

# Falcon Metals Ltd

Community Engagement Plan - Victoria

January 2025



## Version Control and Approval

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## 1. Company Mission Statement

Falcon Metals (“Falcon” or “the Company”) aims to uphold the highest corporate, social and environmental standards and through this approach we strive to be a good corporate citizen. The Company recognises the importance of building respectful and inclusive relationships with our Victorian stakeholders, communities and governing organisations.

Falcon is committed to open and transparent communication with the community in which it operates. The Company aims to actively manage the impact of our activities through the continued consideration and response to the interests and concerns of the local community.

We will respect the rights of all landowners and seek to minimise any potential disturbance associated with our activities as much as possible through the following commitments:

- Provide key information on our exploration activities to local stakeholders
- Consideration of any social, environmental and economic effects of Falcon’s activities at the local stakeholder level
- Seek to understand stakeholder values, interests and concerns and address these in a timely manner
- Ensure our employees and contractors are aware of their obligations with respect to the local community and environment
- Contribute to the community through local employment opportunities and utilise local contractors and suppliers where possible
- Communicate effectively through various means, including (in order of preference):
  - one-on-one meetings
  - telephone conversations
  - letter drops
  - email communications
  - newsletter communications
  - local and regional media placements
  - posting on our Company website

This policy is complementary to the regulatory requirements and established procedures governed by the Victorian [Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration](#).

Falcon’s purpose is shared value creation through major mineral discoveries, where we believe that success should collectively benefit all stakeholders, including the community in which we operate and all levels of government. In achieving our purpose, we will “Earn trust and confidence”, “Do the right thing”, “Be disciplined in our approach”, “Act with urgency, integrity and respect” and “Share our success”.

## 2. Introduction

### Purpose

The community engagement plan outlines the commitment that Falcon has made to engage with stakeholders, particularly members of the local community that reside within or live proximal to the Company's exploration activities. This includes ensuring that communities are provided with the opportunity to interact with the Company and provide feedback about exploration activities that either impact them directly or indirectly.

Much of the company's mineral exploration licences held in Victoria cover privately held farmland; it is therefore essential that strong community relations are established as early as possible to ensure the rights and interests of all stakeholders are upheld. Falcon is committed to acting responsibly and transparently throughout all stages of exploration and welcomes any feedback from members of the community.

### Project Background

Falcon is currently exploring for gold and mineral sands within its granted Exploration Licences located in the northern Bendigo Zone, collectively referred to as the Pyramid Hill Project.

The 100%-owned Project covers a number of highly prospective tenements across the northern Bendigo and Melbourne Zones of Victoria.

Table 1 below outlines Falcon's current tenure status.

**Table 1. Falcon Metals Victorian Exploration Tenure**

Exploration Licence	Status	Area	Municipality
EL006661	Granted	711 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon
EL006669	Granted	391 km <sup>2</sup>	Gannawarra, Loddon
EL006737	Granted	781 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon, Greater Bendigo
EL006738	Granted	905 km <sup>2</sup>	Campaspe, Greater Bendigo
EL006864	Granted	514 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon, Buloke
EL006898	Granted	85 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon
EL006901	Granted	55 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon
EL006960	Granted	171 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander
EL006943	Granted	470 km <sup>2</sup>	Campaspe, Greater Shepparton
EL007120	Granted	756 km <sup>2</sup>	Buloke, Loddon
EL007200	Granted	872 km <sup>2</sup>	Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Moorabool
EL007320	Granted	434 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon
EL007656	Granted	198 km <sup>2</sup>	Central Goldfields
EL007838	Granted	22 km <sup>2</sup>	Greater Bendigo
EL007839	Granted	275 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon, Greater Bendigo

<b>EL007840</b>	Granted	70 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon, Greater Bendigo
<b>EL007844</b>	Granted	35 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon
<b>EL007845</b>	Granted	6 km <sup>2</sup>	Dunolly
<b>EL008084</b>	Granted	91 km <sup>2</sup>	Central Goldfields
<b>EL008302</b>	Granted	31 km <sup>2</sup>	Gannawarra
<b>EL008303</b>	Granted	26 km <sup>2</sup>	Gannawarra, Loddon
<b>EL008360</b>	Granted	94 km <sup>2</sup>	Gannawarra
<b>EL008447</b>	Granted	12 km <sup>2</sup>	Greater Bendigo
<b>EL008486</b>	Application	40 km <sup>2</sup>	Moorabool
<b>EL008505</b>	Application	89 km <sup>2</sup>	Greater Bendigo
<b>EL008506</b>	Application	53 km <sup>2</sup>	Gannawarra, Loddon
<b>EL008581</b>	Application	22 km <sup>2</sup>	Loddon

The bulk of the exploration tenure is situated under areas of Murray Basin cover. Historically this cover has been a deterrent to explorers resulting in an exploration focus over the outcropping geology to the south. The Victorian Government's "Gold Undercover" initiative estimates an endowment of 32Moz of undiscovered gold in the northern Bendigo Zone situated under Murray Basin cover. Falcon views this region as a prime opportunity to explore for a new major gold resource. The Murray Basin is also prospective for mineral sands and is host to several large mineral sands deposits. Falcon has recently made a high-grade mineral sands discovery.

