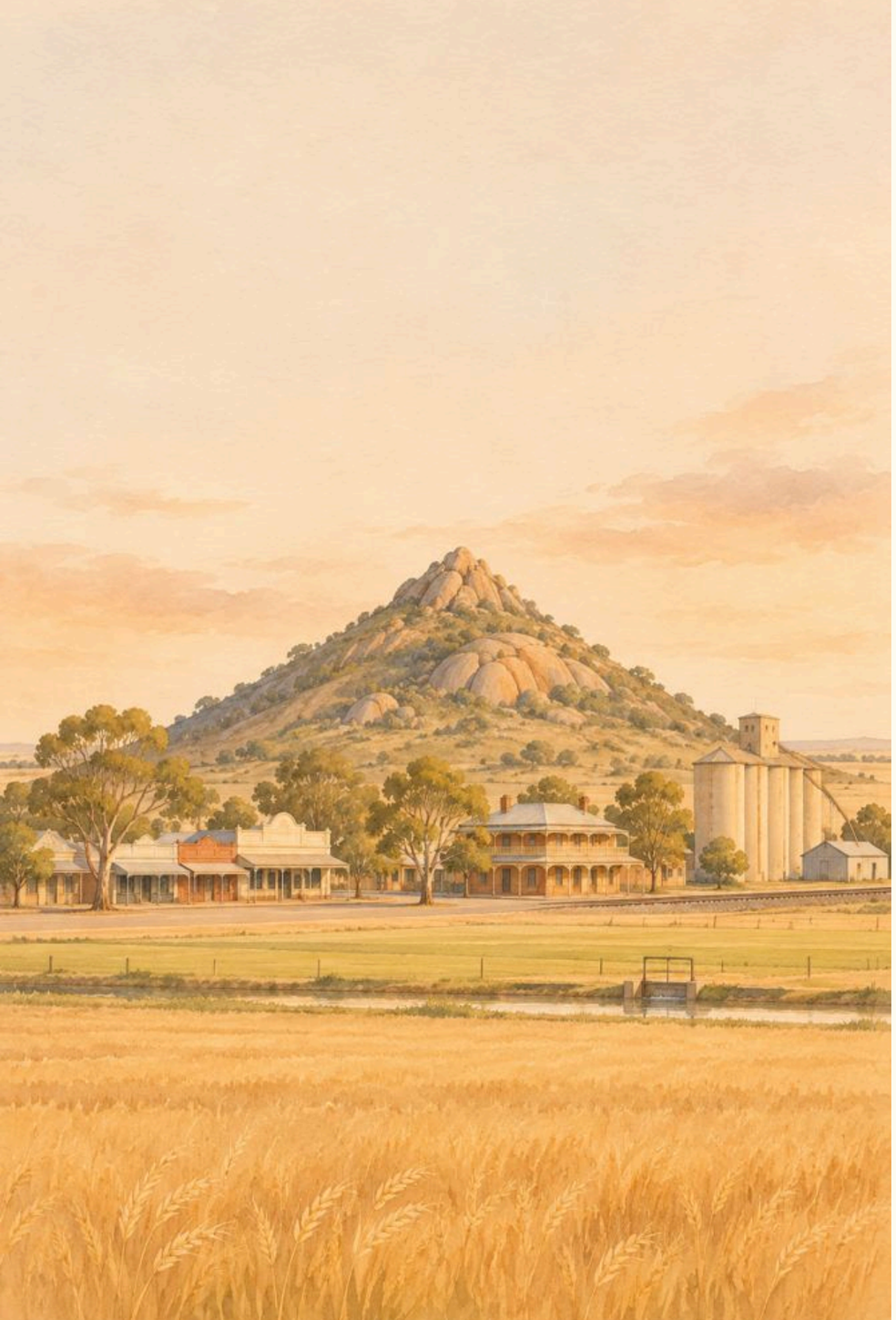


The shed at 1 Factory Lane

For our neighbours in Pyramid Hill, from Drew Chislett, Antimony Refiners Australia

NOVEMBER 2026

We know what you might have read

Antimony Refiners Australia is looking to install a pilot antimony refinery in the shed at 1 Factory Lane. A lot of work has gone into laying the groundwork for the project, and now it is time to discuss it all with you.

