



**BALLARAT  
GOLD MINE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING No. 100**

**Thursday 20th February 2020 4:30 pm - 5:55 pm**

#### **Attendance:**

**Members:** Mayor Ben Taylor (Councillor and Chairperson), Heather Bice (Community Rep.- Tinworth Ave), Kerry Daniell (Community Rep.- Golden Point), Floss Pitson (Community Rep.-Golden Point), Paul Greig (Community Rep.), Kurtis Noyce (Manager Env. & Comm), Andrea Mason (Comm Eng), Mark Davies (Processing Manager), Mark Cowell (Hancock Vic Plantations), Bill Reid (Exploration Manager), Andrew Harris (CHW), Bessie Abbot (Earth Resource Regulation), Shawn Li (Ballarat Gold Mine), Yihang Wang (Ballarat Gold Mine)

**Guests:** Lorraine Culross (Community – Mt Clear)

**Apologies:** Lionel Woodford (Earth Resource Regulation), John Ciavarella (City of Ballarat-Coordinator Statutory Planning), Amie Cullum (AECOM), Dean Turner (Hancock Vic Plantations)

#### **100<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Kurtis welcomed everyone to the 100th ERC meeting since the mine had begun. It is thought that this ERC was formed around 1988, with meeting notes dating back to the sixth meeting in 1990, making it the oldest running ERC in the state. Latrobe Valley has held more meetings but only began in 1996 and Stawell has held over 80 ERC meetings.

The 100<sup>th</sup> celebration cake was cut. A gift of a gold pen was given to those who had taken part and contributed to the successful partnership between the mine and the community. The pen was chosen as it represented something of quality and longevity which is how Ballarat Gold Mine feels about the long-term commitment of the community members. Kurtis thanked everyone for contributing so much time and valuable feedback to the ERC meetings and the mine staff.

**Welcome:** Ben Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on their commitment to the ERC. General introductions were made.

**Previous Minutes:** Moved Kerry, Seconded Floss. Carried

**Actions/Matters Arising:** None

#### **Update on Mining Activity**

Bill Reid reported on mine progress.

During the October to December 2019 quarter, mining activities included a total of 844 m of development within the Normanby, Sovereign, and Canton areas. A total of 334 m of ore development was achieved for the quarter from the Normanby, Sovereign and Canton areas.



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There has been more development in the southern end and these created some higher vibration readings of 4.1 mm/sec in the New Normanby and 3.3 mm/sec in the Sovereign. The New Normanby is associated with the old workings which may be acting as a conduit for the vibrations. The cross courses may also be contributing and some of the stope firings are higher in the mine at 482m. The engineers are still working to reduce these high vibration readings.

Development planned for 2020 includes New Normanby, Sovereign and Canton compartments. The drilling activity has increased by 33% with a fourth drill rig being used to get the exploration further in front of the mining.

Processing is on track for 40,000 ounces. Ore quantity has increased but the grade has decreased.

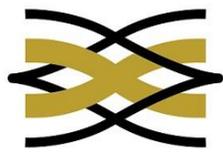
New Directors have been appointed to Castlemaine Goldfields Pty Ltd who are taking a more proactive role in management at the mine.

### **Member reports:**

All members at the table were invited to give an update.

- Floss congratulated everyone for a great job with no non-compliances recorded. She also commented on the good job being done by Ballarat Regional Industries with the maintenance of the Golden Point shaft area.
- Bessie noted that DELWP had received a number of enquiries, but not actual complaints, about the increases in blasting vibrations. She thanked Ballarat Gold Mine for always providing a prompt response to her enquiries which helped her respond to the community members. Bessie also noted that the ERC provided an open forum for feedback and communication.
- Heather has received a lot of enquiries about the new fence which has been erected around the Whitehorse Gully site and reduced the number of walking tracks in that area. She is happy to be working with Ballarat Gold Mine on the development of new tracks to offset those lost.
- Kurtis commented on the need to protect public safety and reduced risks from fire hazards, commercial forests and mine operations. New tracks need to be carefully planned and may include bollards and other tools to reduce speeds from bikes etc.
- Lorraine expressed her interest in becoming a member of the ERC. She has a connection to mining as her grandfather held the no. 2 certificate from the School of Mines Her interest is in the walking tracks and is pleased that the new fence has reduced the number of itinerants' in that area which made her feel unsafe. She also noted that the vegetation buffer is a great asset around the mining business. She has not personally been affected by any of the mine activities.

