

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT?

On 17 July 2019, the Victorian Minister for Planning determined that Iluka Resources is required to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act).

An EES is the Victorian Government's process for assessing the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of major projects, such as a mineral sands mine.

The EES is not an approval in itself. Instead, it pulls together detailed studies and reports to help the Minister for Planning decide if the project can go ahead, and if so, under what conditions. The studies look at how the project might affect land, water, plants and animals, cultural heritage, people's health and safety, communities and local economies. Once potential impacts are identified, the studies can incorporate proposed measures to avoid or reduce the significance of these changes, including mitigation, management and monitoring measures. If positive impacts are identified, opportunities to enhance their outcomes are also considered.

The EES must follow the scoping requirements set by the Minister for Planning, in accordance with the *Ministerial Guidelines for the Assessment of Environment Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978*. The findings feed into project design, management plans and approvals.

The EES is just one part of a comprehensive approvals process for a proposed development.

WHO MANAGES THE WIMMERA PROJECT EES?

Iluka has engaged EMM Consulting to prepare the EES for the Wimmera Project, along with a number of other independent consultants. These specialists carry out the studies on a wide range of potential impacts to address the scoping requirements for the EES. Iluka and its consultants work together to involve relevant key stakeholders in these studies to capture local knowledge and views.

To ensure the process is robust, a Technical Reference Group, made up of representatives from government, regulatory bodies and local councils, reviews draft reports and provides feedback. Although Iluka manages the process, the consultants carry out their work independently.



KEY EES PHASES



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION CONTINUES THROUGH ALL PHASES

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE EES?

Iluka expects to submit the EES for the Wimmera Project in mid-2026. It will then be exhibited for 30 business days for public review and submissions. A public hearing will be held, where Iluka and its consultants may be asked questions.

The Minister for Planning will then assess the project's environmental effects and decide whether it can proceed, and under what conditions.

Relevant decision makers must consider this assessment prior to issuing statutory and other approvals. Further information about the EES process can be found on the Department of Transport and Planning website.

WHAT OPPORTUNITY DO I HAVE TO PUT FORWARD MY VIEW?

There are several ways to have your say:

- Ongoing engagement activities run by Iluka and its consultants.
- Public exhibition of the EES in 2026, when anyone can review the studies and make a submission.
- A formal public hearing, where submissions are considered by an independent panel.

Stakeholder feedback received to date has been considered throughout the EES process. You can contact us to be kept informed of ongoing and future engagement opportunities.



HOW WILL MY VIEWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Community input plays an important role in helping shape project design and impact management. Feedback is used by Iluka to inform planning and by specialist consultants in EES studies, including proposed management or mitigation measures where relevant.

All formal submissions and comments received during the EES process are considered by Iluka and the Minister for Planning in the preparation and assessment of the EES respectively.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If the Minister supports the project after reviewing the EES, approvals are still needed before mining can begin. These include:

- Commonwealth approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- State approvals such as a Mine Work Plan and a Rehabilitation Management Plan.

Consultation with stakeholders continues through each of these steps.

STAY IN TOUCH

Iluka values feedback and open communication. We welcome you to contact us at wimmera.project@iluka.com to be added to the project email list or ask questions at any time.

For more information on the project, visit www.iluka.com/community-engagement/wimmera.