If you've searched for antimony smelters, you'll have seen big overseas plants roasting ore, with tall stacks and polluted ground. We want to change that approach.

We're just normal locals, and we can see how this might look if you google it.

Ask us anything.





Why the planning papers don't say more

The planning papers with Council are about the land: what the shed is used for, the noise, the trucks and the hours. They're not where the detail of the process sits.

That detail goes to EPA, in the licence stage happening now. EPA looks at all of it: what comes in, what's used, what leaves, and how everything stays inside the shed. And then they police it.

We're happy to talk about the process. We're proud of it: it's low impact, and it creates jobs here.

This isn't a smelter

Most of what comes up online is about big overseas plants. Here's the difference.

1

A big ore smelter

Roasts ore at very high heat, with tall stacks, slag heaps and tailings, thousands of tonnes a year, running 24/7.

- Old technology (150 years plus)
- Large area (hectares)
- Noisy
- Dusty, because it is a dry process
- Dirty
- Piles of slag and tailings
- Polluting the air, groundwater and soil

2

Our pilot at 1 Factory Lane

Water based, in sealed tanks inside an existing shed. No ore roasting and no tailings dam. Small, and daytime only.

- New technology
- Environmentally and sustainably focused from the start
- Small area (fits in a shed)
- Low noise
- No dust, because it is a wet process
- Clean: material is bagged when arriving and leaving, and powdery material is damp, so no dust is created
- No piles of slag and tailings: everything goes back to the mining company for proper management at their site
- What we use in the process can be bought at Bunnings and Coles
- No groundwater impacts (no contact with groundwater at all)
- No soil residue (no contact with soil at all)
- CO2 and water vapour are the air emissions

A straightforward process we're proud of

Most of the world's antimony is made by roasting ore in big smelters, mostly in China. Ours is different. It's done in water, in sealed tanks, inside one shed.

It's actually quite a straightforward process, and that's what makes it amazing. We've spent years on it to make sure it's safe, and it's been independently tested by AMML laboratories on Australian concentrate.

Today Australia's antimony is shipped overseas to be processed. This would make the finished product here, in Pyramid Hill.

No one else has a method like ours. We think it's the best, we're excited, and we've set out to build it to a world class standard.

