

## Latest news

### **DMS Holds Fifth Community Information Evening**

Around 60 local community members attended an information session on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, taking the opportunity of discussing the Project in more detail with company representatives. Details around the latest draft Environmental Effects Statement studies relating to amenity and water were on display. DMS staff and water specialists were in attendance to answer the community's questions, along with representatives from several Government departments.

Studies on display for the first time included Surface Water, Ground Water, Water Supply Options, Visual and Landscape. Other studies previously presented include Fauna and Flora, Net Gain, Traffic, Cultural Heritage, Noise, Dust, Social and Economic, Rehabilitation and Radiation.

All field works associated with the relevant studies are complete and have been presented to the Technical Reference Group (TRG). The TRG comprises representatives from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), Department of Primary Industries, Yarriambiack and Northern Grampians Shire Councils, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Environment Protection Authority, GWM Water, Department of Human Services, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and VicRoads.

### **Water Studies and Amenity Presented at Fifth Community Information Evening**

From these studies the effects on ground water, surface water and amenity of the Project were found to be manageable.

Surface water runoff can be managed by installation of sumps (to catch sediments and water onsite) and drainage lines (to control water flow in times of flood).

Groundwater effects can be managed by intensive bore monitoring (approximately 20 monitoring bores have already been installed in the Project Area and its surrounds). Intensive groundwater modelling has shown that the additional water incorporated into the mine's waste tailings has no adverse impact on the ground water within the Project Area. Similarly, the effect of utilising groundwater from the Avon Deep Lead has shown to have no adverse impact on that specific aquifer or area.

In relation to saline water being used, any additional salt loading and deposition has been shown not to effect the rehabilitation of land – nor is the water table expected to rise to a level where vegetation will be effected (i.e. the water table will remain below the root zone for crops and native vegetation).

Final studies for the water supply for the Project are still to be completed. DMS is evaluating a number of water supply options, including obtaining a supply of groundwater from the Avon Deep Lead Aquifer located to the east of the Project Area, near Cope Cope. The second option is to secure water from savings realised from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline (WMP) Project.

### **Environment Effects Statement Update**

All field works associated with the relevant studies are now complete and specialists are in the process of completing reports, incorporating comments from the TRG members. Once the documents have been completed the Environmental Effects Statement will be finalised and presented to DPCD. Shortly after this period the EES document will be placed on public exhibition, where the DPCD will call for public submissions. Public exhibition is expected to be in early 2008 and will be open to submission for four weeks. This public exhibition phase is expected to occur late January 2008. During this exhibition phase, the public will be invited to make submissions to DPCD on any aspect of the Project. DMS will inform the community closer to this date of the exact timing.



### **DMS Holds Site Tour**

On the 25th October 2007 DMS hosted a site tour and information session for TRG representatives.

The invitation was extended to advisory committees, including the CMA land advisory committees.





PHOTOS : Presentation - Donald Mineral Sands Donald Cup held on 11th November, 2007 . Inset - Winner "All Pressure".

## Supporting Communities

DMS is committed to supporting the local community and welcomes requests for sponsorship.

Sponsorship recently approved includes the Donald Racing Cup, Minyip Show, Warracknabeal Primary School Fete, Minyip and Rupanyup Bowls and Golf Clubs and also the provision of trees for the Minyip Wetlands Project.

Please **NOTE** that submission forms are available to local communities and organisations from the Minyip DMS office and can be picked up personally or mailed out.

## Common Questions Answered

**(1) What is the annual water requirement for the operation?**

This will depend on DMS's actual scale of mine operation. It could be in the order of several thousand megalitres per year. DMS currently has a water balance showing consumption of approximately 4 GL per annum at peak production.

**(2) From where will this water be sourced?**

DMS is evaluating a number of options, including saline groundwater from the Avon Deep Lead to the east of Banyena and savings from Wimmera Mallee Pipeline (WMP).

**(3) Is priority for this Project ahead of water for environmental flows?**

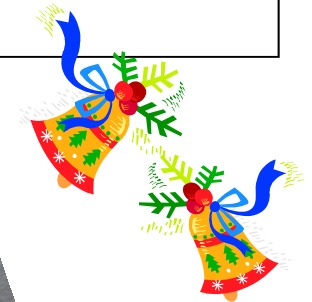
No. If water is sourced from groundwater then it will not impact on environmental flows. If water is sourced from WMP savings, then it will not be available until the savings from pipelining are achieved, at which time allocations to the environment and water for new developments will be made in proportions decided by Government.

**(4) How can water be guaranteed for the proposed life of the mining venture?**

The volume understood to be sought by DMS is considerably less than the volume of savings from WMP that are intended to be available for new use. If water is sourced from groundwater it will be a requirement of any licence that DMS undertake sufficient monitoring so that the groundwater resource is not made unsustainable through this use.



Emma, Ruth, Simon and Arno would like to wish you and yours best wishes for the festive season and happiness for the coming year.



DMS mascot "Diesel" gets into the Christmas spirit

### Feedback form

Donald Mineral Sands (DMS) welcomes feedback from the community and invites you to complete this feedback form and post it to PO Box 49 Minyip, 3392 or drop into our Minyip office at 69-71 Main Street.

Where did you obtain a copy of this newsletter? .....

Did you obtain any new information from this newsletter?.....

What additional information regarding the project do you think should be included in future newsletters?

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