

# Dubbo Zirconia Project (DZP) Community Newsletter

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## Development update

### What's happening now?

With all major approvals and licences now secured to enable construction of the Dubbo Zirconia Project (DZP), Alkane's current focus is securing the financing arrangements that will allow final plant design and thereby construction to proceed.

In the meantime, an entitlement offer to Alkane shareholders was conducted during the last few months, raising funds for the completion of land purchases within the DZP footprint. The raised funds will also be used to perform DZP pilot plant runs at ANSTO to produce product samples for potential offtake customers and fine tune other design and process parameters.

### Establishment of Toongi Pastoral Company

Following the acquisition of key land packages for the DZP, Alkane has established the Toongi Pastoral Company Pty Ltd (TPC) to manage its land and property assets. Out of the aggregated 3,500 hectares, TPC will manage 1,021Ha of biodiversity offsets and 1,995Ha of agricultural land. (The DZP mining and processing footprint will be 520Ha.)

The biodiversity areas feature grassy white box woodlands, Wiradjuri cultural heritage sites and habitats for the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, a vulnerable local species for which Alkane is taking a leading role in conservation.

TPC will also engage with the local Rural Fire Service, local schools and Landcare groups in the same way as any other landholder in the region.

Primarily, TPC aims to operate a profitable mixed agricultural enterprise (sheep and cattle) that demonstrates leading practice sustainable farming technologies – including genetics, soil and pasture management and engineering solutions. Alkane has appointed an experienced Farm Manager to oversee this enterprise – see our welcome to Mr Fergus Job and his family on page 2.



Toongi Pastoral Company has been established to manage land and property assets

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### Meet Fergus Job, Farm Manager Toongi Pastoral Company

Fergus Job joined the Alkane fold in May when he took up the role of Farm Manager for the newly established TPC. Fergus, along with his wife Keera and their two daughters, has returned to the Dubbo district after five years at Surat in southwest Queensland, working for the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo).

While with AACO, Fergus managed the Wylarah Aggregation of farms with a 4,000 cow, leading Wagyu seedstock production system. Previously, Fergus was the CEO of Little River Landcare Group (2005-2011) based out of Yeoval, arguably one of the most innovative and successful Landcare groups in Australia.

Fergus will draw on his experience with earthmoving, farming and livestock production systems and management in Australia, New Zealand and Canada in setting the future direction for TPC.



Toongi Pastoral Company's new Farm Manager,  
Fergus Job and family

### Community questions answered

The most recent meeting of the DZP Community Consultative Committee was held Tuesday 3 May in conjunction with a BBQ on the DZP orebody. It was suggested that regular users of Obley Road are interested to know more about the planned upgrade.



The DZP Community Consultative Committee  
enjoyed a BBQ on the orebody

### Obley Road upgrade

To accommodate the increased traffic associated with an industrial mining and processing site, Obley Road, between the Newell Highway intersection and the Toongi Road intersection (approximately 23km), will be upgraded to meet the required engineering standards. This will involve widening and straightening of the sealed surface, as well as installing bridges and culverts to address flooding risks. The upgrade will be one of the first construction activities that commences once the funding for the DZP is secured.

The preliminary design work for the road and creek crossing upgrades, which identified the critical design standards to be achieved, was completed by Constructive Solutions. These designs and relevant road standards are outlined in the Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium Volume 3, Part 11 of the DZP Environmental Impact Assessment (2013).

**Widening.** The section of Obley Road in question currently varies in width of seal from 7.0m to 9.0m. This entire section will be upgraded to ensure a consistent sealed width of 9.0m, with new lines marked for the centre line and outer lines to delineate 3.5m wide lanes and sealed shoulders of 1.0m. Gravel shoulders will be constructed beyond this, and additional seal will be applied to the approach and exit of existing bus stops.

In addition, a hot mix seal will be applied to the road surface between Camp Road and the Newell Highway – this is one method of minimising traffic noise impacting the Taronga Western Plains Zoo. The northern approach to the Toongi Road turn will also be treated with hot mix to dampen road noise.

**Straightening.** There will be realignment of some bends to meet the standards for a 100kph speed limited road. Depending on the quality of the existing road pavement, these works will either extend and upgrade the existing pavement (to achieve the 9.0m seal, as above) or remove and re-lay the pavement.

**Bridges and culverts.** Since Hyandra, Twelve Mile and Wambangalang Creeks are all subject to flooding, new structures will be installed to make the road safer and less impacted by weather at these crossing points.

The final design of the Obley Road upgrade will be prepared once funding for the DZP is secured. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and Western Plains Regional Council will be consulted during

the final design process to ensure that the upgrade meets all the appropriate engineering standards for 100kph road design.

Australia Zirconia Limited (AZL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Alkane, will fund the Obley Road upgrade and pay for annual maintenance of that section of Obley Road through a Voluntary Planning Agreement made with Dubbo City Council.

## Community update

### Student sponsorships

Alkane is delighted to be one of the sponsors of Dubbo College Year 12 student, Natalie McMahon, for her impending visit to the National University of Singapore Summer Science Camp. Natalie was selected in March by the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) to attend the July camp in Singapore as one of six Australian year 12 students to participate in a week-long program designed to inspire scientific curiosity.

Contributing \$500 towards the cost of Natalie's visit, Alkane is committed to supporting events and programs that benefit the communities in which we operate, including selected educational programs.

To this end, Alkane is also sponsoring the Yeoval Central School's planned Sydney Excursion for Year 9 and 10 students. The company's contribution of \$550 will cover the costs of one student to attend the excursion, aimed at providing country students with a 'Sydney experience', with visits to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Opera House and Powerhouse Museums, among other landmark sites.

### **Tomingley Gold Operations demonstrates positive socio-economic impact of mining**

Once construction of the DZP gets underway, AZL predicts the construction workforce will be around 400 people (consulting engineers, construction teams, and a relatively small owner's team) during the two-year construction period – generating significant economic activity within Dubbo and surrounds.

To gain an idea of the positive socio-economic impact the DZP is likely to have on the community, residents need look no further than Tomingley, where the Tomingley gold mine has been in operation for over two years. Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Ltd (TGO), a wholly owned subsidiary of Alkane, employs a workforce of around 200 people, including around 40 contractors, of which all but a handful live locally.

Not only has the plant provided jobs for many locals, but the need to fill specialist technical positions has brought new families to Dubbo and surrounding towns, which has boosted the local economy. Moreover, at least one business involved with the construction of TGO has established premises in Dubbo, which continues to service TGO and other mining operations in the region.

In addition, the area is benefitting from improved and new infrastructure as a result of the operation. For example, TGO funded the upgrade of a section of Tomingley West Road, which services the mine; in addition, TGO is currently exploring options with Narromine Shire Council for long-term supply of raw water to the local storage dam.

The establishment of the Tomingley Gold Operations Community Fund has also made major contributions to the funding of local community infrastructure and equipment projects – such as the new amenities block at Tomingley Racecourse and Recreation Ground, officially opened in 2015. Contributions have also been made to the community for

new rainwater tanks, repairs to the Historical Museum building in Narromine, and equipment or sponsorship for several community groups.



Year 7 students enjoy the new garden beds at Narromine High School

### **Contact Us**

Subscribe to our Community Newsletters and find out more information about Alkane Resources and the Dubbo Zirconia Project on our website:

[www.alkane.com.au](http://www.alkane.com.au)

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