

# MURRAY BASIN

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



ILUKA



### Balranald

The Balranald Project had made remarkable progress, achieving several key milestones in the lead-up to first ore production later this year.

The end of 2024 was particularly noteworthy, with **the completion of two critical infrastructure projects**: the commissioning of two telecommunications towers and the completion of the mine access road. These achievements were pivotal in enhancing the project's connectivity and accessibility.

The New Year began on a high note, with a fleet of work vehicles successfully navigating the newly constructed **24km transport road**, which stretches from the Ivanhoe Road turnoff to the Balranald mine site. This road has proven essential for the smooth arrival of the first batch of processing plant modules and mining extraction drill units from overseas, which were transported seamlessly.



Aerial view of the sealed road with new deliveries in the mining panel area

Baseline soil studies and archaeological surveys for the **solar farm development** within Iluka's Mining Lease boundary were completed in February, ensuring that the development proceeds with minimal environmental and cultural impact.

Our **feral animal control program** has also continued to yield positive results in collaboration with neighbours and landholders. Feral pig baiting initiatives have shown promising outcomes, and in March, the joint mustering partnership between Iluka and neighbouring landholders also proved fruitful, resulting in **the collection of over 3,000 feral goats**. These efforts highlight the effectiveness of the collaborative approach taken to mitigate the impact of feral animals on the environment and agricultural properties.

Construction activities will continue throughout the year, with activities at the Balranald mine site being conducted daily from 7am to 6pm, including weekends if necessary. All construction work will adhere to approved noise and traffic management plans to minimise any potential impact on the local community. This includes **road upgrade works for McCabe Street in Balranald township**, which started at the end of April and will continue through May. These upgrades are expected to improve local infrastructure and support the increased traffic associated with mining operations.

The local community and businesses in and around Balranald Shire have been integral to the project's success, providing essential support to Iluka's growing workforce. **In early April, Iluka's village camp marked a significant milestone by opening the first 88 rooms** and providing its inaugural dinner service at the village's mess hall.



Early stages of Iluka's accommodation camp at the Balranald mine site

Over the past six months, Iluka has had the pleasure of sponsoring and attending some fantastic community events including the **Murrumbidgee Classic Fishing Competition** in March, the **Homebush Rodeo** in April, and the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual **Isolated Children's Parents Association NSW state conference** hosted by the Balranald branch in Euston. These events have provided opportunities for Iluka to continue fostering relationships with the local community.

**In early May, two recruitment days were held in Mildura** to support recruitment for Balranald Operations. The goal was to fill 25 Plant and Field Operator roles from the local community. The recruitment days were a huge success with all 25 roles now identified through a combination of online and in-person interviews conducted over the two days. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Iluka sponsored the recent Isolated Children's Parents Association NSW state conference in Euston

## CAREERS

**As the Balranald Project transitions to its operational phase later this year, Iluka continues to recruit for operational roles.** We are actively seeking individuals with a range of skill sets to join our team. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the [Careers page](#) on the Iluka website to create a profile and register for job alerts.

As always, if you have any queries related to the Balranald Project, please email [balranald.community@iluka.com](mailto:balranald.community@iluka.com).



Construction of the rougher screening area at the Balranald site



## Euston

### Iluka recently completed fieldwork and data analysis for the Euston pre-feasibility study.

Following a review of the outcomes within the context of the company's broader major project pipeline, **we have made the decision to suspend further study work on the Euston Project at this time.**

We will continue to assess the viability of the Euston deposit and its potential for future development, taking into account forecast demand and other factors.

Exploration work may continue in the Euston area in the short to medium term, and **we look forward to ongoing engagement** with the community as part of this, as well as through the continued development of the nearby Balranald mine.

**We extend our sincere thanks to the community and local businesses** for their generous support over the years.

If you have any questions about this change in project status, you can reach out to the Iluka team at [communities.support@iluka.com](mailto:communities.support@iluka.com). Please note that the Euston Project mailing list will now be inactive, but if you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, you can join the Balranald Project mailing list by sending a request to [balranald.community@iluka.com](mailto:balranald.community@iluka.com).



It's been a busy six months for the Wimmera Project team, with plenty of site activity and the progression of a number of studies which form part of the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The EES is currently scheduled to be submitted to the Victorian Government in **Q2 2026**, and, as always, we welcome the community to get in touch with us at any stage with questions or concerns about the project, the EES process, or Iluka's activities in the region.