## **Exploration Activities**

Exploration activities have progressed from initial desk-top reviews to the commencement of field-based activities across selected areas of granted Exploration Licences. Field activities have initially taken place in roadside reserves managed by the local shires and the Company has obtained the required permits prior to undertaking any works. Increasingly the Company is drilling infill aircore and diamond drilling on farmland and has sought and has been granted access with the landowners.

The typical range of exploration field activities includes soil sampling, ground geophysical surveys (gravity, magnetics, passive seismic), reconnaissance drilling and infill drilling which are described in more detail below.

### Soil geochemistry

Soil geochemistry is an effective low-impact reconnaissance technique which involves the collection of 1-2kg of material from a small hand-dug hole 20-40cm below surface. Samples are collected from undisturbed locations along roadside reserves on widely spaced lines several kilometres apart with samples at 0.5km to 0.1km spacing. The material is sieved on site, with various fractions collected for analysis of gold and pathfinder elements, and the small holes are backfilled immediately after field sampling is complete.

Falcon has undertaken this technique across large areas of the tenement holdings to determine if anomalous gold is present near surface which may be an indication of gold mineralisation at depth.



The technique has minimal disturbance to both the environment and to local residents (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1** Soil sampling in roadside reserves. The sample hole is backfilled at the completion of sampling

### Ground Geophysics

Ground geophysical techniques (magnetics, gravity, passive seismic etc) are widely used in mineral exploration to assist with target definition undercover and the advantage of these techniques is that they are essentially non-disturbance activities. Field equipment is typically hand-held, and measurements are taken along selected grid lines and roadside verges which provide ideal access. These types of techniques facilitate a broader understanding on the geology and structure at depth and provide an initial guide towards the prospectivity of the underlying geology.

### Drilling

The Company has commenced reconnaissance and infill drilling with contract drilling companies using Air-core (AC) and diamond drill rigs to test targets that have been identified from a combination of soil geochemistry and ground geophysics. Drilling involves the use of a dedicated drill rig to drill small diameter drill holes (up to 15cm diameter) to collect samples from underlying rock sequences. The drill rig and supporting trucks are positioned along either roadside verges or on private property and operate with minimal interference to local stakeholders. Figure 2 shows an air-core drill rig in operation on the Company's Pyramid Hill Project.





**Figure 2** Falcon Metals' drilling activity in progress at the Pyramid Hill Project

### **3. Site description**

The Pyramid Hill Project comprises a combined granted landholding of more than 7,000km<sup>2</sup> with additional permits currently under application (Figure 3). The distribution of exploration tenure (both granted and in application) falls within the jurisdictions of the Loddon, Gannawarra, Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Buloke, Golden Plains, Mt Alexander, Greater Geelong and Moorabool local shires.

The majority of these licences are situated over privately held farmland. Land use is predominantly for cereal and hay crops as well as livestock (mainly sheep). All areas of tenure are readily accessible via a well-connected network of roads and highways. This is useful for the purposes of exploration access, supply/freighting routes, regional sampling, as well as access to emergency facilities such as hospitals, police and fire departments.

The City of Bendigo serves as a central hub to the Pyramid Hill project tenure. Numerous smaller towns are located within and/or proximal to each of the Exploration Licences. These towns may serve as convenient locations to purchase fuel and provisions and to accommodate field crews.

