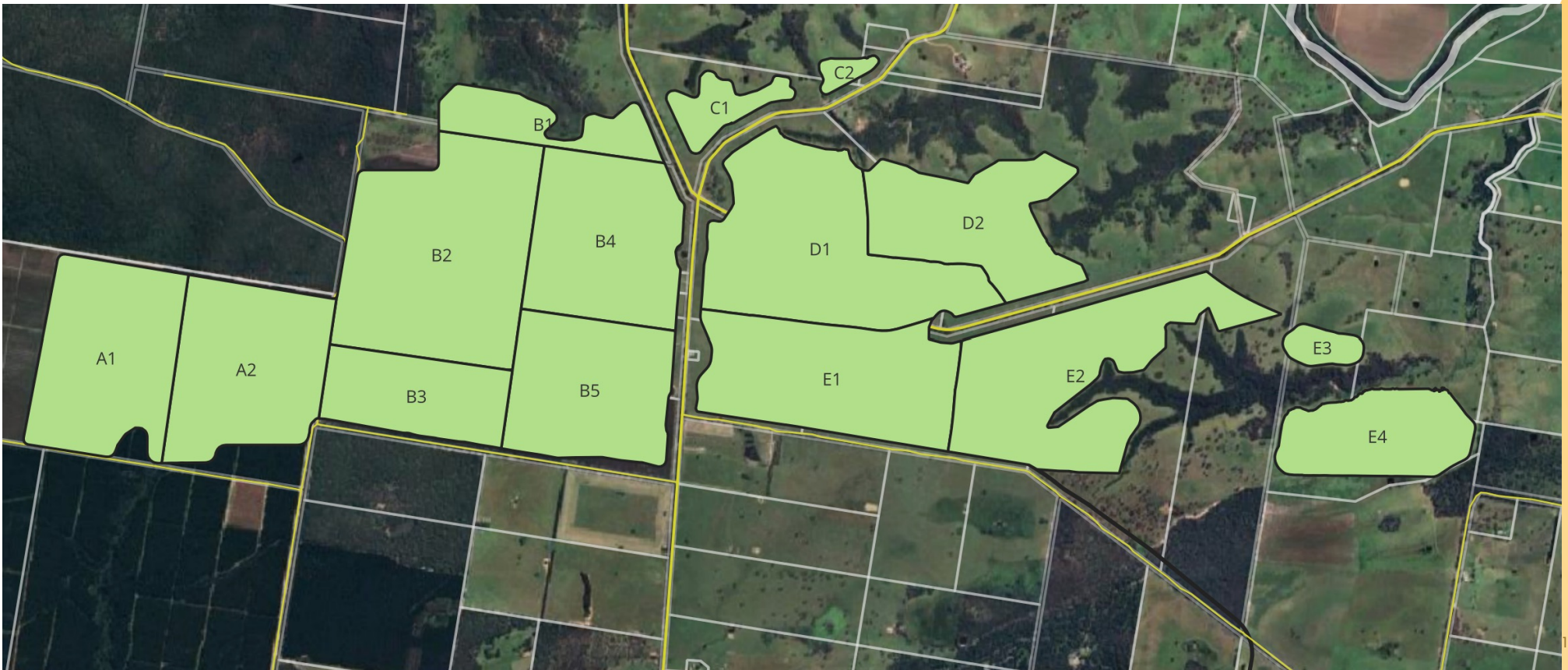
Mining design environmental objectives are:

- Minimise the exposed area at any point in time (<15% target)
- Minimise rehandle of material for rehab to commence early
- Minimise surface haul volumes and distances
- Manage surface water

Initial forms the starting point for ongoing dust, noise and surface water impact assessment and will then be adjusted in an iterative design process.

