



Dubbo Project Community Newsletter

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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023 – wrapping up what’s been happening in the first few months of the year for our Dubbo Project and team.

MOD1 approved

After a thorough submissions and review process, the Dubbo Project SSD Modification Report 1 (MOD1) received Development Consent approval from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The MOD1 determination was required after our December 2021 Optimisation Study led to several design improvements in plans already approved for the Dubbo Project.

Design improvements included:

- **Increasing the brine concentrator capacity.**
This increases the recycling of water and reagents, halving water consumption at the project.
- **Refurbishment of the railway line.**
This simplifies project logistics and significantly reduces the number of truck movements through the Dubbo community. This will also provide new categories of local entry level jobs.
- **Inclusion of a chlor-alkali plant.**
This reduces the transport of acid and soda ash from the roads of Dubbo and NSW, and allows for production of reagents at the project site, reducing the cost of reagents and their handling and transportation.
- **Increase of personnel for processing plant operations to approximately 270.**



Congratulations to our Dubbo Project team, who completed numerous environmental studies including noise, air quality and emissions to submit the MOD1 in early 2022, and then to respond to submissions made during the public exhibition process.

EPC Definition work begins

In February, we were excited to get underway with the Dubbo Project’s EPC Definition work, issuing a Notice to Proceed for Stage 1 to Hyundai Engineering Co. Ltd (HEC), who are contracted to undertake the work.



Dubbo Project team and HEC representatives at EPC Definition kick-off meeting.

Stage 1 of the EPC Definition work will establish front-end engineering and design activities and progress standards development. This is expected to be completed by mid-2023.

The EPC Definition work has been divided into three stages, following negotiations in January for a variation to the original contract with HEC. These stages are:

- Stage 1 - establishes front-end engineering and design activities and progresses with standards development
- Stage 2 - further develops engineering design to allow for identification and selection of technology requirements
- Stage 3 - provides for the remainder of the services required to allow HEC to provide an open book estimate and offer to implement the Dubbo Project under an Engineer, Procure and Construct (EPC) Contract

Awarded \$10.5 million in grant funding

Toward the end of last year, we were thrilled to be awarded grant funding under Streams 1 and 2 of the NSW government's Critical Minerals and High-tech Metals Activation Fund (CMAF).

1. \$500,000 for Tb/Dy solvent extraction pilot program

ASM was awarded \$500,000 to contribute to a study aimed at finalising the process flowsheet for the Terbium/Dysprosium solvent extraction circuit.

This study is being developed in collaboration with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).



2. \$10 million to support early establishment activities

ASM was awarded \$10 million to support Dubbo Project early establishment activities.

These activities include:

- Upgrade of two major road creek crossings and road intersections
- Upgrade of pavement along the Western Plains Zoo boundary

This work is necessary to ensure the high-standard road access required for the development and ultimate operation of the Dubbo Project.

ASM plans to commence works in the second half of 2023.



We are also pleased that these infrastructure upgrades, will not only benefit the Dubbo Project, but also the local community and businesses.

Visit by KMP's Representative Director

At the start of the year, it was a pleasure to welcome our Korean Metals Plant Representative Director, Mr Sung-lea Cho, to Australia. During his visit, Mr Cho spent time at our Dubbo Project site and toured the project's test work facilities at ANSTO.

With products from the Dubbo Project (once constructed) going to the Korean Metals Plant for metallisation, this visit provided Mr Cho and the Dubbo Project team opportunity to get to know one another, as we work together to progress ASM's 'mine to metals' business.



KMP Representative Director Mr Sung-lea Cho visits ANSTO (above) and Dubbo Project site (below)



Dinner with POSCO and Hon. Simon Crean

In January, we hosted a visit to our Dubbo Project site and ANSTO with representatives from Korean steel-making company, POSCO and the Chair of the Australia-Korea Business Council, the Hon. Simon Crean.



ASM dinner with the Hon Simon Crean and representatives from POSCO.

Congratulations Native Secrets

This year's Telstra Best of Business Awards included local Dubbo business *Native Secrets*, who have a very special connection with our Dubbo Project.

Oils used in some of the Native Secrets skin care range are distilled from White Cypress Pine trees growing on the Dubbo Project's "Ugothery" property.

Harvesting the trees to extract the oils, delivers a positive environmental outcome, by allowing for more native grasses to grow on the property. This in turn benefits both grazing animals and native animals such as the vulnerable Pink-tailed Worm-lizard.

This is a win-win for both Native Secrets and the Dubbo Project, as we work to promote biodiversity and protect native species at the project site.



ASM's CEO and our NSW General Manager attended the Telstra Best of Business Awards as guests of Native Secrets.

Visit us at the Dubbo Annual Show

For readers in NSW, the Dubbo Annual Show will be held from 19-21 May this year.

ASM is excited to be taking part once again, in this, the show's 150th year!

If you're heading to the show, please stop by our stand for a chat. The team would love to see you there.



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Australian Strategic Materials acknowledges the people of the Wiradjuri Nation, Traditional Custodians of the land around Dubbo and Toongi, and pays respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.