There were no other comments.



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## Ballarat Gold Mine Reports

### Non compliance

- As per notes – There have been no non-compliance incidents for 2019 which is a great outcome!

### Update TSF3 (Kurtis)

The TSF3 lift to 441m lift has commenced.

The comprehensive biennial and independent audit by Golders on TSF3 is underway.

### Update Whitehorse Gully TSF (Kurtis)

**Kurtis** gave a presentation on the progress of the planning for the Whitehorse Gully TSF.

Visual amenity includes buffer from

Tinworth Ave, 15m pine buffer along Whitehorse Rd and replanting for post closure. Design si to international and ERR standards. The clay liner and the embankment to contain tailings. A monitoring and operation management plans will be developed. Native vegetation will be retained along Tinworth Ave. Permits and associated offsets will be sought for native vegetation in the eastern area where needed. Stormwater drainage and ponds will collect stormwater and manage run-off/erosion. Design will include an underdrain.

Risk assessment and work plan variation has been submitted to ERR late December and feedback and review process is taking place. Hoping to have these ready for referral to agencies such as EPA and DELWP in April. After that has been approved, a planning permit will be sought from City of Ballarat with a realistic goal for approval by quarter 3 or 4.

The geological and geotechnical investigations for the new TSF are now complete and will inform the final design. The initial reports are that the foundation materials is of good quality and properties which will assist in the foundation stability.

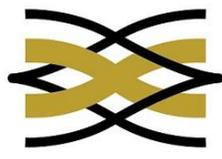
HVP have harvested the current pine stand except for the buffer of pine trees to minimise the disturbance and provide a visual buffer.

**Heather** – Will you remove any contaminated materials?

**Kurtis** – The tailings dam and investigation reports are not yet available, but the levels of Arsenic were as expected. Contaminated materials will most likely be required to be managed on site.

**Bessie** – What community engagement will take place in the planning stage?

**Kurtis** – Our community engagement plan is beyond normal expectations. We have already consulted through the ERC for over 3 years. The new TSF proposal has been mentioned in the latest community newsletter which is being distributed to 3500 residents this week. We are also developing an information sheet which will be used in a door knock engagement with local neighbours. Once the work plan is signed off by ERR and a planning permit is submitted, City of Ballarat will have its own community notice procedure in place for public feedback.



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## Other

### Gold Royalty

Ballarat Gold Mine has been actively lobbying ministers to change the new gold royalty model for smaller mining operations. They are happy to pay the royalty in principle but are concerned that the 2.75% royalty comes into effect at 2,500 ounces. Concerns are how this will affect the business model for CGT and potentially affect the local community through impacts to jobs and the local economy.

Ballarat Gold Mine sent a group of staff to Parliament yesterday, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, to present their case and to hear the decision on the controversial gold royalty. They joined fellow gold miners from across the state.

However, the state government voted to stay firm with the tax after Shadow Treasurer Louise Staley put forward a "disallowance motion" in the Legislative Council to put the buffers on the tax.

Members of the ERC echoed these concerns.

**Meeting Closed at 5.55pm:** Ben thanked all for their attendance.

2020 meetings: May 7<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>.



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L-R: Heather Bice (Community Rep (CR)), Mark Davies (BGM), Andrew Harris (CHW), Mayor Cr Ben Taylor (Chair), Bill Reid (BGM), Floss Pitson (CR), Paul Greig (CR), Kurtis Noyce (BGM), Kerry Daniell (CR), Bessie Abbot (ERR), Mark Cowell (HVP), Andrea Mason (BGM), Shawn Li (CGT), Yihang Wang (CGT).

**Environmental  
Review Committee  
20 February 2020**