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Gippsland Critical Minerals sets out initial priorities following retention license extension

Gippsland Critical Minerals (GCM) today published advertisements in key East Gippsland newspapers to increase awareness that the Gippsland Critical Minerals Group has had its retention and exploration licenses extended for the Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project.

In the advertisements, GCM has also outlined the current focus areas for work on the Fingerboards Project. These are:

- Commencing work on technical and environmental studies as it prepares for the submission of a new mine design and scope to the Victorian Government in December 2025. This is known as EES self-referral.
- 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.
- Working on the proposed design and a detailed scope of the mine with a view to discussing options with the community during 2025.

GCM CEO Michelle Wood said: “The conversations we are already having with the community are helping to shape our work and providing us with a view of the old project from all perspectives.

“As we listen and gather more information, we will broaden our engagement activities. This includes the establishment of a Community Reference Group early in 2025.

“Completing the work on the proposed scope of the mine will 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.”

Interested community members can keep up to date by following GCM’s Facebook page and they can also sign up for regular newsletter and major updates by email by registering their email on the GCM website.

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Note for editors: Please refer to the advertisement PDF on page 2.

Fingerboards

Critical Minerals Opportunity

About the Project

Gippsland Critical Minerals Group (GCM) retention and exploration licences have been renewed for its critical minerals project on land around the Fingerboards junction, near Glenaladale.

The opportunity is to access nationally significant deposits of rare earths, mineral sands elements and critical minerals.

These minerals will help secure Australia's supply chain of advanced technologies such as the specialised magnets used in wind turbines and electric vehicles and in medical devices such as MRI machines. Rare earths are also used to enable GPS technologies in computers and smart phones, as well as in long-life rechargeable batteries and in defence systems and lasers.

If it proceeds, the project will create as many as 200 long-term jobs and significant investment for in the region.

Developing a better project

GCM's licences are conditional on delivering a new project scope with strong community engagement.

Commitments include:

- Establishment of a buffer zone to increase the distance between mining and 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.
- Progressive rehabilitation, including with native grassy woodland species being sourced and produced by GCM's local nursery.

After working to develop the opportunity over the past decade, GCM knows it needs to do more to meet community expectations and create the best possible project for East Gippsland.

Our current priorities

We currently have three key 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. The conversations we are having now are already helping to shape that work.
3. Working on proposed design and a detailed scope of the mine with a view to discussing options with the community in 2025.

