

# MURRAY BASIN

## NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



ILUKA



### Balranald

We are thrilled to be so close to first ore production at the Balranald mine, which is expected before the end of the year.

Since commencing night shift operations in late May, the extraction team has successfully prepared **four drill holes** for mining, with two additional holes now in the final stages of preparation. This marks a significant milestone in operational readiness for underground mining activities.



The Balranald site from above, showing the mining unit and associated infrastructure

Elsewhere on site, **construction of the solar farm** began in mid-October and is progressing steadily. This initiative supports our broader sustainability goals and Iluka's renewable energy strategy, helping to generate essential energy for the operation of the mine. At the **accommodation village**, which is now operational, 80 native plants were planted over the winter and the final touches are being put on recreational facilities.

This season's environmental fieldwork focused on **conservation efforts for two threatened species**: the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and Corben's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*). From July to October, our Technical Services Team used Lidar drone technology to assist with the completion of biodiversity monitoring for these species. With the help of specialist consultants, we successfully identified **15 active Malleefowl nesting mounds within adjacent habitat areas**. To give the new Malleefowl generation a better chance of survival, the first round of our fox baiting program was recently completed. Our pest control program will continue over the coming months.

We have also continued our wildlife rescue and relocation efforts. As part of ongoing biodiversity monitoring, **12 newly independent microbats** were identified and safely relocated to suitable tree hollows in remnant vegetation during their breeding season. This achievement reflects our shared commitment to protecting native wildlife while progressing operational goals.



*Relocation efforts around the mine area ensure that bats and other wildlife remain protected*

Over the past six months, Balranald has seen key improvements to its local transport infrastructure, aimed at **enhancing safety, accessibility, and long-term community benefit**. Completed in September, the widening of McCabe Street has significantly improved access to the mine site and surrounding areas. The upgrade supports safer traffic flow for both operational vehicles and local road users and is a vital step in preparing for increased activity linked to Iluka's mining and ore transportation.



*The widening of McCabe Street in Balranald was completed in September to ensure safe vehicle movements*

In October, upgrades to the **Tooleybuc intersections** were finalised. These improvements have enhanced traffic safety and efficiency at critical junctions, reducing congestion and improving connectivity for Balranald's residents and visitors, as well as for mine employees.

We have had the pleasure of **funding several wonderful community events in the area this year**, including the Goodnight Hall Centenary, the 'Back to Clare' country event, and a screening of *Just a Farmer* for Raising Awareness for Mental Health.

## NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We are proud of the commitment we make to supporting the community in Balranald and beyond, and we are thrilled to launch **two new community funding opportunities** through our partnership with Balranald Shire Council (BSC).

Under the Voluntary Planning Agreement between Iluka and BSC, **an annual \$150,000 Community Fund and smaller Education Scholarships and Training Fund** are available to support community initiatives, events and projects throughout the life of the Balranald mine. Iluka and BSC welcome applications for both funds, which are governed by a committee comprised of representatives from Iluka, BSC and the community.

The first committee meeting took place in mid-November, and we look forward to supporting some fantastic initiatives in Balranald and surrounds over the coming months.

**For more information or to obtain an application form**, please get in touch via [balranald.community@iluka.com](mailto:balranald.community@iluka.com). You are also welcome to contact us if you have an idea you would like to discuss prior to making an application.

## CAREERS

The majority of recruitment has now taken place as the Balranald Project transitions to its operational phase. We are proud to have recruited for **45 roles from the local and regional area** to date. If you are interested in future roles, please visit the [Careers](#) page on the Iluka website to create a profile and register for job alerts.

As always, if you have any queries about the Balranald Project and related activities, please contact us at any time by emailing [balranald.community@iluka.com](mailto:balranald.community@iluka.com) or calling us on our 24-hour hotline.



*Iluka employees Hayley and Lauralee at the Balranald site*



## As 2025 draws towards a close, the Wimmera Project is continuing to progress towards completion of the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

This process can be very intensive and long for a number of reasons, including the thoroughness of the studies that are undertaken by consultants, the level of fieldwork required, the rigorous review process including input from the project **Technical Reference Group**, and development of project design.

We're proud to have a **dedicated project team spanning western Victoria, Adelaide and Perth** which is committed to carrying the project forward through the approvals process as smoothly as possible. This includes working closely with our consultants and seeking feedback from local stakeholders to capture local data, knowledge and views to inform study findings.

Over the last few months, **a range of draft technical studies and EES chapters** have been submitted to the Technical Reference Group for review. Out in the field, monitoring of surface water and radon has continued as part of the data collection process to inform project design and management plans. We have also published a **suite of new fact sheets** relating to common questions raised by local stakeholders around the EES process, groundwater, surface water, noise and vibration, air quality and radiation. You can view these on our website, at events, or upon request by emailing us. Detailed findings of assessments won't be available to view until the public exhibition stage of the EES, but we're committed to keeping you updated with key information as it becomes available.

