

BALLARAT GOLD MINE

Environmental Review Committee

Quarterly Report

Meeting No. 115

July-September 2023



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APPENDIX 1- ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

Business Overview

Organisational News

Balmaine Gold continued to trade under voluntary administration during the quarter, which began on the 8th of March. The administrators, Hall Chadwick worked closely with potential future owners throughout the period as entity's interested worked toward the date for submission of final bids. This included the construction and opening of a comprehensive data room for potential suitors to evaluate all aspects of the business.

The regulator remains in regular contact with senior management at the mine during this administrative process. All environmental and safety processes continue to be fulfilled and production of gold continues.

Exploration Activity

During the July-September quarter renewal applications for EL006442 and MIN5396 were completed and submitted to ERR. They are both currently pending renewal. There were no other significant updates to exploration news relative to GPG's tenements over the last quarter.

MIN4847 - Ballarat South

The Mining Licence is current and active, with renewal due for November 2024. Strategy optimisation continues with the Regulators regarding future Tailings Storage Facilities upon the tenement for the longevity of the Ballarat mining operations. The tenement is considered to hold potential for future mineral resources, which may be accessible from the current underground mining infrastructure. The Company has identified exploration targets requiring drill testing but are yet to develop a timeline for commencing the program.

MIN5396 - Ballarat

The Mining Licence hosts majority of the infrastructure relating to the present underground mining and surface processing operations. Present exploration on the tenement relates to the drill testing and definition of mineral resources in the immediate mining areas. The tenement hosts significant potential for the long-term future of the Ballarat Gold Project, with high grade mining historically associated with the Ballarat West Goldfield (west of Yarrowee River). It is considered

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that the Ballarat West Goldfield could be accessed from the current underground infrastructure upon completion of sufficient exploration and obtaining of the relevant approvals. The Company continues to undertake research, reviews, and assessment of the Ballarat West Goldfield, and the "Gap Zone" (defined as the area of little historic mining or exploration separating the Ballarat East and West Goldfields). Balmaine has identified exploration sites from the current underground infrastructure, from which, exploration drilling may be undertaken to further assess parallel mineralisation to the current Ballarat East mining operations. A renewal application was submitted in September 2023 to ERR for a further 15 years from the current expiry of 4 October 2023. The licence will remain current and pending renewal until the application is reviewed and processed by ERR.

EL006442 - Buninyong

The Company has undertaken no exploration work upon the tenement, the tenement was reduced in size during 2021 following an initial review of the tenement area. A renewal application requesting a further 5 years to explore the tenement was submitted to ERR in August 2023. The licence is currently pending renewal; however, licences remain current until the application is processed by ERR.

EL006851 - Nerrina/Little Bendigo

The Company applied for the tenement area in 2018 over the Nerrina/Little Bendigo Goldfield. The Company awaits further correspondence from Earth Resources Regulation regarding future actions in relation to the grant of the tenement.

EL007533 – Ballarat

EL007533 was applied over the same tenement area of *EL3018* in November 2020 and is considered a competing tenement application with three other companies (Red Rock Australasia Pty Ltd, Loddon Gold Pty Ltd and Mercator Gold Australia Pty Ltd). Earth Resources Regulation has requested further information from the applicants, prior to a decision being made regarding the awarding of the tenement area to the preferred applicant. Balmaine is seeking to have the tenement area granted to the Company, as this is considered beneficial to the longevity of the Ballarat Gold Project.

Discussions have commenced with the Earth Resources Regulation regarding the release of Rehabilitation Bond associated with Exploration Licence 3018 (initiated by ERR). It is a requirement to inspect past exploration locations explored during the tenure of EL3018, this is partly complicated in that many of the past sites utilised for surface exploration have since been developed upon after exploration was completed, exploration sites such as Llanberris Athletic Reserve, Corner of Magpie and Bradshaw Street and L T Frazer Reserve.

Key Statistics

Key Environment and Community statistics for the July-September Quarter 2023 are presented below. A total of 18 Community contacts were made for the second quarter. 16 were complaints, 10 regarding vibration and five regarding noise, one "other", along with two counts of feedback by community members.

Summary	Non- Compliance	Complaints	Other Incidents	Proactive Community Contact
Jan-Mar 2023	0	8	0	6
Apr-Jun 2023	0	18	0	1
July-Sep 2023	0	16	0	0
Total 2023	0	42	0	7

Table 1- Environment and Community contacts

Noncompliance's

Nil noncompliance's for the July – August 2023 quarter

Other Incidents

Nil

Sustainability

Energy

Ballarat Gold Mine's total energy use increased 1.485 TJ during the quarter.

