

WIMMERA PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – GENERAL

What is the Wimmera Project?

Iluka proposes to establish a mineral sands mine located approximately 35km south-west of Horsham and 25km north-east of Balmoral in western Victoria. It is comprised of an open pit mine, processing plant, tailings storage facility and ancillary infrastructure to extract mineral sands from the WIM100 deposit.

The project will contribute to Iluka's portfolio of high-grade, high-quality critical minerals, including zircon, titanium dioxide and rare earth products. Mining activities are expected to continue for 23 years, with a mining pit area of approximately 1,600 hectares, and an additional 1,700 hectares of ancillary infrastructure and stockpiles.

What are critical minerals used for?

Zircon and rutile are essential for many of the everyday products we use including ceramics, paints, plastics and titanium metals. Rare earths are essential to produce the permanent magnets in electric motors, used most notably in electric vehicles, as well as wind turbines and defence applications.

What is the WIM100 deposit?

WIM100 is the name of the deposit Iluka proposes to mine as part of the Wimmera Project, and refers to the geological type of the deposit. WIM-style deposits are fine-grained sands characterised by sheet-like geometry. They are a lower grade but yield higher tonnages relative to other mineral sands deposits. Because of the fine nature of their mineral sands, mining and processing ore from WIM-style deposits is technically challenging.

What is the proposed mining method?

The deposit will be mined progressively, using conventional earthmoving equipment to remove/replace overburden and a dredge to remove ore. In general, tractor scoops and/or scrapers will be used for the removal and replacement of topsoil and subsoil. Trucks and excavators will be used for the removal and replacement of overburden.

Ore mining will be undertaken using a floating dredge and the ore will be pumped in slurry form to an on-site processing facility. While some dewatering is required to lower groundwater levels in the dredge pond to optimise dredge mining conditions, full pit dewatering is not proposed during mining operations. With progressive mining and rehabilitation, only part of the mine area will be disturbed at any given time.

When does Iluka plan to start mining here?

The Wimmera Project is currently in the definitive feasibility study stage and an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is being prepared for submission to the Victorian Government for assessment.

Iluka expects to submit the EES to the Victorian Government in 2026, after which time a public exhibition period will take place. Subject to government and internal approvals, pre-construction activities are planned to commence in early 2028 and mining would take place from early 2030.

Where can I learn more about the EES?

For more information on the approvals process for the Wimmera Project, please see our dedicated [Approvals FAQs](#). In addition, you can learn more about the EES process by visiting the [Department of Transport and Planning](#) website.

The EES chapters for the Wimmera Project are currently being prepared by various independent consultants; while Iluka does work closely with these consultants, the studies undertaken maintain professional integrity. Consultants are also generally required to respond to questions about their work during the inquiry process after the EES is formally submitted.

What benefits will there be for the local community?

Iluka has a long history of working collaboratively with local communities across Australia, including in western Victoria. We support and provide meaningful employment opportunities to the communities in which we operate, sourcing local contractors and employees where possible and utilising local businesses as much as we can.

We are proud to support local projects, organisations and groups which in many cases are the epicentre of a community. We do this through sponsorships via our grants program, Iluka Lends a Hand, and by building relationships with many fantastic volunteers and leaders in the community. In western Victoria, we have provided significant financial support to local organisations over 17 years, including farming collectives, health services, landcare networks and sporting groups, and we are proud of our contribution to their continued success. We value our place in the community and we don't take it for granted.

Economic benefits will also extend to local, state and national levels through royalty payments and export sales, and proposed road intersection upgrades and improvements will support objectives around maintaining local and regional road networks.

Will the project mean more job opportunities?

Should the project receive approval to go ahead, there will be potential job opportunities during the construction, operations, rehabilitation and closure stages of the project. Iluka estimates that the project will provide approximately 300 jobs during construction and 320 jobs during operations, including contractors. Workforce studies continue alongside the EES process.

Where will Iluka's workforce be accommodated?