We recently hosted a **community information session in Noradjuha**, just ahead of the heavy rain that arrived in October. Alongside Iluka representatives from our project and rehabilitation teams, we had three of our consultants there from EMM Consulting, Radiation Consulting Australia and Grounded Resource Advisory to talk about the social impact assessment, radiation impact assessment, and mine work plan and rehabilitation plan respectively.



Volunteering at the Western District Health Service Golf Day fundraiser

We enjoyed having a **wide range of conversations with many different stakeholders**, including landholders, neighbours, local business owners and local and regional organisation representatives – thank you to everyone who came along to learn more about the project.

We also once again enjoyed sponsoring and holding an information stall at **Sheepvention** in Hamilton this year. As proud sponsors of the **Novice Working Dog Trials** and the **National Centre for Farmer Health** stall, we were pleased to support a highlight of the agricultural calendar and all the hard work that goes into preparation. Our history in Hamilton generated many conversations about Iluka's future in the region, and we always value opportunities to chat to stakeholders in person.



We enjoyed engaging with the community in Hamilton and surrounds at Sheepvention in August

A reminder that our grants program, **Iluka Lends a Hand**, is open twice a year for applications (April and October) to support the community around the Wimmera Project. **If you are part of a local organisation or club** and in need of funding for a project or event, please visit our website or get in touch to learn more. We've had the privilege of supporting some impactful initiatives so far this year, including community health education and training events, inclusive sporting activities for kids, fundraisers, and equipment for local sports clubs.

We also intend to donate a third **community-owned and operated weather station** around the Wimmera Project site over the coming months, in addition to the two funded in 2024 in Kanagulk and Clear Lake. **If you have a suggestion for where a third station could be installed**, or if you would like to stay in the loop to access data, please email us at [wimmera.project@iluka.com](mailto:wimmera.project@iluka.com) to share your ideas or comments.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel welcome to contact us at any time. If you are not already part of our stakeholder email list and would like to be added to receive ongoing updates, please get in touch.



## Rehabilitation



Continuing rehabilitation works across our Murray Basin sites has seen the achievement of some pleasing milestones, as well as progress towards reaching a significant milestone early in 2026.

All rehabilitation earthworks were completed at our WRP site in July, with the MBIC pit backfill and profiling achieved to a high standard, allowing for the commencement of **the three-year agricultural management program** coinciding with the cropping season. All mining infrastructure has now been removed, with the water supply pipeline retrieved and stored in preparation for recycling in 2026.

Our agricultural management programs continue at our Kulwin site, with the **third year of cropping** taking place. Planning has been finished for the earthworks to complete the final 3% of remaining disturbed area at Kulwin. This activity will occur in Q1 2026.

Another milestone in that region has been the endorsement from Parks Victoria that our **native revegetation programs** at the McBains Bushland Reserve (WRP) and the Kulwin Bushland Reserve (Kulwin) have been successful. This means that the rehabilitation has been completed in accordance with agreed requirements and objectives.

At our Douglas site favourable weather conditions have resulted in very good progress with backfill earthworks, which will see us achieve the significant milestone of **completing all rehabilitation earthworks on that site in early 2026**.



Wheat crop at the WRP site in October

Once the earthworks are complete, we will sow cover crops as we progress to incorporating the recently completed areas into our ongoing agricultural management program later in the year.

Final remediation works of the **Rail Loading Facility at Hopetoun** were completed in October with acknowledgement received from the Yarriambiack Shire Council noting that no further obligations remain. Planning has also been finalised for remediation earthworks at our Echo site, and those works will be completed in Q1 2026.



## Exploration and Tenements

**Iluka holds a number of exploration and retention licences in the Murray Basin.**

Work in the region over the past six months has focussed on the **rehabilitation of drilling sites from exploration work** conducted earlier this year. For an exploration activity to be considered rehabilitated, Iluka team members must take before, during and after photos of disturbance, and generally additional follow up photos three to 12 months after drilling to ensure that rehabilitation has been successful.

Landholders are consulted throughout the process, and if they are satisfied with the way that rehabilitation has been undertaken, they are required to sign off on a Rehabilitation Statement.

**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.



### **Merry Christmas from Iluka**

*Iluka would like to wish you a happy and safe festive season as 2025 comes to a close. Best wishes for the New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2026.*



1800 305 993 (24/7 Iluka Community hotline)



[communities.support@iluka.com](mailto:communities.support@iluka.com)



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