	April-23	May-23	June-23		
Electricity-(MWh)	2,684.30	2,935.25	2777.052		
Diesel- (kL)	132.022	146.288	157.765		
Natural Gas (GJ)	461.14	476.511	461.14		
Totals (TJ)	50.55				

	July-23	Aug-23	Sep-23			
Electricity-(MWh)	2975.458	2946.281	2772.007			
Diesel- (kL)	174.207	168.811	145.788			
Natural Gas (GJ)	349.353	375.409	363.69			
Totals (TJ)	52.035					

Table 2- Energy consumption over first two quarters

Waste and recycling

Ballarat Gold Mine remains committed to reducing waste streams and where practicable to increase recycling and reduce landfill.

There continues to be several disposal streams on site ensuring effective separation of materials.

Land Management

General Maintenance and Weed Control

Ballarat Gold mine continues to engage with Ballarat Regional Industries (BRI) to maintain the Golden Point Shaft.

G&S Plantation services continues to be the preferred contractor for the site's larger maintenance program. Weed management is conducted periodically. The next round of gauze management works have been locked in to be conducted early next quarter.

Rehabilitation

Nil update for the sludge at Otway Street (approximately 2,000-2,500 tonnes), which awaits removal. EPA permit has been received to remove the sludge safely, in compliance with the Environment Protection Act 2017. It is likely that the removal of the sludge will be programmed at a point in time post administration.

White Horse gully Rehabilitation project continues and has been underway since late March 2023. The objective of the project is to rehabilitate severely degraded and eroded gullies within the larger White Horse Gully, as outlined in the White Horse Gully Rehabilitation Plan. Reestablishment of even land contours will allow for effective erosion control which will then be further stabilised when revegetation works are completed. This has been a long-term project for Ballarat Gold mine, where it was first flagged in the 1993 Work plan.

The mining department is still managing the construction processes as outlined in the White horse Gully rehabilitation plan. While the Environment and Community department ensures environmental obligations are adhered to during the process.

Fire Prevention

The majority of fire season ground preparation and maintenance (slashing and/or spraying of GPG's satellite sites) is carried out in the last quarter of the year given the pre-summer preparation that is required annually.

Environmental & Social Monitoring – Data

Air Quality

Depositional dust monitoring

7 of 7 depositional dust gauge monitoring locations analysed during the quarter, were well within compliance limits. Results for the insoluble solids ranged from 0.33 to 1.5 g/m²/month. All sites where well below the regulatory limit of 4.0 g/m²/month for insoluble solids fraction.

For context - Insoluble solids are comprised of the combustible matter content and ash content. Ash represents the airborne inert crustal dust component of insoluble solids, whereas the combustible matter represents fine airborne organic flora e.g., pollen, seeds, leaf matter.



Figure 1- AIR QUALITY COMPLIANCE-INSOLUABLE SOLIDS 12 MONTH ROLLING AVERAGE



Figure 2 - INSOLUBLE SOLIDS MONTHLY DATA.

Ambient air monitoring

The ambient air dust monitors measure PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Where PM refers to the Particles with a mean aerodynamic diameter less than 10 and 2.5 microns respectively.

Moving forward the air monitoring analysis will follow in-line with Ambient Air Quality NEPM (National Environment Protection Standards) guidelines. The guidelines are designed to minimise the risk of adverse health impacts from exposure and air pollution.

Through monitoring White Horse Gully, we will be able to ensure adequate dust management strategies are monitored and maintained.

Monitor 1 has been in place in White Horse Gully since January 2023 see figure 3 for quarter results. Monitor 2 was returned by the manufacturer and reinstalled into the field on September 7. Where it was located further north of monitor 1 see figure 5 for a visual on monitor location.

On 11/10 the second monitor was relocated to the northern end of the site (see figure 6), with the objective to gauge any exiting air pollutants from the mine site. Results will be available in quarter 4 report.

These monitors are live and continuous where data is downloaded and analysed daily. See below concentration limits as per the National Environmental Protection Standards.

Maximum concentrations as per NEPM AQ guidelines.

PM2.5 Maximum concentrations: .025mg/m³/day .008mg/m³/year PM10 Maximum concentrations: .050mg/m³/day .020mg/m³/year



Figure 3 - Ambient air continuous monitoring - White Horse Gully Monitor 1



Figure 4 - Ambient air continuous monitoring - White Horse Gully Monitor 2



Figure 5 - MAP OF DUST MONITORING LOCATIONS



Figure 6 - MAP OF DUST MONITORING LOCATIONS as of 11/10/2023

Blast Vibration

All monitoring results for the quarter were well below the maximum day-time vibration limit of 10 mm/sec and continues to remain below the 5 mm/sec vibration limit set for 95% of firings.

