

## Newsletter #8

This newsletter provides an update on the Saint Elmo Project (the Project) being developed by Multicom Resources Limited (Multicom). Epic Environmental is providing support for the approvals process for the Project, including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### EIS UPDATE

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EIS APPROVAL

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August Multicom received the EIS Assessment Report for the Saint Elmo Vanadium Project from the Qld Department of Environment and Science. This report concludes the Environment Impact Assessment process and sets out the conditions that will be required to be met for the Project to proceed. The Assessment Report provides an evaluation of the EIS and confirms that it fulfills the requirement of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

In its Assessment Report, the Department recognises that the project would significantly contribute to the regional and Queensland economy, provide social and economic benefits and opportunities for direct and flow-on employment and export trade to Queensland and Australia.

To get to this point, during 2020 Epic and Multicom have worked together with technical specialists to address the 20 comments received on the EIS during the consultation period in December 2019. This culminated in the release of an updated final EIS which responded to the comments received.

The final EIS was published on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and includes a new appendix containing a cross-reference table which details all submissions received and where each submission has been addressed specifically within the SEIS. The next step of the Saint Elmo project approvals is for the Commonwealth Government to finalise its assessment of the Project and submit an application for the Environmental Authority to allow the Project to begin construction.

Multicom and Epic would like to thank the community of Julia Creek and all stakeholders involved in the EIS process for their engagement over the last three years to enable this outcome.

### PROJECT NEXT STEPS

Following the receipt of the Environmental Assessment Report, the key next steps for the project are to:

- Receive approval from the Commonwealth Government;
- Progress Environmental Authority and Mining Lease grant;
- Progress terms with shortlisted offtake partners;
- Finalise the Saint Elmo Project Definitive Feasibility Study; and
- Make a Final Investment Decision on the project.

These activities will take place over the coming 6 to 9 months as Multicom works towards construction starting in late 2021.



Figure 1: Resource Drilling at Saint Elmo

## UPDATE ON OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### FIELDWORKS

To inform our response to submissions and the Project feasibility study, additional fieldworks were undertaken between December 2019 – March 2020, including:

- Flora and fauna surveys of the Offsite Water Storage Facility (OWSF) and associated pipeline;
- Groundwater sampling;
- Surface water and sediment and soil sampling; and
- Geological Drilling



Figure 2: Flinders River at the OWSF site



Figure 3: Harp Trap deployed at Alick Creek during the March 2020 fauna survey

### UPCOMING FIELDWORKS AND COMMUNITY VISITS

As part of commitments made through the EIS and to support the DFS, further fieldworks are planned throughout 2020 and 2021. Over the coming months, members of the Epic team and other companies working on the project will be staying in Julia Creek while undertaking activities including bulk sampling, aquatic ecology surveys, Indigenous and historic heritage surveys and surface and ground water sampling.

The Multicom and Epic team are also planning a visit to Julia Creek in November to hold a Community Update BBQ. More information will be shared closer to the date.

Please come along and say hi and ask any questions you might have when you see the teams out and about in the community.

### DEFINITIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY (DFS)

The Saint Elmo Project DFS has made good progress this year with a focus on the optimisation of the process flow sheet (flow of plant processes and equipment to process the Vanadium) and supporting engineering activities.

The DFS has a target completion date in late 2020 and the results of which will be supported by a pilot plant program, scheduled to commence in October 2020.

The DFS, combined with the Mining Lease grant will both support the Company in early 2021 with the establishment of key offtake agreements with customers and completing the project financing.



Figure 4: Scrubber to be used for Pilot Plant program

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

Like everyone, Epic and Multicom have been rapidly adapting to the COVID-19 situation in Australia. The health and safety of Epic and Multicom's staff, clients and the communities we work in, are of the utmost importance to us. To this end we minimised our travel to site during the restrictions early this year and as we restart our fieldwork and engagement activities these will be done with the health and safety of the community at the forefront.

#### Further information

If you would like further information on the Project, please:

- Email [saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au](mailto:saintelmo@epicenvironmental.com.au);
- Freecall 1800 270 844; or
- Visit <https://saintelmo.com.au>