**Video Transcript**

**Goldfields Tender Briefing Introduction and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

[Slide: North Central Victorian Goldfields Ground Release Tender Briefing Day]

*John Krbaleski - Head of Resources, Forestry & Game DJPR*

Good morning everyone.

Great to be here and great to see such a fantastic turnout and so many familiar faces.

I’ll begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and also acknowledge representatives from any other Aboriginal communities who might be here with us today.

So welcome.

Welcome to the North Central Victorian Goldfields Ground Release Tender Briefing.

What a mouthful, but listen it’s a mouthful but it’s a fantastic initiative, a fantastic turnout today.

Many of you have travelled far, and I know it’s a busy time of year so thanks for that.

And also apologies, we’re going to get you to work through Christmas and summer break, but maybe you’re like me and excited by the opportunities in the sector and you’re happy to do that.

But let’s just get a bit of a pulse check in terms of who’s feeling a bit excited about the forward look for the mineral sectors going forward.

So put your hand up if you’re a little bit excited about opportunities going forward.

Or, someone could put two hands up because I reckon there’s not a week that goes by that we don’t get a drill result when I get some information about someone putting on new jobs or making new investments.

And that’s awesome because that’s what our sector’s about.

It’s about creating wealth, it’s about creating jobs, and it’s about creating opportunities.

And that’s our social licence, that’s actually the social licence with community.

And I guess it’s not just the vibe, we’ve got the facts, we’ve got one of the oldest geological surveys in the world here in Victoria, 165 years of history, 165 years of them mapping our geology.

And what do they reckon?

They reckon there’s potential for up to 75 million ounces of gold that’s undercover in northern Victoria that we haven’t got to yet.

And there’s about 32 million ounces, as part of that, in the North Bendigo zone, so that’s awesome.

What are we about?

What’s government about?

What’s the vision of my group?

It’s pretty simple.

It’s about a growing and responsible sector, one that’s valued by community.

And you’re out there taking the risk and working with communities.

What are we doing to help you?

Well I think it’s three key areas.

We’re making sure that our regulator is modern and efficient because you want that when you’re getting through your various parts of the life cycle that is the mineral sector, whether you’re exploring, or looking to produce or whatnot, you want an efficient and modern regulator.

You want our policy and legislative environment to be supportive of investment and that’s what we’re working hard on as well, so we’ve got that environment that encourages you to come Victoria, so Victoria encourages people to get behind you and invest in your companies, so that’s what we’re about.

We’re also about advancing our geoscience and that’s about growing our pre-competitive data, we’ll here about that today, and applying modern geoscience concepts.

And like I said, I reckon we’ve got a cracker of a GSV, the work that they do is I think ground-breaking and we’re seeing the fruits of that and here about that this morning.

So it’s great to lead a bunch of staff that are so passionate and are so clever, and it’s great to have them here today.

So we’ve got Paul McDonald who heads up the GSV, and he’s here with his staff.

We’ve got Jane Burton, the Acting Executive Director from Earth Policy and Programs here, and she’ll be talking, and her staff later this morning, and will be talking about the new approach that we’re taking to exploration.

And we’ve got reps from our regulator as well, so you’ve got the full complement, they’re here, they’re here to tell you about what they do, and I guess inform you in terms of, as you get your applications ready for this particular bid, will make sure that you’re fully informed on that front.

So we’ll here from GSV shortly in terms of why we think there’s a significant opportunity here with these four blocks, so we’ll get you excited around that.

We’ll also outline what our expectations are in relation to the tenders.

And I guess a key feature of this tender is we’ve taken a new approach to ground releases.

Some of you may have seen that with our release last year in the Staveley region, and we’ve built on that, we’ve taken that a little bit further.

And a key part of that is really growing that expectation that we have of explorers to work even more closely with the community, with traditional owner groups, with landholders, something that’s an important part of gaining, maintaining that social licence going forward.

So this afternoon you’ll hear a bit more about that new approach, and in particular from traditional owner groups themselves.

So we’ve got representatives from two of those groups this afternoon talking about their expectations and their role in the assessment process.

So for the first time traditional owners have a voice, they’ve got a seat at the table.

And as far as evaluation criteria, they’ve got a chart 20% of that weighting is with traditional owners, who are the custodians of this land.

They’ve been here for tens of thousands of years.

We are the modern day custodians of the resource for the state, but traditional owners have been here for a very long time and we’ve got a lot to learn from them, and we’ve got a lot to learn in relation to culture, and their culture, and how we map that into exploration and the mineral sector in Victoria going forward.

So that’s about it for me.

I think just thank you for coming along today.

I hope you have a great day.

I look forward to having a chat to you over the course of the day.

So thanks for your attention and let’s crack on with the main show.

Thank you.