

Food not sand!

Give farmers the right to deny mining on their land

The Wimmera region of Victoria is home to some of Australia's prime agricultural land. Towns such as Rupanyup, Murtoa and Minyip exist as a result of generations of farming families producing food. In addition, these towns also house some of the country's finest Silo Art. This country, which produces pulses, grain and oilseeds, sheep and lamb, wool, pigs and eggs, is now under threat from a global mining company.

Astron Corporation has been granted a mining licence which covers a large area of land, home to generations of family farms. In Victoria, unlike other States of Australia, the government provides no protection from mining for farming families who have managed these lands and built sustainable farming businesses over generations.

What we want

- We are working to ensure that farmers in the Wimmera can continue to farm on lands their families have owned, farmed and sustainably managed for decades.
- We are seeking a State in which the decision-making mindset prioritises the value of productive agriculture land in all legislative and regulatory decisions.
- We are calling for The Victorian Parliament to introduce legislation (like that which exists in other States) to ensure farming families have the right to deny mining activity on their farms.

About us

The Dunmunkle Land Protection Group (DLPG) is based in Victoria's Wimmera Region. The Group was originally formed in 1990 in response to mining activity in the area. Thirty-five years and several farming generations later, the community finds itself back in the same situation, with the full knowledge that sand will not feed the country.

We want to ensure that prime farming land continues to provide food for our nation and is not taken over by a mining company. We are working to raise awareness of this situation which threatens townships and prime agricultural land, well known for its unique soil ideal for producing pulse crops.

Our concerns

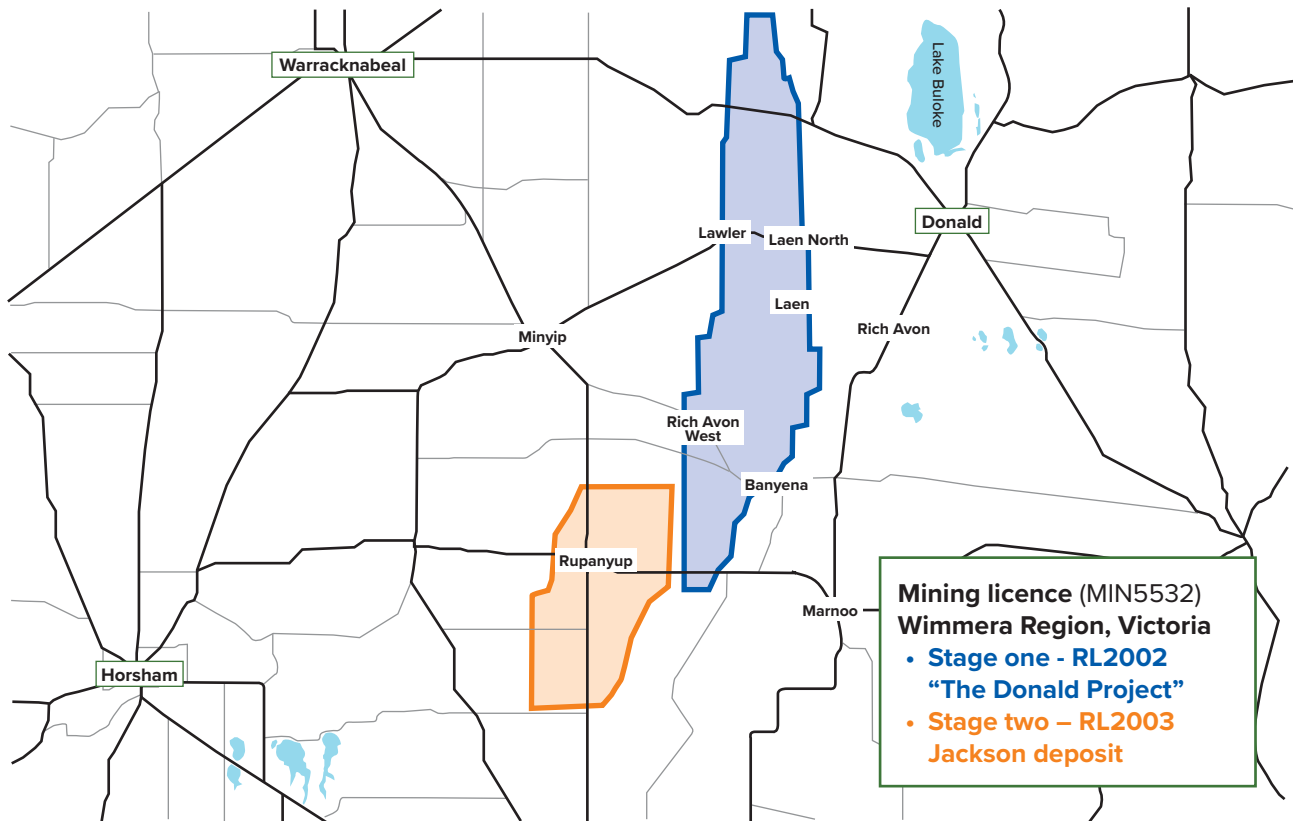
Issue	Perceived problem
Disruption to townships	• Lack of sufficient buffer zone around townships. • 24/7 mining operations. • Impact on the social fabric of small, cohesive communities.
Dust	• Impact of dust on businesses (town and farming) and individuals.
Roads	• Impact of increased traffic (workers, suppliers, mining vehicles) on already inadequate roads.
Water Use	• Mine water use, in an area where water availability is stretched in dry conditions AND impact on ground water.
Reputational Damage	• Potential damage to sustainably produced agricultural products when the area is tainted by the mine's operations.
Environment	• Commitment to, and enforcement of, land remediation to ensure impacted country is fully restored. Will this land ever be able to be farmed again?
Food Protection	• Lack of ability for farmers to deny mining operations on their land.





Land under threat

The map below provides an outline for the farming land under threat. The blue circle, according to the mining company is known as “The Donald Deposit/Project” (RL2002, which encompasses MIN5532). Mining this land will be the first stage of the project. The orange circle, known as “The Jackson deposit” (RL2003) will form the second stage of the project.



Solutions

- The mining company, **Astron Corporation**, must engage in transparent and open communication with impacted communities and businesses and address their concerns.
- The **Victorian Parliament** must introduce legislation which allows farmers the ability to approve or deny mining company access to their land.
- The **Victorian Government and Department** must ensure mining operations are monitored and where there is no compliance, action must be taken and penalties enforced.

Further information

Join us! Sign up for more information and our event updates. We welcome new members to support the Dunmunkle Land Protection Group (DLPG) in its fight to ensure prime agricultural land in Victoria is protected.



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