A total of 371 firings took place during the quarter: 190 firings (51%) were development, 150 Airleg firings (40%) and 31 (8%) were production (stope) firings (Table 3).

Development firings usually produce waste rock and are undertaken to advance declines and for the provision of underground services. Development cuts are typically fired at 6:45 am and 6:45 pm. These blasts are typically much smaller than the production stopes. This quarter the Llanberris, Golden Point and the Britannia compartments were the focus of active development. Production was mostly focused within the Canton & Llanberris compartments.

Compartment	De	velopn	nent	Airleg			Stope			Sub Total	% of all
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Jul	Aug	Sept	Jul	Aug	Sept		firings
Britannia	28	30	36	0	0	0	0	0	1	95	25.61%
Canton	3	2	9	0	0	0	5	4	6	29	7.82%
Golden Point	0	20	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	10.50%
Llanberris	8	4	15	41	46	50	5	7	2	178	47.98%
Normanby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Sovereign	0	1	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	10	2.70%
Victoria	11	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4.04%
Woah Hawp	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	1.35%
Total	50	58	82	41	46	63	11	11	9	371	100%
Grand Total	190			150			31				

Table 3 - ALL UNDERGROUND MINE FIRINGS

Ballarat Gold Mine have five vibration monitors placed on the surface, monitoring underground blast vibration. Table 3 shows total firings detected during the quarter and of the 190 development firings, 50 (26%) were detected using the accepted trigger point of >0.3 mm/sec (Table 4).

Blasting compliance requires 95% of firings to be below 5mm/s. One firing out of the 367 incidences exceeded the 5mm/s. With a reading of 5.09 PPV recorded at the Barkley Street monitor and was related to a blast within the Llanberris compartment on August 9.

Compartment	Development			Stope			Sub Total	% of all
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Jul	Aug	Sep		firings
Britannia	3	5	10	0	0	2	20	24.10%
Canton	0	1	0	5	4	4	14	16.87%
Llanberris	2	5	11	4	6	4	32	38.55%
Normanby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Sovereign	0	1	0	3	1	0	5	6.02%
Victoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Golden Point	0	8	4	0	0	0	12	14.46%
Woah Hawp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	5	20	25	12	11	10	83	100.00%
Grand Total	50			33				

Table 4 - FIRINGS DETECTED ON THE SURFACE (>0.3MM/S)

The monthly rolling average for blast vibration is 0.329 PPV and continues to remain below 1.0 PPV for the quarter. During this period most of the production was focused in the Canton and Llanberris compartments. Majority of the vibration complaints for the quarter originated from the Canton compartments. GPG continues to employ techniques with the aim to reduce the amount of explosive required where it is practicable.

Compartment	Firings >5mm/s	Firings >10mm/s	Maximum
Britannia	0	0	0.98
Llanberris	0	0	5.09
Canton	0	0	4.11
Sovereign	0	0	2.14
Normanby	0	0	N/A
Victoria	0	0	0.98

Table 5 - VIBRATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY



Figure 7 - PRODUCTION STOPE FIRINGS (MAXIMUM VIBRATION FOR EACH FIRING)



Figure 8 - PRODUCTION STOPE FIRINGS TREND (MONTHLY MAXIMUM AND AVERAGE VIBRATION)



Figure 9 - ALL FIRINGS TREND (MONTHLY MAXIMUM AND APPROX MONTHLY MOVING AVERAGE)

Surface Water EPA Compliance Limits					
	SWL				
	Median	Max			
Mean Daily Flow Rate (Annual)	2.99	ML			
Total Arsenic (mg/L)	0.5	0.5			
Total Copper (mg/L)	0.01	0.2			
Total Iron (mg/L)	1	2			
Total Lead (mg/L)	0.02	0.1			
Total Manganese (mg/L)	0.2	0.5			
Electrical Conductivity (EC) (µS/cm)	4000	4300			
Turbidity (NTU)	30	80			
Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	17	24			
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	2	2.4			
pH (Minimum – Maximum)	6.0 - 9.0				

Surface Water Ballarat East

Table 6 - BALLARAT EAST SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE COMPLIANCE LIMITS

GPGs surface water discharge point (SWL) monthly water testing results remained within compliant ranges, in accordance with their EPA Discharge Licence conditions (Shown in Table 6). SWL discharge point is located at the northwest side of the property and further demonstrated in figure 10.