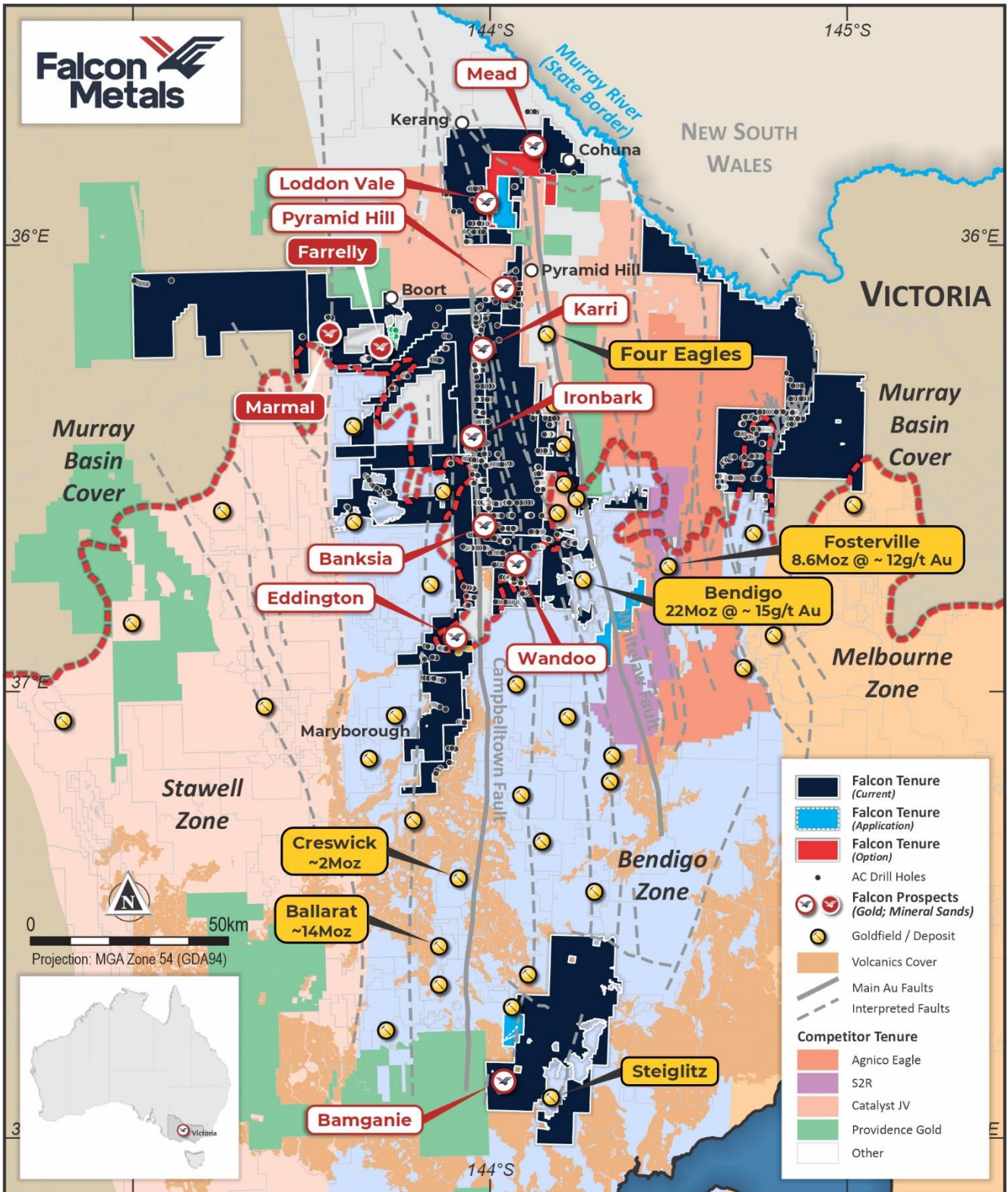


Figure 3 Plan map of Falcon Metals' exploration tenure



## 5. Legislative framework

This community engagement plan is subject to the legislative requirements set out in the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* and associated regulations. These are provided below:

### **Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990**

[http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol\\_act/mrda1990432/](http://www8.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/vic/consol_act/mrda1990432/)

Section 39A – Licensee’s duty to consult with community

Section 40(3)(d) – Work Plan (Community Engagement Plan)

### **Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019**

[http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol\\_reg/mrdir2019734/](http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_reg/mrdir2019734/)

REG 46 - Information required in work plans - community consultation

For the purposes of regulation 40(c), the specified information is how the licensee will comply with their duty to consult with the community under section 39A of the Act throughout the period of the licence, in the form of a plan that:

- (a) identifies the community likely to be affected by the work under the licence; and
- (b) sets out how the licensee will share information with the community; and
- (c) sets out how the licensee will receive feedback from the community; and
- (d) sets out how the licensee will manage complaints and other communications from members of the community; and
- (e) in the case of a work plan for a mining licence that covers an area of more than 5 hectares, sets out how the licensee will:
  - (i) identify community attitudes and expectations; and
  - (ii) analyse community feedback, taking into account community concerns or expectations; and
  - (iii) register, document and respond to complaints and other communications from members of the community in relation to the mine operations.