Mine Design Update

First draft design has been completed to commence impact assessment and adjustment



Typical Mobile Mining Unit (MMU)

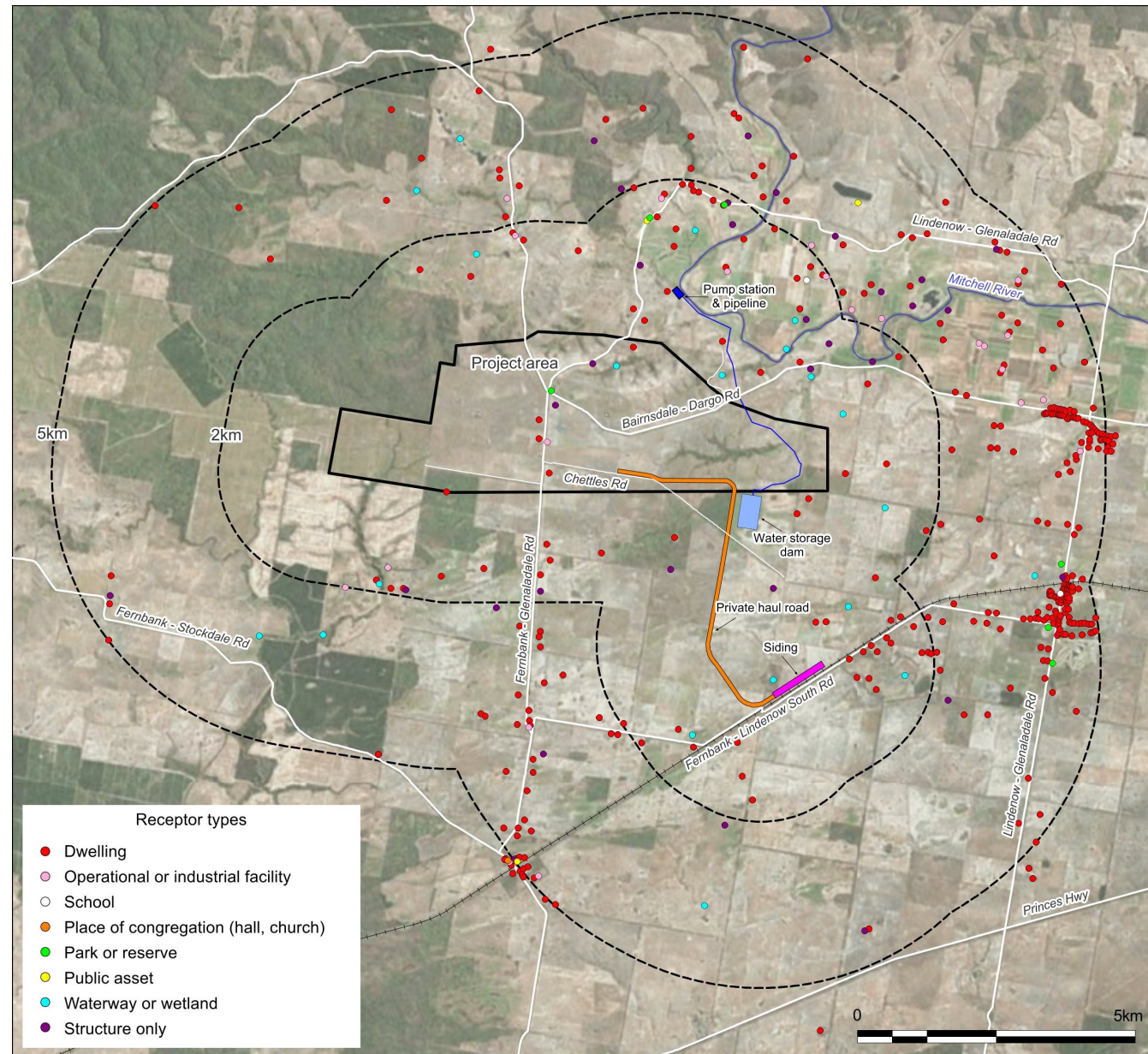


Image: Mineral Technologies .

