

Issue #34 / September 2023 © Australian Strategic Materials 2023

Welcome to issue 34 of ASM's Dubbo Project Community Newsletter. There has been plenty of activity and progress in recent months, both on the project and in the community. Remember, if you want to get all the latest news from ASM, visit our website or follow us on our social media platforms.

Stage 1 EPC Definition work complete

In July we completed Stage 1 of our Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Definition work, conducted by Hyundai Engineering Company. As expected, the work identified further non-processing infrastructure (NPI) work that will now be completed before we progress to Stage 2 of EPC Definition.

The NPI work will progress the maturity of design of areas outside of the process plant, including:

- residue storage and handling facilities;
- site water management;
- greenhouse gas emission reduction studies; and
- site establishment planning.

The contract for the NPI study work was awarded to Bechtel Australia Pty Ltd in August and will contribute to developing capital and operating costs estimates key to ASM making its final investment decision on the Dubbo Project by the end of calendar year 2024.

Funding for the NPI study work – estimated to cost ~\$6.5 million – has been secured via an Australian Government grant under the Critical Minerals Development Program, awarded to ASM in May.

With the contract now underway, the Bechtel team visited the Dubbo Project in September.

ASM will evaluate when Stage 2 EPC Definition work will commence as the additional areas of NPI work progress.

REIIF 2023

ASM was delighted to support the second annual Resources Energy and Industry Innovation Forum (REIIF 2023) in June.

Held in Dubbo, REIIF 2023 was developed in partnership with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana and the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils (MERC) NSW. The event brought together thought leaders, scientists, inventors, industry and government representatives to share their thoughts and advice on how regional NSW can move forward into a low emissions economy.

ASM was represented at the event by our Dubbo Project Director, Dale Josephson, and Technical Manager Wayne Dicinoski. During his presentation, Wayne spoke about ASM's approach to environmental, social and governance (ESG) activities, and our target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Dubbo Project.

The Dubbo Project has strong ESG credentials. Our aim is to be a key contributor to a sustainable low-carbon economy through monitoring, reporting and reducing our GHG emissions.

You can learn more about REIIF 2023 and the role ASM played at: resourcesenergyinnovation.com.au

The next Forum will be held in June 2024.



Right: Dubbo Project Technical Manager Wayne Dicinoski presented in the 'Monitoring and Measuring Energy Efficiency to Curb Emissions' session, showcasing the work ASM is conducting in this space.



Issue #34 / September 2023 © Australian Strategic Materials 2023



The RDA Orana event saw the launch of the regional grants hub and farewelled RDA Orana CEO Megan Dixon (centre).

RDA Orana

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Orana launched its new regional grants hub in July. The platform has been designed to simplify the search and application process for potential applicants looking for support across a range of initiatives.

Members of the ASM team were at the launch event held at Dubbo RSL, where we also learned more about RDA Orana's plans for financial year 2024.

As ASM continues to develop the Dubbo Project and increase our presence in the region, we're looking forward to developing our partnership with the RDA Orana team in FY24.

The event was also an opportunity to say thank you and farewell to outgoing RDA Orana CEO Megan Dixon, who has been with the group since 2016.



Welcome to Chris Jordaan

In August we welcomed our new Chief Operating Officer, Chris Jordaan.

Chris joins the ASM team with a wealth of operational experience in the mining and processing industries, having held leadership roles with BHP, Newcrest Mining and Superior Gold, amongst others.

He is already immersing himself in the business, with visits to the Dubbo site and ASM's Korean Metals Plant to see the full scope of our unique mine to metals business model.

Chris will be a regular visitor to the Dubbo Project site as we continue to progress development.

Below left: Chris Jordaan (left) with Phil Thompson, owner of Native Secrets, a local business supported by ASM. Below right, Chris on his first site tour of the Dubbo Project.





Issue #34 / September 2023 © Australian Strategic Materials 2023

Road and bridge upgrades

Upgrades to the Obley Road to ensure safe and sustainable access to the Dubbo Project, while enhancing the road's suitability for local businesses and residents, is a major focus for the ASM team.

In support of this important local infrastructure work, ASM secured \$10 million of state government funding via Stream 2 of the Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Activation Fund (CMAF). Finalisation of the funding agreement is currently expected before the end of the calendar year.

ASM is now coordinating with Dubbo Regional Council for the installation of traffic counters on Obley Road later this year. The counters will provide updated data for input to the design work, scheduled to be completed next year.

The first phase of Obley Road and bridge upgrades associated with the Dubbo Project are estimated to cost \$20.4 million. In addition to the CMAF grant, ASM will co-contribute \$10.4 million to the cost of the works.

Online Info

Earlier this year, the Dubbo Project Modification Report 1 (MOD1) received development consent from the NSW Dept. of Planning & Environment.

MOD1 enables several design improvements in plans already approved for the Dubbo Project, including, halving water consumption through increased recycling of water and reagents, and refurbishing the local railway line to simplify project logistics. It will also enable an increase of personnel for processing plant operations to approximately 270.

The MOD1 Report and consent conditions are now available on the ASM website:

asm-au.com/dubbo-project

ASM and Bechtel engineers inspecting the Shibble Bridge over the Macquarie River.





Issue #34 / September 2023 © Australian Strategic Materials 2023

Aspire Program

Construction and ultimately operation of the Dubbo Project will support hundreds of new jobs in the Dubbo region – jobs that will represent new professions and require the skills development.

That's why ASM is committed to identifying and engaging local organisations that will showcase the opportunities at the Dubbo Project, support talent development and promote career pathways.

In September we were delighted to participate at the Dubbo ASPIRE careers event, an AISNSW (Association of Independent Schools of NSW) supported collaboration of three Dubbo schools: Central West Leadership Academy, Dubbo Christian School, and Macquarie Anglican Grammar School.

The event provided the opportunity for ASM's General Manager, NSW, Mike Sutherland (below with students from the Dubbo Christian School) to explain more about the Dubbo Project and Toongi ore deposit, as well as the types of roles and skills that will be required at the project once operational.

EXPLO EX

Cross Cultural Carnivale

Dubbo's vibrant multicultural community reflects the social growth we are seeing in the region, and the Cross Cultural Carnivale is a celebration of that expansion and diversity.

Held at the Dubbo Showgrounds in September, ASM was delighted to support the event as a sponsor as well as enjoy the day. Congratulations to all those involved in making the day such a success!









Want to get in touch?

Email: info@asm-au.com
Phone: +61 9200 1681

STAY UPDATED & SOCIAL

Website: <u>asm-au.com</u>

Twitter: <u>@ASM_aus</u>

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/asm-au

READING SOMEONE ELSE'S NEWSLETTER?

Subscribe <u>here</u> for your own copy of the Dubbo Project Community Newsletter or visit our website

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.