### **Earth Resources Regulator Contact**

Earth Resources Regulator  
Resources Victoria  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  
Level 19, 1 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Earth Resources Information Centre on 136 186.



## 6. Aims and Objectives

### Aims

The aims of this community engagement plan are to:

- Ensure Falcon has consistent and open communication with the local community in which it operates;
- Provide an avenue to build positive stakeholder relationships through the timely and considered address of any concerns; and,
- Manage the impact of our operations through consideration of the social and business interests of the local community.

### Objectives

To achieve the aims of this community engagement plan, Falcon will:

- Provide access to reliable and timely information about exploration and development activities via the following types of communication:
  - One-on-one – initial face to face meetings with Falcon employees and relevant landholders, where possible, in the two weeks prior to program commencement;
  - Local media placements one week prior to the commencement of drilling program and again prior to the conclusion of the program (and throughout as required);
  - Ensure any stakeholder updates or changes to activities are posted on the Falcon website immediately prior to their commencement.
- Avoid or minimise any adverse impacts on local neighbours through the timely and considered address of any stakeholder concerns:
  - Ensure all email and phone contact details provided to stakeholders are reliable and monitored daily;
  - Aim to provide a suitable response and / or acknowledgement of any complaints within 72 hours of receipt where possible;
  - Lodge any complaint details in the Complaints Register immediately and follow the actions of the Complaints Procedure.
- Understanding any social, environmental and economic effects of Falcon's activities:
  - Ensure our employees and contractors are aware of their obligations to comply with Falcon's community engagement plans prior to their commencement;
  - Ensure our activities comply with the Victorian *Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration* at all times.
  - Falcon staff member to participate in the relevant Traffic Management Plan and ensure correct application and signage is adhered to.
- Contribute to the community by local employment and engagement of local contractors and suppliers where appropriate and possible:
  - Prioritise quotes for services from local suppliers on an ongoing basis, and engage where possible and suitable.



## 7. Stakeholder risk analysis

The following stakeholder risk analysis was compiled from research and analysis as outlined in the [Community Engagement Guidelines for Mining and Mineral Exploration in Victoria](#). Table 2 serves as a preliminary summary of identified issues and will be modified and expanded upon during ongoing liaison with each respective community group.

**Table 2. Stakeholder risk analysis summary**

Stakeholder	Potential issue	Likelihood	Issue consequence rating	Mitigation measure	Rating after mitigation
Private land owners	Noise	Medium [in the event of a drill program]  Low [for surface sampling and geophysical surveying]	Low [operations should be sufficiently far from stakeholders as to not cause significant impact]	Advance notice of potential noise likely duration.	Low
Private land owners	Weed contamination	Low	Moderate	Wash-down of vehicles if coming from areas with weed infestation.	Low
Private land owners	Vehicular traffic	Low	Low [exploration activities will not involve significant vehicle traffic]	Advance notice given to stakeholder on timing and locations of exploration vehicles.	Low
Private land owners	Damage to farming infrastructure	Low	High	Consultation with stakeholder regarding locations of buried or at-risk infrastructure so it can be avoided	Low
Private land owners	Disturbance to stock	Low-High	Moderate	Only specific properties will be affected. Routes will be selected to avoid stock	
Private land owners	Loss of agricultural production	Low	High	Reconnaissance and drilling operations will be planned to not interfere with crop seeding, harvesting or livestock mustering.	Low

Private land owners	Groundwater encountered during drilling	High	Moderate	Ensure above ground sumps are available to contain groundwater according to the drilling method	Low
Council	Vehicular traffic	Medium [in the event of a drill program]  Low [for surface sampling and geophysical surveying]	Medium	Advance notice given to appropriate council on timing and locations of exploration vehicles.	Low
General community	Disturbance to local ecosystems	Low	High	Detailed review of protected areas to ensure exploration activities are not carried out in the vicinity.	Low
Traditional owners	Disturbance to culturally significant area	Low	High	Checking exploration areas with maps of registered culturally significant sites. Engagement with cultural representatives to discuss exploration plans on crown land.	Low

## **8. Communication**

This section will detail the communications approach and engagement channels to engage with community stakeholders.

### **Identifying stakeholders**

Stakeholders will be identified by the following methods

- Querying GIS spatial datasets to obtain address and/or contact information for plots of land that coincide with a region of proposed work. Stakeholders will then be contacted by letter drop, phone or in person to discuss the program of work and terms for land access.
- Stakeholders are welcome to approach any Falcon field personnel conducting sampling along public roads. Field personnel will be equipped with documentation regarding the company's exploration activities and policies.