The average daily discharge of 1.09ML per day with a total of 100.7 ML for the quarter, which continues to be well below the (EPA) licenced limit for discharge of 2.9 ML/day.

Surface water testing at several locations along the Yarrowee river system, are in place to provide background water quality information prior and post SWL discharge point. Monitoring points are known as YC1 (3.5 km upstream), YC3 (1.8 km upstream) YC8 (200 m upstream) and YC9 which is 2.6 km downstream of the discharge point (SWL) (see figure 10 for context).

While these points are not part of the license conditions they will remain as part of the ongoing water quality monitoring program. This quarter all Yarrowee points remained within that of Ballarat Gold mines license water quality limits for SWL discharge. (See Table 6 and Figs. 11-20).

	YC3	YC8	SWL	YC9
	Upstream	Upstream	EPA Licence Compliance	Down Stream
ML/Day			✓	
As	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cu	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fe	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mn	✓	✓	✓	✓
NTU	✓	✓	✓	✓
EC	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tot. N	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓
Tot. P	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓
pН	✓	✓	✓	✓

Surface Water Quality Jan – Mar 2023

*****INDICATES THE VALUES OUTSIDE **SWL** LICENSE LIMITS

 Table 7 - BALLARAT EAST SURFACE WATER QUALITY COMPARED TO ANNUAL LICENCE LIMITS



Figure 10 - UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM WATER MONITORING LOCATION

Ground Water Ballarat East

Ballarat East Ground water monitoring was undertaken in July 2023. The results for ground water sampling are provided below (Table 8).

	SP1	VMB4R	VMB5	BEB4	BEB6	BEB8	BEB9R	SP3
EC	6205	4606	5838	2785	3637	2293	1305	3519
As mg/L								
(Dissolved metals)	.019	.178	.173	0.008	.0001	0.003	.822	0.002
WAD CN mg/L	<.004	<.004	<.004	<.004	<.004	<.004	<.004	<.004

Table 8 - BALLARAT EAST TSF GROUND WATER FOR QUARTER 3 2023

VMB4 and BEB9 Ground water bores were decommissioned due to stage 2 of the Northern Dry stack in early 2023. Additional bores were sunk in their replacement with similar field IDs VMB4R and BEB9R.

Ground Water Whitehorse Gully Investigation Bores

The groundwater bores within Whitehorse Gully continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis to establish baseline concentrations, prior to the proposed construction of the new TSF4.

Ballarat South

The programme of Ballarat South ground and surface water monitoring takes place in January and July each year. July round of testing was conducted 26th 27th July. Results can be seen below (figures 25-33).

Surface Water Ballarat South

Arsenic levels remain low and stable. pH levels have remained stable. WAD CN continues to return less than laboratory detection limits (0.004 mg/L) at all locations (Fig. 25-28)

Ground Water Ballarat South

Ground water levels across the four bores are stable. Arsenic (As) levels remained relatively stable at SP5 and SP7 and As levels have reduced significantly at VMB9. WAD CN returned less than laboratory detection limits (<0.004 mg/L) at all bores. (Fig. 29-33).

All results are within historic range at all groundwater bores. Electrical Conductivity across the monitored bores is again stable for SP5 and VMB9 and within their historic ranges. SP7 recorded lower EC than historical range.

pH levels typically fluctuate between slightly alkaline to slightly acidic at all sites and this quarter was no exception.

Community

Key Statistics

Key Community statistics for July 1 through Sep 30, 2023, are presented below.

	GPG Pro- Active	Neighbour Feedback/Enquiry	Complaint
Vibration	0	1	10
Noise	0	1	5
Amenity	0	0	0
Traffic	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1
Total	0	2	16

 Table 9 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement, Feedback and Complaints.

There was a total of 18 community contacts for the quarter. 10 of the contacts were complaints related to blast activity and there were 5 new contacts for the quarter.

Out of the 16 complaints received, 10 were regarding residual vibration, five were noise based and there was one complaint for dust.

Complaints are as low as is practicable and this is primarily due to some different blasting techniques being used for the stopes which means that in many instances, we can use less

explosive. It is important to note that this new technique cannot be used in every instance (especially at legacy sites or intersections), but where practicable it will be employed.

Financial and In-kind Support

Local Employment

Even through the administration process the company has been committed to Ballarat locals and contributing to their careers and training. Ballarat Gold mine continues to employ Ballarat locals whenever practicable. The gold mine offers many highly skilled roles for people in a local residential setting. This is unique in many respects as many mining professionals have the chance to both advance their careers in the mining industry as well as being with their families in the evening as opposed to the fly-in, fly-out arrangements on remote mine sites.

