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## Gekko completes modular process plant study for KI Scheelite

King Island Scheelite recently provided an update on its new processing plant to be constructed to treat ore from the proposed redevelopment of the Dolphin tungsten mine on King Island, Tasmania.

The Dolphin pit was dewatered in 2014 down to the sump level, just below the old underground portal. A detailed mine plan and schedule has been developed by Xenith Consulting which will allow for eight years of open cut mining at an average rate of 400,000 t per annum of ore.

The company recently engaged Gekko Systems Pty Ltd to design and cost a processing plant, capable of treating the ore from the proposed Dolphin mine and based on the metallurgical test work completed at the ALS laboratory in Burnie, Tasmania.

A modular design was preferred as this will minimise construction and commissioning times on site and result in reduced costs. Gekko completed their study in December 2018, after certain revisions requested by King Island. The study was conducted to a

Level 3 standard, meaning that the costings are within an accuracy limit of +/-10%. Costs determined by Gekko are within the range anticipated by the company, as determined by its own internal estimates. "Capital and operating costs are significantly lower than those determined in previous feasibility studies, due largely to the re-design of the flow sheet.

Based on a modular design, Gekko determined that detailed design, procurement, construction and commissioning could be achieved within a twelve-month period after financial commitment.

KIS are currently negotiating commercial details with Gekko.

KIS also made application to King Island Council to re-locate the site of the processing plant from the eastern side of the pit to the western side. Approval was granted by King Island Council through Planning Permit DA 2018/41, after consulting with the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Agency.

The new site has significant operational advantages over the previous site, in terms of reduced environmental impact (noise and vi-

sual), vehicle accessibility, proximity to the Grassy Port, reduced civil work costs and a much safer environment for light vehicles.

ALS laboratory reported results for gravity separation of the revised flow sheet. Scheelite recoveries of over 60% were achieved. These are higher than in previous testing. This work is ongoing.

— PAUL MOORE,  
INTERNATIONAL MINING TEAM PUBLISHING LTD

## Cutting red tape for farm businesses

- Coalition Government releases response to Productivity Commission Inquiry into Regulation of Australian Agriculture
- The report reveals significant costs to farmers from unnecessary regulations across all governments and the private sector
- Many of the recommendations are already being actioned to help farmers

The Coalition Government has released its response to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the Regulation of Australian Agriculture.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said the Government was cutting unnecessary red tape for farmers.

"We want to reduce red tape so farm businesses can create wealth and jobs in our regional communities," Minister Littleproud said.

"The report covers what all governments can do to cut red tape and we have already saved more than \$125 million in red tape across agriculture.

"There are more opportunities to cut red tape in land use, water, animal welfare, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, biosecurity, transport, labour, competition and exports.

"The government will not relax screening thresholds for foreign ownership of our farmland and agribusinesses as suggested in the report.

"We've struck the right balance – we're protecting the national interest and attracting foreign investment.

"Many of the report's findings are already well underway—both at Commonwealth and state level.

"A good example is the recent independent review of how the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act applies to farmers and how to improve the regulations.

"People work hard on the land and we don't want them drowning in paperwork too.

"We will continue to work closely with all governments to improve regulation and push for better outcomes for farmers, business and communities," Minister Littleproud said.

## Partners in beef production

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and King Island Beef Producers Group will host a project consultation and discussion session on Wednesday January 30, from 10am at the King Island Club.

Currently a range of project areas are being developed as a part of a Livestock Productivity Partnership (LPP) in conjunction with Meat and Livestock Australia.

King Island beef producers are being invited to join this discussion session to hear some of the current thinking, but most importantly to participate in helping research and development projects address the issues important to King Island producers.

At the meeting there won't be results to review or recommendations to debate. But there will be the opportunity to help build

projects relevant to the needs and issues that face King Island beef producers now and into the future.

Key areas to think about and hear about will be:

- optimising pasture and beef systems,
- meeting the challenges of climate,
- identifying new system opportunities,
- finding value in the carbon economy, and
- supporting change and innovation to make practical differences on farms.

TIA and the LPP are interested in producer input from the very start of any partnership projects.

Come along and have your say. More information is available from Peter Ball (TIA) on 0418 375 994

# HAVE YOUR SAY

**KING ISLAND BEEF PRODUCERS**  
*are invited to a*  
**PROJECT CONSULTATION & DISCUSSION SESSION**  
*with the*  
**TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE (TIA)**

**When:** Wednesday January 30  
**From:** 10am to 1.30pm  
**Where:** King Island Club function room  
Light lunch provided

**TOPICS include a Livestock Productivity Partnership (LPP), optimising beef production, working with climate challenges, income from carbon & supporting change & innovation.**

**FEATURING** TIA Research leader Richard Rawnsley,  
LPP co-ordinator Tom Davison,  
Matthew Warnken (Corporate Carbon).

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