### **Communication with stakeholders**

Once the stakeholders have been identified it is preferred that communication with stakeholders is in person as much as possible. Every effort will be made to meet with the stakeholder at their premises or an appropriate location proximal to the area of proposed work. If this is not possible then communication by phone is done.

### **Responding to community concerns**

Initial consultation with stakeholders will provide an opportunity to gauge community attitudes and expectation. From here, the company will adjust its Community Engagement Plan if required to accommodate any new issues raised.

All community feedback will be carefully considered when deciding how to proceed with exploration programs and all reasonable measures will be made to ensure a satisfactory solution is achieved for all parties.

## 9. Stakeholder engagement plan

The following stakeholder engagement plan has been developed to respond to the issues identified in the stakeholder issues analysis.

This plan has been developed in line with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) best practice.

**Table 3. Engagement Plan**

Stakeholder	Issue	Level of engagement (IAP2)	Key message	Method of engagement	Timing (weekly, monthly, as required)
<b>Directly impacted residents</b>	Noise	Consult	Sound mitigation measures will be implemented, if necessary, after consultation with directly impacted residents	Face to face meeting Phone calls Email	Prior to commencement of drilling
	Dust	Consult	Water injection will be used to minimise dust  Advanced notification will be provided with estimated timeframe of operations		
<b>Directly impacted residents</b>	Interference with farming operations	Consult	Exploration will be planned to minimize impact on farming operations or compensate for loss of productivity  An opportune timeframe to conduct exploration activities will be organised to minimise disturbances to operations.	Face to face meeting Phone calls Email	During land access negotiations  Prior to commencement of any exploration activities

## 10. Community feedback management process

### How to submit feedback

Falcon aims to manage the impact of our operations through the continued consideration of the social and business interests of the local community. We encourage the local community to make us aware of any possible impacts or concerns they may have regarding Falcon's procedures or activities so we can work towards an amicable resolution.

When a community member contacts Falcon with feedback or in relation to a complaint, a procedure for resolution commences immediately. In such circumstance the following steps are taken to resolve the matter:

1. Details logged in Community Feedback Register and directed to appropriate Falcon team member;
2. Issue response to community member (within 72 hours unless urgent);
3. Internal communication to ensure relevant changes are actioned;
4. If resolution with community member not reached, elevate matter to dispute status;
5. Meeting arranged with community member and most appropriate senior manager to discuss matter;
6. If resolution with community member still not reached, identify and appoint a third-party mediator;
7. Attend mediation to attempt to resolve grievance;
8. An unresolved dispute may be referred to the Mining Warden under Section 97(1) of the MRSD Act.

For more information: Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration, Part C – 3. [www.earthresources.vic.gov.au](http://www.earthresources.vic.gov.au)

Feedback can be sent directly to Falcon through any of the following contact channels:

Via Post:	PO Box 106 Flinders Lane VIC 8009
Telephone:	+613 8648 6684
Email:	<a href="mailto:info@falconmetals.com.au">info@falconmetals.com.au</a>
In Person:	S6 L6 350 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000 OR onsite with relevant Falcon field personnel.

## 11. Evaluation

To ensure compliance against the aim(s) outlined in Section 5 of this document Falcon Metals will review this community engagement plan annually or at the completion of a phase of work (whichever is sooner).

Any changes that are made to operations that have the potential to change the risk profile of a stakeholder will be updated as soon as practicable.

- Falcon Metals will monitor and measure the effectiveness of community engagement with the implementation of the following strategies as outlined in Table 5.

**Table 5: Evaluation Methods.**

Objective	Measurement Method	Timing
<b>Provide access to reliable and timely information about exploration and development activities.</b>	Number of meetings with relevant landholders and stakeholders.  Number of media placements issued  Number of updates on the Falcon website.	Duration of program
<b>Avoid or minimise any adverse impacts on local neighbours through the timely and considered address of any stakeholder concerns.</b>	Number of feedback enquiries received and resolved.  All feedback responded to within 72 hours.	Duration of program
<b>Understanding any social, environmental and economic effects of Falcon's activities.</b>	Ongoing communication and induction of this community engagement plan prior to the commencement of relevant Falcon employees.  No non-compliance breaches (as according to the Victorian <u><i>Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration.</i></u> )	Duration of program
<b>Contribute to the community by local employment and engagement of local contractors and suppliers where appropriate and possible.</b>	Number of local staff employed over the duration of the course. Money spent at local stores and service providers. The recording of any further services or contribution to the local community.	Duration of program



## 12. Contact us

### **Falcon Metals Ltd**

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