Out in the field, we have continued to undertake ecology surveys and fieldwork associated with areas of interest. This has included investigations for vegetation offset areas, as well as land feature surveys and groundwater and surface water monitoring to inform EES studies and preliminary design tasks. Some of the project team and several of our consultants have **enjoyed being out on site over the warmer months**, including meeting with community members, local organisations and other key stakeholders in Horsham and surrounds

Technical studies for geotechnical, air quality, greenhouse gas, radiation, and groundwater have been submitted to the **Technical Reference Group** for review, and other studies are due for completion over the coming months. As we refine project planning, iterative revision of stockpile footprints continues to avoid or minimise impacts to remnant native vegetation and areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance on the project site.

We have now closed the community survey and interviews comprising the social impact assessment (SIA) for the project, conducted by EMM Consulting. **Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide input**, both in person at events and through telephone interviews and survey responses, which will all be taken into consideration in the findings and recommendations of the SIA. As with all other EES studies, the final SIA will be presented to the community in 2026.



*We love getting out to visit local clubs and organisations who we've supported – and even trying our hand at a game of bowls!*



*Our environmental team regularly monitors water levels at Jallumba Marsh*

## WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT?

The Environment Effects Statement (EES) is the Victorian State Government's requirement for assessing the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of a proposed development. The EES comprises a set of rigorous assessments and reports which provide the evidence needed for the Minister for Planning to determine whether the development should go ahead, and incorporates strategies to **mitigate adverse impacts as far as practicable**. Iluka has engaged EMM Consulting Limited to prepare the EES for the Wimmera Project, along with other independent consultants to undertake various studies.

Iluka and its consultants work together to involve relevant key stakeholders in these studies to ensure local knowledge and views are captured, and to ensure rigour in each assessment. To support the integrity of this process, a **Technical Reference Group**, comprised of stakeholders from relevant agencies, local government and statutory authorities, meets several times each year to read draft reports, analyse study methodologies and assumptions, and provide feedback to be addressed. Although consultants are managed by Iluka, they conduct their research and provide findings independently of Iluka.

The **EES is also an avenue for local stakeholders to provide feedback**. Once the EES is on display for public exhibition in 2026, stakeholders will be able to review full study findings and provide input to be considered by the Department of Planning and Transport. Further information on the EES is available on [their website](#).

To help provide the community with as much detail on the Wimmera Project and the EES process as we can at this stage in the process, we recently released two sets of **updated Frequently Asked Questions** for the project and the approvals process.



An echidna spotted near the project site earlier this year

These can be found on the Iluka website under the [Community Engagement](#) tab. We are committed to providing as much transparency about the project as possible, and we encourage community members to come along to our community drop-in sessions to chat to us about draft EES study findings as they become available.

Alongside the EES, a number of other internal studies continue to take place in preparation for future approvals and decisions. This is essential in order to align our national operations and targets across the business, ensuring that our timeline and financing estimates are as accurate as possible and inclusive of the **best-practice rehabilitation standards** that Iluka adheres to.

Stay tuned for our next in-person events and activities in the area, and remember that if you are interested in applying for funding from our grants program, **Iluka Lends a Hand**, our application windows are April and October each year. Please see the Iluka website for further information or reach out to the team.

As always, if you would like to get in touch with us, the best way is by emailing [wimmera.project@iluka.com](mailto:wimmera.project@iluka.com).



## Rehabilitation

**Wildlife is frequently sighted at our Douglas rehabilitation site in western Victoria.**

In February, an injured wedge-tailed eagle was found by the environmental team near the freshwater dam, showing signs of a damaged wing and malnourishment. Stacy Whitehouse, a highly experienced local wildlife rescue volunteer who established **Gerang Gerung Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre**, was called to assist with the eagle rescue. Affectionately naming him "Dougie," Stacy estimated that the eagle was only 18 months old due to the light-coloured feathers on his head. This is the second time in recent months that Stacy has rescued wildlife from the Douglas site, after rescuing an abandoned joey in December. The team is thankful for Stacy's hard work and dedication in helping rehabilitate wildlife across our sites, and we always look forward to progress updates.



"Dougie" the wedge-tailed eagle at the Douglas site



## Exploration and Tenements

**Iluka continues to develop a regional approach to the management of its tenement portfolio. Iluka currently holds 36 granted licences and four in application in the Murray Basin. Most of these are retention licences and provide a mechanism to undertake evaluation work to establish the economic viability of the underlying mineral resource.**

In NSW, a **two-week exploration drilling program** commenced in mid-May to the north of Balranald. Land access agreements, heritage surveys and environmental approvals have all been obtained prior to the commencement of this exploration drilling.

We will also be in the Ouyen area during May to conduct roadside ecological surveys around our tenements in the area. **If you have questions about exploration at Iluka**, please email [communities.support@iluka.com](mailto:communities.support@iluka.com) or call our 24-hour community hotline on 1800 305 993.

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