Iluka expects a portion of the Wimmera Project's construction and operational workforce will be from the local region.

To accommodate the non-residential workforce, Iluka proposes to construct a workers' camp at our former mine site at Echo, approximately ten minutes' drive to the east of the project site. This will remove housing pressure from surrounding towns and will contain light vehicle traffic to a smaller area.

Are you talking to local council?

Iluka has been engaging with Horsham Rural City Council and a range of local stakeholders on the Wimmera Project for a number of years, and will continue to receive feedback and work together as the project progresses.

Additionally, a technical reference group exists for the Wimmera Project, facilitated by the Department of Transport and Planning. This group consists of a number of government organisations, including the council, and meets regularly throughout the year to review draft findings of EES studies and provide critical feedback.

What will the operating hours/days be?

Mining industry standard is 24-hour operations, seven days per week. Impacts to the local community, including noise, light and dust, will be considered as part of the operational strategy for the proposed mine and managed appropriately during construction and operations to ensure minimal disturbance to the local community.

How will the product be transported?

The product transport routes are dependent on the mine products and any identified constraints or potential future opportunities in the existing transport and logistics network.

Mine products will be transported via road and/or rail to port for export, which could include using Iluka's existing facilities at Portland and port facilities in Melbourne. The mined product will undergo initial processing on site prior to transportation. The titanium dioxide and zircon products will be transported via road and/or rail to port for export via ship to customers, while the rare earth concentrate will be transported via road and rail to Iluka's rare earths refinery in Western Australia. Studies are continuing as transport routes are refined.

Will there be impacts to local roads and traffic?

A number of studies have been undertaken for the region and local areas to inform the project options in relation to the use of existing road networks. These have helped inform the development of the traffic and transport impact assessment, which forms part of the EES and considers traffic and transport routes and any potential impact on roads used during the project. This study is currently being completed and further details will be provided in due course.

Should the project receive approval to go ahead, detailed traffic management plans will be created to manage the potential impacts associated with the mine, including traffic from light and heavy vehicles. This will involve working with the Department of Transport and Planning and local government authorities on potential road and intersection upgrades.

How does Iluka obtain access to mine?

Iluka has been in ongoing discussions with landowners regarding the Wimmera Project and access to complete exploration drilling, environmental monitoring and assessments for several years. Discussions with landowners on the project site to secure access for construction and mining commenced in mid-2022, and

are ongoing. These negotiations are confidential and prioritise proactive and sensitive engagement with affected landowners who are supported to seek professional advice for their own unique circumstances.

Environmental

How does Iluka rehabilitate land?

Iluka is proud of its strong track record in mine rehabilitation and closure, spanning more than 50 years across Australia including 17 years in the Murray Basin and western Victoria. This allows us to learn from our previous experience to continually improve and refine our rehabilitation techniques.

Iluka will adopt a progressive rehabilitation approach for the Wimmera Project, which means that rehabilitation starts as soon as possible after ore has been mined in a pit. This means that some parts of a mine pit may be backfilled and rehabilitated while other parts of the pit are still being excavated and mined. This reduces the need to double-handle overburden and soils and the amount of rehabilitation required when mining is finished. Progressive rehabilitation also reduces the total disturbed area and impacts such as surface water runoff and dust.

In cases where a mine is developed on agricultural land, including for the Wimmera Project, the area is rehabilitated and returned to agricultural use for cropping or grazing. We collaborate with relevant regulatory authorities and landowners to prepare comprehensive rehabilitation plans for our mines, which establish our legal obligations and completion criteria for rehabilitation. For further information about Iluka's rehabilitation approach, please visit our [Rehabilitation](#) webpage.

Are there standards that Iluka adheres to when it comes to rehabilitation?

Rehabilitation is governed by stringent regulations. Iluka manages and monitors rehabilitated land for several years to ensure that the agreed mine closure objectives and completion criteria have been met. If monitoring shows that the rehabilitated land does not meet the agreed objectives, we work with landowners and regulatory authorities to plan and carry out further work to improve the affected land.

