

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated – Community Reference Group Communiqué

March 2026

The Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) Community Reference Group (CRG) March meeting was held in Clonbinane and included updates on exploration and early construction activities, community engagement and environmental management.

Key topics discussed

SXGC update

SXGC currently has 10 drill rigs operating across the project with more rigs planned in the future.

Initial surface works have commenced, including clearing approved areas and stripping and stockpiling of topsoil for planned infrastructure such as the dam site, site offices, workshop, and stores. Progress has been impacted by recent weather conditions and Total Fire Ban requirements.

Environmental protection fencing has been completed in designated areas.

A minor Work Plan Variation will be submitted to reflect modifications to planned tracks and work areas, ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements.

SXGC continues to attract skilled personnel, with workforce growth primarily in geology and operational support roles. Recruitment is ongoing, with a mix of permanent employees and contractors, and more staff expected to relocate to the area.

A structural engineering assessment of the local bridge is currently underway.

SXGC community engagement and initiatives

SXGC maintained active communication with nearby residents regarding drilling activities, including direct contact about a water bore drill rig operating in the area.

The company provided support during the recent Longwood fire, assisting local response efforts and checking on neighbouring properties.

SXGC continues to support local community organisations through its community grants program, including sponsorship of the Broadford Football and Netball Club, the Kilmore Cricket Club and Love in Action Broadford.

In preparation for fire risk, SXGC is working with the Clonbinane CFA with fire danger day procedures. During catastrophic fire conditions, non-local personnel will cease site attendance, and facilities such as sheds, water tanks and pumps are available to support emergency response if required. SXGC and the Clonbinane CFA have started connecting with "Oscar 1," one of the CFA's specialised rescue teams, to further support emergency response readiness in the local area. Members of the Clonbinane CFA were also invited to attend the Victorian Mine Rescue Championships.

Environment and land management

Approximately \$30,000 of blackberry control works have recently been completed across the Clonbinane Park and SXGC explained that it is employing local contractors to maintain to a high standard the houses purchased by the company.

Selection of an appropriate contractor for deer management is underway.

Additional environmental monitoring and reporting is being undertaken to meet Take and Use Licence requirements, with regulatory oversight in place.

Historical information regarding waterway impacts in the area was noted and may inform future discussions.

Heritage

Arrangements are being made for a site visit to the old Clonbinane homestead.

Community matters

No new correspondence has been received via the CRG email address. This email has been established to provide the community with an avenue to raise questions or concerns directly with the CRG. Any emails received will be handled in a manner to protect the identity of the correspondent.

Concerns regarding compliance about heavy equipment on Hibberds Lane were discussed. In response, SXGC has implemented a process to provide Council with photographic verification of compliance elements, including vehicle and load details. Clarification was also provided regarding axle weight versus total vehicle weight compliance.

CRG membership

Dearna Clune stepped down from the CRG. The CRG thanked Dearna for her contribution to the group and it's remit to represent the community.

SXGC changes

Lisa Gibbons advised she will be stepping down from her role, remaining available until early May to support transition. The CRG acknowledged and thanked Lisa for her significant contribution.

Next steps and future discussions

The CRG has requested:

- Further discussion on pest species management and regeneration
- Ongoing updates on traffic management as site activity increases
- Review of noise frequency impacts on nearby residents
- Continued updates on Sunday Creek water flow investigations

Progress continues on previously raised actions, including site visits, environmental discussions, and information sharing.

The next CRG meeting is scheduled for May 2026.

Stay connected

Residents are encouraged to:

- Contact the CRG via sxgcommunitygroup@gmail.com
- Visit the [SXGC Community website](#) for newsletters and CRG updates
- Join the email list to receive regular updates