

14 November 2023

Public Exhibition of Environment Effects Statement for Goschen Mine Commences

Key Highlights:

- The **Environment Effects Statement (EES)** for VHM's flagship Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project **will commence a period of public exhibition** as of **20 November 2023** for a period of up to 40 business days.
- Approval to publicly exhibit by the Victorian Minister for Planning indicates an **important step towards development** of this critical minerals project in Victoria.
- At the conclusion of the public exhibition period the submissions received will be collated and placed online. An independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) that is appointed by the **Minister for Planning will then hold a public hearing** on the environmental effects of the Project.

VHM Limited ("VHM" or the "Company") announces that the Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project (Goschen) Environment Effects Statement (EES) will be placed on public exhibition for a period of eight weeks (40 business days), commencing 20 November 2023.

During this period, members of the public can make submissions to Planning Panel Victoria (PPV) regarding the Goschen Project EES until 11:59pm on 17 January 2024.

Public exhibition of the EES marks a significant milestone in the Goschen approvals process and an achievement for all involved in the Project to date.

Conclusion of the public exhibition period allows the Goschen Project to move to the next stage, a public hearing on the EES that is held by an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) appointed by the Minister for Planning. The IAC will then advise the Minister for Planning on the environmental effects of the Project. The Minister for Planning will then make an assessment of the Project's environmental effects after receiving the IAC's report.

Should the Project receive a positive Ministerial assessment, VHM will apply for the various regulatory licences and permits required. This will inform the VHM Board for determination of the Final Investment Decision for the Goschen Project.

VHM Limited Chief Executive Officer, Ron Douglas, said:

“VHM has engaged openly with regulators throughout the approvals process and the assistance of Environmental Approvals consultant AECOM has been integral to reaching this milestone. This has been a thorough process for all involved in assessing and mitigating the environmental aspects of the Project. We look forward to continued engagement with, and contribution to the community as we deliver the Goschen Project.”

Next steps in Goschen Projects Approvals progress are illustrated below:



Public Access to EES Documents

All EES related documentation, including the draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) development licence, will be available via the Company website from 20 November 2023: www.vhmlimited.com.au/ees.

At nearly 4,000 pages, the full EES is a large document, and interested parties are requested to access the materials online where possible, to minimise environmental impacts from printing.

Physical copies of the full EES documentation are available for viewing from the libraries in Swan Hill and Kerang and the State Library Victoria, as well as council offices in Kerang and Swan Hill.

Submission Process

Members of the public will be able to make written submissions on the EES, draft PSA and EPA Development licence directly to the PPV, during the 40 business days exhibition period.

Online submissions are preferred and can be lodged from 20 November 2023 via the Victorian Government’s Engage Victoria website at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/Goschen-IAC>.

Where a submitter is unable to lodge a submission online, they are to contact Planning Panels Victoria directly by telephone on 136 186 (selection Option 6) or by emailing planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au

EES Related Enquiries

Community EES Information

To contact **VHM Limited** regarding the Goschen EES documentation or to access the materials please use one of the options available below:

Mailing address: EES Enquiries, VHM Limited, PO Box 535, Flinders Lane,
Melbourne, Victoria 8009

Telephone: (03) 5450 8804

Email: community@vhmltd.com.au

Website: www.vhmltd.com.au/ees/

To contact **Planning Panels Victoria** in relation to making a submission or the Inquiry and Advisory Committee Process, use one of the following options:

Telephone: 136 186 (select Option 6)

Email: planning.panels@delwp.vic.gov.au

Hard Copies of the EES

Hard copies of the Goschen EES, draft PSA and EPA Development Licence application will be available at the public libraries and local council offices listed:

Sir John Gorton Library Kerang Murray Valley Hwy & Shadforth Street Kerang VIC 3579	Swan Hill Regional Library 53-67 Campbell Street Swan Hill VIC 3585	State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston Street Melbourne VIC 3000
Gannawarra Shire Council offices Patchell Plaza, 47 Victoria Street Kerang VIC 3579	Swan Hill Rural City Council offices 45 Splatt Street Swan Hill VIC 3585	

VHM Limited (ASX: VHM) - Goschen Project

VHM's flagship Goschen Project is located in the Loddon-Mallee Region of North West Victoria and presents a compelling low-cost mine operation for high-grade rare earths and zircon-titania products. Goschen's dual commodity mix is an attractive economic opportunity to contribute to Australia's supply and trade position in the global critical rare earths markets.

Approximately 70% of Goschen's revenue will come from rare earth products including neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium, and terbium, which are critical for electric vehicles, energy efficiency and technology.

The construction and ongoing operations planned for the Goschen Project is expected to provide a source of social and economic growth for the Region through its 20–25-year mine operation. The Goschen Project is expected to add more than \$2.0 billion to the Loddon-Mallee economy and an estimated \$1.3 billion to the Victorian economy¹.

The Goschen Project gained national recognition from the Australian Federal Government when it was granted Major Project status in 2021.

ENDS

This announcement has been approved by the Board of VHM.

For Further Information Contact:

Carly O'Regan
Executive General Manager, Corporate and
Investor Relations
M: +61 431 068 814
E: carly.oregan@vhmltd.com.au

Ian Hobson
Company Secretary
M: +61 0407 421 185
E: ian.hobson@vhmltd.com.au

¹ Deloitte Access Economics Report 2022