As of September 2023, Ballarat Gold mine still employ approximately 202 locally based residents representing circa 97% of our work force.

Challenges and Projects

Whitehorse Gully TSF Work Plan (TSF4)

On June 19th an evening organised by Ballarat City Council (BCC) was held at the Mercure in for objectors and other interested parties to speak with technical experts about the TSF4 project. The evening went well with people taking the opportunity to speak with experts in their field.

The TSF4 project was bought before Ballarat Councillors on the evening of the 28th June. The project was supported 6 to 3 and subsequently a notice of decision to grant a permit was issued. There was a period of approximately 28 days where objections can be lodged.

During the official objection period there as two objections lodged. One by Central Highlands Water, based around concerns regarding water pathways during a weather event and CHW's infrastructure, the second lodged by a community group on health grounds.

Project background

The conceptual Whitehorse Gully TSF Work Plan Variation (WPV) has been endorsed by Earth Recourses Regulation, the approval was submitted to the City of Ballarat on the 26th August 2022.

GPG have continued work during the quarter to progress the TSF4 project the TSF4 facility is the most practicable way forward for the company to ensure a safe, environmentally friendly, and cost-efficient strategy for ongoing gold production at the Ballarat site.

Location of Tailings storage facility in Whitehorse Gully

Figure 11 - Location of proposed tailings storage facility in Whitehorse Gully

Upon re-initiating plans to permission TSF4 in 2022, Balmaine Gold commenced a process of reengaging with the local community. The following activities have been progressed:

- Presentation to the Balmaine Gold Environment Review Committee Meeting, June 2022
- Article in Balmaine Gold Community Newsletter, July 2022.
- Letter to neighboring residents informing them of the proposal and directing them to the website or mine personnel for additional information, August 2022.
- Update of Company website with information relevant to the proposed development, August 2022.
- Letter to local community facilities (schools, aged care, churches etc.) informing them of the proposal, and directing them to the website or mine personnel for additional information, August 2022.
- An Information Evening was held on the 19th of June at the Mercure Inn.
- BCC vote on project held 28th June, decision to grant permit issued post councilors voting in favor 6 to 3.
- The 28-day period for lodging objections to councils' decision resulted in two being lodged. The first was from CHW and related to water flow and interaction with their assets during a significant rain event. The second was lodged by a community group concerned with the health impacts of the project.
- As a result of the two objections, interaction with the VCAT process commenced, as well as negotiations with CHW regarding the detail of their objection.

The process with VCAT will be ongoing and will carry on over the coming two quarters.

Appendix 1- Environmental Monitoring Data

Environmental Monitoring Results

Surface Water Quality - Ballarat East



Figure 12 - FLOW RATE SWL EPA DISCHARGE POINT



Figure 13 - Arsenic at YC3 & YC8 (upstream), SWL (discharge point) and YC9 (end of mixing zone).





Figure 15 - IRON AT YC3 & YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 16 - LEAD AT YC3 & YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 17 - MANGANESE AT YC3 & YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 18 - TURBIDITY AT YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 19 - Electrical Conductivity at YC8 (upstream), SWL (discharge point) and YC9 (end of mixing zone)



Figure 20 - NITROGEN AT YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 21 - PHOSPHORUS AT YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 22 - PH AT YC8 (UPSTREAM), SWL (DISCHARGE POINT) AND YC9 (END OF MIXING ZONE)



Figure 23 - BALLARAT EAST GW PH



Figure 24 - BALLARAT EAST GW EC



Figure 25 - BALLARAT EAST GW DISSOLVED AS LEVELS



Figure 26 - BALLARAT EAST GW WAD CN LEVELS

Surface and Ground Water Quality - Ballarat South



Figure 27 - BALLARAT SOUTH SW PH







Figure 29 - BALLARAT SOUTH SW DISSOLVED ARSENIC LEVELS



Figure 30 - BALLARAT SOUTH SW WAD CYANIDE LEVELS



Figure 31 - BALLARAT SOUTH GW EC



Figure 32 - BALLARAT SOUTH GW PH



Figure 33 - Ballarat South GW WAD Cyanide



Figure 34 - BALLARAT SOUTH GW DISSOLVED AS

Ground Water Levels - Ballarat East



Figure 35 - Ground water levels Ballarat East



Figure 36 - Groundwater Levels within proposed TSF4 location



Figure 37 - GROUND WATER LEVELS AROUND THE BALLARAT EAST AND SOUTH