Typical Wet Concentrator Plant (WCP)



Receptor Mapping



Environmental and Technical Studies

Ecology	Assessment of ecological values and sensitive areas
Flora and Fauna Surveys	Species surveys, habitat assessments, biodiversity significance
Surface Water	Surface water quality and flows to receiving waterways
Groundwater	Groundwater flow and quality within local and regional groundwater systems
Water Supply	Water supply options
Cultural Heritage	Studies of Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage
Visual and Landscape	Assessment of visual impacts and landscape character
Land Use and Planning	Compatibility with current and future land uses
Traffic and Transport	Impacts of construction and operations on road networks
Economic Development	Economic contribution and regional development benefits

Environmental and Technical Studies

Social Impact	Community wellbeing, population, and amenity impacts
Air Quality	Air quality impacts on receptors
Noise and Vibration	Noise and vibration impacts to receptors
Radiation	Radiation safety on site and offsite
Human Health	Potential effects on public health from project activities
Agriculture and Horticulture	Assessment of potential impacts on local agriculture and horticulture
Geotechnical Conditions	Subsurface conditions relevant to project safety and design
Soils	Soil characteristics, erosion potential, and handling requirements
Rehabilitation	Panning for progressive rehabilitation and final landform restoration

Baseline Monitoring

To inform the specific technical studies within the Environmental Impact Assessment, GCM has commenced a comprehensive baseline monitoring program.

This monitoring is designed to establish a clear understanding of existing environmental conditions across the project area and its surrounds.

Weather	Ongoing climate and atmospheric data collection
Air Quality and Dust	Air particulate sampling, quantity and composition
Surface Water	Monitoring of flow rates and water quality in local waterways
Groundwater	Includes both regional and site-specific (re-supply) monitoring
Noise	Existing noise levels to inform modelling and future management of operational impacts
Radiation	Background radiation levels at and around the project site

CRG Key Recommendations

Give CRG
members the
floor

More CRG
members with
diverse
experience &
perspectives

Community
grants to have
a more local /
legacy focus

Local jobs &
procurement

More detailed
receptor
mapping

More
engagement
with
landholders &
near
neighbours

Better dust &
noise
modelling

Shared water
infrastructure
opportunities

Engagement Channels

Community
Reference Group

One-on-one
Meetings

Briefings,
Presentations &
Site Tours

Drop-in Sessions

Events &
Field Days

Local
Office



Website
+ Chatbot

Webinars

Virtual
Showroom



Newsletters

Mail Drops

~5km Mail Drop

Local
Media

Advertisements
Media Releases
Print, Radio

Social
Media

Facebook
LinkedIn

Information

Info Sheets
Flyers
Maps

Dear Local Resident



Scan the QR Code:





Project

Project overview

Project overview

~300+

\$300m

\$190m

About Fingerboards

Information icon

Minerals essential for everyday life

Information icon

Our approach to mining

Information icon

Where we are and where we are going

Information icon

What are the benefits?