Upon completion of rehabilitation activities on a mine site, Iluka prepares a completion report with data to show that agreed rehabilitation objectives have been met. This is supported by investigation reports from experts such as agronomists and engineers. Regulatory authorities then assess the rehabilitation at the site to confirm that it is complete and that relevant legal obligations have been met.

In Victoria, once the regulatory authority is satisfied with the rehabilitation, the return of a monetary bond can be facilitated. For more information on rehabilitation bonds, please visit the [Resources Victoria](#) website.

Iluka is committed to rehabilitating land to a high standard to continue to be a trusted mineral sands mining company in Australia.

My property is nearby; will there be dust and noise?

Iluka has undertaken monitoring and assessments for air quality, dust, noise and vibration to understand the potential for project-related impacts. The modelling outcomes have shown that dust and noise emissions, with appropriate management measures in place, will be minimal and will not have a significant impact upon

surrounding areas. As mining progresses, dust and noise management plans will be implemented to minimise any potential impacts. The proposed wet-mining method will help minimise dust and noise during mining.

My property is nearby; will I see the operations?

Possibly. The project is situated in a relatively open flat landscape adjacent to public roads, including Natimuk-Hamilton Road, and it is likely that parts of the operations will be visible from certain angles depending on proximity from the site. The progressive mining and rehabilitation method will limit the disturbance area at any point in time, reducing the amount of time that individual viewpoints will be exposed to mining activity. A landscape and visual impact assessment is currently being undertaken for the project by an independent consultant to further assess potential visual impacts.

My property is nearby; will I see light at night from the operations?

Possibly. The project location is in open paddocks with few tree line barriers so there is a possibility light will be visible at night. Where possible, lights at night will be minimised and shielded to avoid nuisance light spill. At present, the landscape and visual impact assessment for the project has determined that the overall impacts of lighting from mining activity are expected to be low.

What are your water and power sources for the mine?

Rocklands Reservoir has been selected as the primary source of water. Iluka currently has a Supply By Agreement (SBA) with Grampians Wimmera Mallee (GWM) Water for the supply of sufficient water from the reservoir. The SBA was established for Iluka's nearby Douglas mine but is transferable to the project. Iluka proposes to install a new 39km pipeline from the existing Rocklands-Douglas pipeline to the mine.

Iluka also holds a groundwater licence to extract water from a nearby borefield which pumps into the Rocklands-Douglas pipeline. Should the project proceed, Iluka will continue to undertake regular monitoring to ensure ground and surface water quality and levels are minimally impacted by our operations.

Electricity will be sourced from the grid. Electricity supply to the mine infrastructure area will require the construction of a dedicated 66kV line parallel to Nurrabel Church Road, from the existing 66kV line along the Wonwondah-Toolondo Road.

What is naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM)?

Mineral sands, as with other minerals such as clay, soils, rocks and many ores, contain levels of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) which can be concentrated through mining and processing activities. For this reason, Iluka applies stringent radiation management practices that align with international best practice as defined by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the relevant jurisdiction's legislation.

We identify, assess and control risks associated with NORM, radon gas and human activity through all phases of our activities including exploration, project development, operations, rehabilitation and closure. Iluka's Group Radiation Management Standard and site-specific radiation management plans ensure exposure to radiation meets the prescribed statutory limits and is as low as reasonably achievable.



How are Aboriginal cultural heritage sites being considered?

Extensive cultural heritage surveys have been conducted across the project development envelope in close consultation with Traditional Owners of the area and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Appropriate protection measures have been applied to all known sites of significance, and we continue to work in collaboration with Traditional Owners to manage cultural heritage. Development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is underway, and will include site-specific management measures.

How can I get in touch with Iluka?

We value the relationships we have developed with stakeholders and the community and will continue to provide opportunities for engagement. You can reach us by email at wimmera.project@iluka.com, online at www.iluka.com/contact-us, or by calling our 24-hour community line on 1800 305 993.