
Project Approvals

September 2026

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) is exploring for gold and antimony on exploration and retention licences in central Victoria, including at Sunday Creek. Developing a project from exploration to mining involves a range of separate approvals under Victorian law, each with its own rules and its own opportunity for the community to have a say. This fact sheet explains what each approval covers, what it does and doesn't allow, and where you can get involved.

Mineral Exploration

Low Impact Exploration such as geophysical surveys, rock chip and soil sampling and drilling in certain locations can be undertaken by complying with the [Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration](#) and the conditions of the exploration or retention licence. For higher impact exploration, such as drilling in certain environments or trenching, bulk sampling or an exploration decline, the activity is authorised via an Exploration Work Plan.

Exploration activities are authorised by Resources Victoria under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic) and do not require planning permission from Local Government, however these activities are still required to comply with a range of other statutes of law.

Mining

The extraction of rock containing minerals, such as gold and antimony, for economic benefit can only be undertaken once a Mining Licence has been granted, however an approved Mining Licence itself does not permit mining. The extraction of mineralised rock (or ore) for economic benefit (mining) can only occur on a mining licence, and only once all other required approvals have been secured.

The primary consent process to enable mining in Victoria is obtaining a mining work plan under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (Vic). For a work plan to be approved, it also generally requires planning consent under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. In certain circumstances an Environment Effects Statement may be required.

In addition to the Mining Licence, Mining Work Plan and associated planning consent, a range of other statutory approvals are also required such as for water management infrastructure, vegetation clearing, working near cultural or heritage features and storing and using certain chemicals or explosives.

Once approved, the work plan is valid for the term of the mining licence and may have certain conditions attached.

The mining work plan is required to include all mining and associated infrastructure and activity located within the mining licence. Activities and infrastructure defined in the mine work plan, plus infrastructure located off the mining licence area are authorised under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The Mining Licence approval process



Figure 1: The Mining Licence approval process at a glance.

Community Participation

The community is invited to participate at a number of stages of the mine approval process. Public participation can occur through a formal statutory process such as Mining Licence application for a Planning Permit or exhibition of an Environment Effects Statement; or other means such as a licence holder's duty to consult with the community when preparing a work plan.

Further Reading



Resources Victoria



Minerals Council of Australia