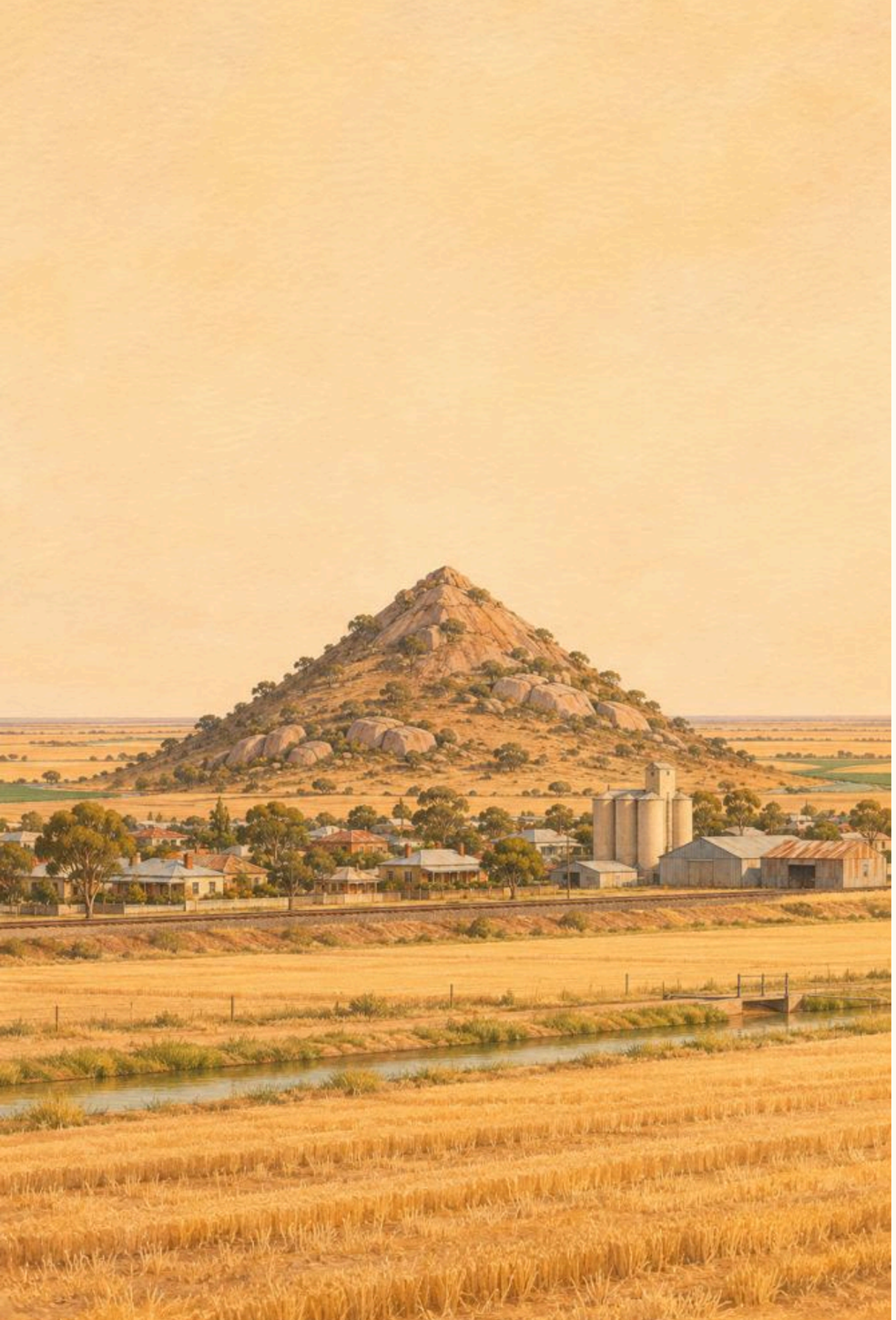


What comes in, and what leaves

The same bagged concentrate that suppliers already truck through Victoria to Port Melbourne, to be shipped overseas.

1. It arrives in sealed bulka bags on trucks: about 2 a week to start, and up to 4 a day at most, daytime only, through the GrainCorp access.
2. Inside the shed, the antimony and a little gold are taken out in tanks of water based solution. The water is cleaned and reused.
3. Finished antimony leaves in enclosed trucks to buyers: metal bars, and two powders, antimony trioxide and antimony trisulphide. The powders are in bulka bags and the metal bars are on pallets.
4. What's left of the concentrate goes back to the mine it came from, in bulka bags on the same trucks it was delivered in.
5. The only things the shed gives off are water vapour, and the exhaust from casting the finished metal into bars, in the daytime, and a backup generator. It's about the same as a truck engine.

Nothing is left behind in Pyramid Hill.



Why here, so close to homes

We know it's close to houses. We'd never have put it here if it wasn't clean. The process runs in sealed tanks of water based solution, inside the shed, and gives off no emissions of its own.

We could have put this on an industrial estate near Bendigo. We chose Pyramid Hill because we're from here, and we want the jobs here.

It's a straightforward process, and that's why we chose Pyramid Hill knowing it's close to people.

EPA is all over it

Nothing starts until EPA has reviewed it and granted a licence. That licence sets conditions we must meet every day we run. We also have to report to EPA, and will be policed by them. We've designed the project from the ground up to do better than the rules.

