



# The Dubbo Project Community Newsletter

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ASX : ASM

## Latest on the Dubbo Project

Following the demerger of Australian Strategic Materials (ASM) from Alkane last year, the ASM management team has continued to drive development of the Dubbo Project.

We're currently working to complete a multifaceted Optimisation Feasibility Study (OFS), which targets improved process efficiencies and capital and operating costs. It will incorporate updates to the flow sheet, utilities, reagents, consumables and logistics (contributed by a number of independent consultants).

Part of this involves simplifying the product range to feed directly into our metallisation business.

The updated logistics study takes into account sourcing, pricing, mode of transport, materials handling, storage and safety. This includes re-evaluating the branch railway line between Dubbo and Toongi as a freight option.

A feasibility study evaluating the Dubbo-Toongi railway line will commence soon. If you have any queries or would like further information, please phone our Dubbo office on +61 2 6882 2866 and speak to Mike Sutherland.



A section of the Dubbo-Toongi railway line spanning the Macquarie River floodplain.

## From Dubbo to Korean Metals Plant

ASM proposes to establish metals plants globally, with the first to be located in South Korea. This plant will take the metal oxides produced by the Dubbo Project and convert them into high-purity metals and alloys required by the global tech manufacturing industry. This is the core of our strategy to become a fully integrated “mine to manufacturer” supplier of critical metals.

Our proposed metals plant (initially 5,200tpa) will be founded on the innovative metallisation process developed by Ziron Tech, our former South Korean joint-venture partner, which ASM acquired last year. Our Ziron Tech team has continued to develop and prove the commercial scalability of the process for many metals using our pilot plant.

Of particular note, we recently received confirmation from the Korean Institute of Rare Metals (KIRAM) that our NdFeB powder is suitable to produce rare earth permanent magnets. A Korean 3D-printing group also recently confirmed our high-purity titanium powder is suitable for manufacturing its products.

We anticipate the establishment of a Korean metals plant will assist our discussions with potential strategic partners, investors and offtake customers for the Dubbo Project.



*Neodymium-praseodymium alloy produced on the metallisation pilot plant*

## Introducing two new CCC members

The Dubbo Project Community Consultative Committee welcomes two new members into the fold. Megan Brennan and Royce Munro are long-term residents of the region and have both been following the progress of the Dubbo Project over many years.

Royce Munro was born and bred at Cumnock, where he contributed to the running of the family property, Catombal, until 2012. Since 2014 he has lived on his property, Tilparoo, close to where the Dubbo Project and the Toongi Pastoral Company (TPC) are located. He is a highly educated farm manager with a passion for improving pasture and facilities and looks forward to his new role on the CCC.



*Royce Munro*



*Megan Brennan*

Megan Brennan also operates a mixed farming enterprise with her husband Michael as an immediate neighbour of TPC. She has been a resident of the area since 1981 and an active member of the Toongi and Wambangalang communities. Having followed the Dubbo Project for over 17 years, she looks forward to representing the community on issues around water contamination, traffic and road safety, and noise, light and air pollution.



## Down on the farm

Like most crop growers in the region, ASM's wholly owned subsidiary, the Toongi Pastoral Company (TPC), had its share of harvest challenges due to scarcity of contractors. To help get harvesting underway during equipment shortages, TPC acquired a vintage 24-foot header that performed admirably.

The farm produced good yields of grain and grazing crops, primarily barley, wheat, oats and mustard. The silos are all full and hay and silage stock have been replenished.



TPC's vintage 24-foot header (left) with modern 45-foot header

The registration of TPC as a carbon farming project under the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is now underway. Once registration is complete, TPC will aim to increase the carbon content in the soil by at least 1% over a period of 10 years, thereby earning carbon credits against the emissions of the Dubbo Project.

One strategy to improve carbon sequestration is to reintroduce perennial grasses to the grazing pastures. Perennial grasses have a longer growing season than annual grasses and cycle nutrients deeper and more efficiently. The presence of perennials is a sign of a healthy grassland.



XB lambs grazing on barley

While nurturing the perennial content of existing native grasslands (which are mostly designated biodiversity offset areas for the Dubbo Project), TPC has embarked on a long-term project to re-establish perennial pasture grasses.

As a starting point, 50 to 60ha have been sown with perennials such as premier digit (a subtropical native), rhodes grass, phalaris and box grass. During 2021, TPC intends to extend this to approximately 250ha, with a mix of winter (temperate) and summer (tropical) pastures that will be used as part of the rotational grazing system.

## Let's stay in touch

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