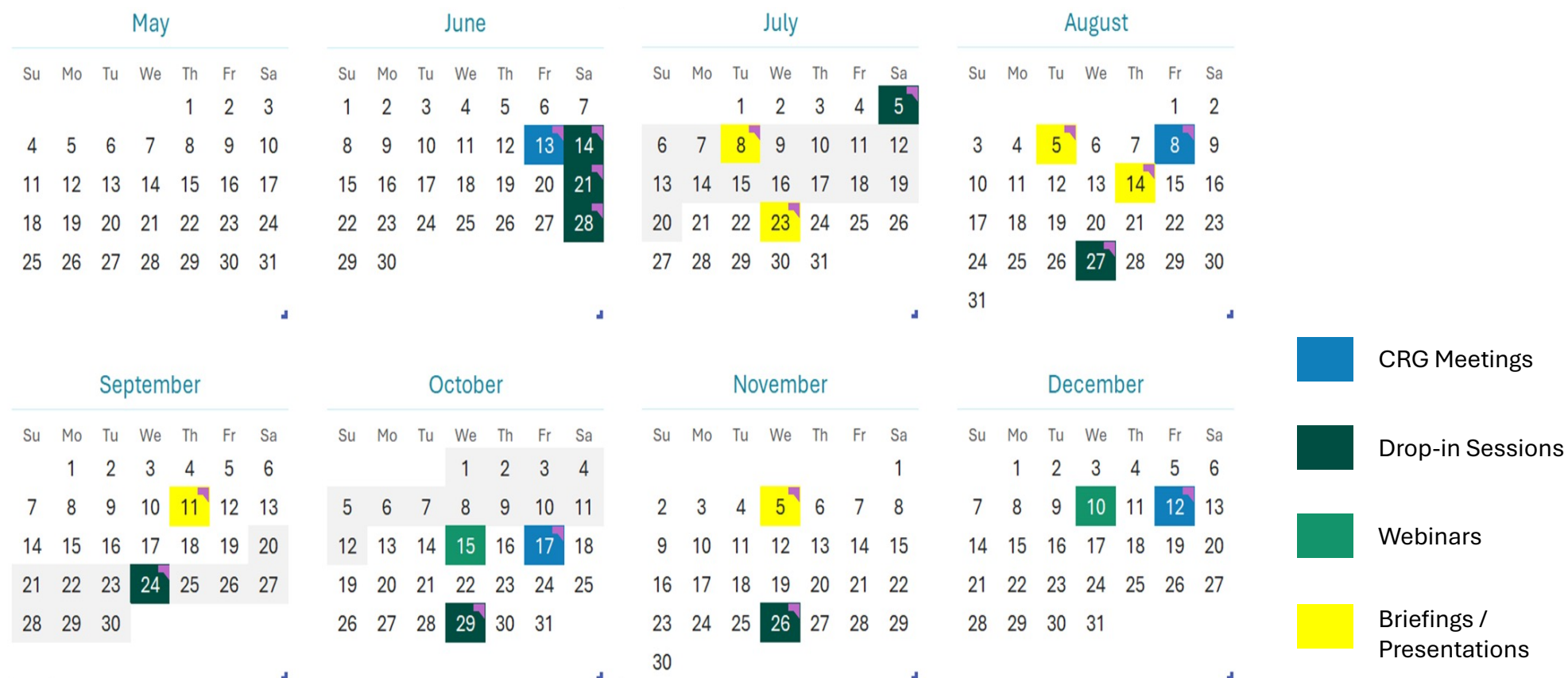
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Virtual Showroom



Key Public Engagements



Benefit Sharing

PILLAR 1

Cultural Heritage
Protection and First
Nations Empowerment



Co-design a Benefit Sharing Plan that supports the needs and aspirations of the Gunaikurnai community, supports reconciliation and healing of Country and strengthens opportunities for the future.

PILLAR 2

Local Employment,
Procurement, and
Workforce Development



Create sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities for East Gippsland and Wellington Shires throughout and beyond the lifetime of the Fingerboards Project.

PILLAR 3

Investment in Local
Infrastructure and Legacy
Assets



Create enduring regional value beyond the mine's operational life by delivering infrastructure co-benefits for public and industry use and regional capacity building.

PILLAR 4

Community Vibrancy and
Liveability



Support initiatives that enhance community connectedness, pride, wellbeing, and lifestyle.

Benefit Sharing

PILLAR 4

Community Vibrancy and Livability



Support initiatives that enhance community connectedness, pride, wellbeing, and lifestyle.

4.1 Partnerships

Multi-year funding and support to NFP organisations.

4.2 Sponsorships

Financial or in-kind support for community, cultural, industry, educational, or sporting awards and events.

4.3 Grants

Funding community-led ideas, projects, or services that address local needs or create lasting benefits. The program supports community initiatives that enhance the quality of life, heritage, recreation and cultural opportunities, and provide long lasting benefits to the local community.

Let's take a break

Members to have the floor

Open Discussion, Q&A



John Mitchell
CRG Chairperson

Meeting Wrap Up & Next Steps



John Mitchell
CRG Chairperson