1. Noise at the nearest homes is predicted at 41.9 dB, under the 46 dB limit, with the acoustic fence and wall lining built before we start.
2. The floor is sealed, with a raised edge that holds more than twice the biggest tank. The legal requirement is 110%.
3. Air from the tanks is cleaned through scrubbers, fitted even though the process isn't expected to give off air emissions.
4. The water based solution runs in a closed circuit. None is discharged.
5. Day shift only, well inside the hours the permit allows.
6. Independent noise testing at the nearest homes when we start.

EPA will keep us in check, and we want to be kept in check.

Your questions

1

Is it safe?

Antimony is a metal that needs careful handling, like many metals used in industry. That's why everything stays enclosed and inside the shed, and why EPA sets the limits and checks them.

2

Will there be dust?

The concentrate is damp and arrives in sealed bags. It is fed directly into the solution tanks inside the shed. No dust is generated.

The products and residue go directly into sealed bags and stay damp the entire time. The metal comes out in ingots, stacked on pallets. No dust is generated.

Air from the tanks is cleaned before it's reused. There are no stockpiles of dusty product, no tailings dams and no piles of waste.

3

Will there be noise?

There will be noise from fans and other equipment, but most of the process is stirring solutions in tanks, which doesn't make much noise.

We have to meet EPA's noise limits, and we are well under them. Our plant is expected to be quieter than both the hemp factory and the Men's Shed.

We don't operate at night, so there will be no noise then.

4

Could it leak?

It's built so nothing can get outside the shed or into the ground. The floor is sealed concrete, with a raised edge that holds more than twice the biggest tank, and no drains out of it. The shed sits outside the flood area, behind a levee. No water from the process goes into the sewerage system or water supply.

5

What if something goes wrong?

Any spill stays on the sealed floor. There's an emergency tank, fire water on site, and a plan EPA will hold us to.

Your questions: the products

There are three main products: antimony trioxide, antimony trisulphide and antimony metal.

1

What is antimony trioxide?

A white powder used mostly to make plastics and fabrics fire resistant.

Our process makes it in tanks of solution, and it is contained. The traditional method in a smelter is by burning the antimony, and this causes dust and emissions that we do not make in the first place.

The product is filtered and comes out damp, directly into sealed bulka bags. There are no big piles of it that need handling. It's bagged as soon as it is produced, so there is no dust.

2

What is antimony trisulphide?

An orange or black powder used mostly to make solar panels and matches.

Our process makes it in tanks of solution, and it is contained and creates no dust or emissions.

The product is filtered and comes out damp, directly into sealed bulka bags. There are no big piles of it that need handling. It's bagged as soon as it is produced, so there is no dust.

3

What is antimony metal?

Antimony metal is poured into ingots weighing about 25 kilograms each.

The traditional smelter process produces substantial air emissions and vast amounts of CO2 from smelting the antimony.

Casting the finished metal into bars creates small amounts of CO2 and water vapour.

The ingots are poured in a line, then loaded onto a pallet for the trucks, and there is no dust created.

4

What if there is a spill?

Antimony trioxide and antimony trisulphide are heavy and damp. They can be shovelled into another bag very quickly if a bag breaks.

Any remaining particles can be vacuumed up with a simple shop vacuum cleaner.

Spilt material is reprocessed through the plant to meet quality requirements, so nothing is disposed of.

Ingots can be loaded back on a pallet if they fall off, with no need to clean up after them.

Who we are

We're locals. Drew runs Corian Park Earthmoving and leads the Progress Association. Sam grew up near East Loddon and played footy for Mitiamo. Tom Smith owns the shed.

We've spent most of this year working to bring this plant to Pyramid Hill, because we want the jobs here, not somewhere else.

We care about Pyramid Hill. That's why there's no tailings dam, no new buildings and no farmland used, and why the water is cleaned and reused.

5 to 7 jobs on site, local where we can, and more work for local businesses.





Talk to us

We're happy to talk about the process. We're proud of it: it's low impact, and it creates jobs here.

Talk to Drew, or email Sam at sam@antimonyrefiners.com. We'll come back to you right away.

Two approvals come first: Council's planning permit, and EPA's licence. We can't start without both.