



New Bendigo Gold Project Newsletter

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THE APPROVALS PROCESS for the Supplementary Report to the Deborah Reef Environmental Effects Statement.

As you will have read in previous newsletters Bendigo Mining is undergoing a Government assessment process for activities it is planning for the Carshalton site.

The new activities are:

- Expansion of the current site to meet a mine life of approx 25 years
- Final stages of ore processing use of cyanide in a contained system
- Treatment on site for beneficial re-use
- Co-disposal of tailings sand and mullock

Bendigo Mining has been advised by the Minister for Planning that the Company is required to prepare a Supplementary Report to the Deborah Reef Environmental Effects Statement (SEES).

This process commenced in March 2003 and will take approximately 12 months. The process is coordinated by the Department of Sustainability and the Environment. Bendigo Mining expects that the Supplementary Report will go on public exhibition in early 2004.

In considering its plans, Bendigo Mining approached the Commonwealth Government to determine whether approval under the new Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act was required. It was indicated that the proposal, like that of any other clearing in the Bendigo Region would trigger this Act as a result of the known occurrence of certain animal and plant species in the region. Subsequent to this, the Commonwealth Environment agency, Environment Australia have accredited the Victorian Planning process. This means the assessment of impacts to matters of National environmental significance will occur as part of the Supplementary Reports independent specialist investigations.

Information gained as part of these studies will be used in the preparation of the Supplementary Report. As a requirement of the planning permission process, Bendigo Mining is comprehensively and transparently investigating the potential environmental impacts of its proposed activities. The Company urges people to try to be patient as it works its way through the process, in order that a thorough assessment is conducted.

Mr Doug Buerger, Managing Director of Bendigo Mining recently stated that, "It will be some months yet before the independent specialist investigations give us guidance in shaping our proposal."

STRANGE NOISES!!!

As part of the Company's ongoing monitoring we are very aware of other activities in our area. A number of people have mentioned a loud hammering noise. The source of this noise is a rock breaker being used by contractors in the Spring Gully Reservoir area. Bendigo Mining is very conscious of any noise emitted from the site and as such does not have loud alarm systems or outdoor telephone speakers.

All results of environmental monitoring are provided to government agencies and community representatives on the Environmental Review Committee.



"For example, we have to wait for the changing of the season to get the full picture of the patterns of fauna and flora in each of the areas in the study. Nature is not a static thing. It moves and changes with the seasons, and we must put together the overall picture before the best outcomes become clear. Some aspects of the environmental investigation won't become clear until the warmer months."

"For that reason, as well as others, it is premature for people to adopt firm stances for or against any parts of a proposal at this early stage."

"We could find that ruling out one option might, for example, place pressure to select outcomes that are not the best for the environment, or for people," he said. "None of us can afford to get it wrong by making hasty decisions."

Community input is being sought by the Company and government agencies throughout the process and anyone wishing to make comments should contact either Philippa Varris at Bendigo Mining or David Johnston at the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Relevant information, maps and fact sheets regarding the process and proposed works are available on the internet site www.bmn.com.au or hard copies can be requested by telephoning 5447 1834.

The Minister has appointed a Technical Reference Group (TRG) consisting of representatives from agencies with responsibility for environmental assets potentially affected by the proposal. Draft Assessment Guidelines for the Supplementary Report have been developed by the DSE with input from the TRG. These are currently on public exhibition at their offices on the internet at www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Currently specialist studies are being undertaken in the following areas:

- Archaeology and Heritage
- Air Quality and Health
- Economic
- Flora and Fauna including listed threatened species and communities, and listed migratory species.
- Landscape and Visual
- Noise
- Hazard and Risk
- Land Use and Planning
- Transport
- Surface and Ground Water
- Rehabilitation
- Social Impact.

PERSONALITY PROFILE (Who's Who at Bendigo Mining): Karissa Grenfell - Mine Geologist

Karissa has been working as a geologist for Bendigo Mining for 2 years and loves the fact that she can be employed in her profession in her home town. Karissa attended Spring Gully Primary School, Golden Square Secondary College, Bendigo Senior Secondary College and obtained a Bachelor of Applied Science from RMIT.

Mayor Rod Fyffe was Karissa's Year 12 Geology teacher at Bendigo Senior Secondary College and it was his love for geology that inspired her to pursue her current career.

Home renovation is another passion of Karissa's and she is currently working on her house in Golden Square. The Grenfell family are involved with local harness racing and Karissa can often be seen out at the track urging on one of the family's horses.



DID YOU KNOW???????

- That the main Swan Decline tunnel is now 5.3km long and 815m below the surface.
- Bendigo Mining purchases goods and services from more than 80 local businesses in Bendigo.
- 1.7 megalitres of water per day now flows from Bendigo Mining's Water Treatment Plant into Lake Neangar for community use.
- Bendigo Field Naturalists have assisted with local information for the specialist flora and fauna studies.

ADVISORY BOARD

The Bendigo Mining Community Affairs Advisory Board meets regularly throughout the year.

Board Members are:

Cr. Daryl McClure, Cr Rod Fyffe, Ms Ann Jones, Mrs Fay Buerger, Mr Bill Lucas, Mr Peter Galvin, Mr Leighton Rawlings, Mr Bryan Lewis, Mr Dennis Demeo, Ms Marika McMahon and Mr Maurie Sharkey.

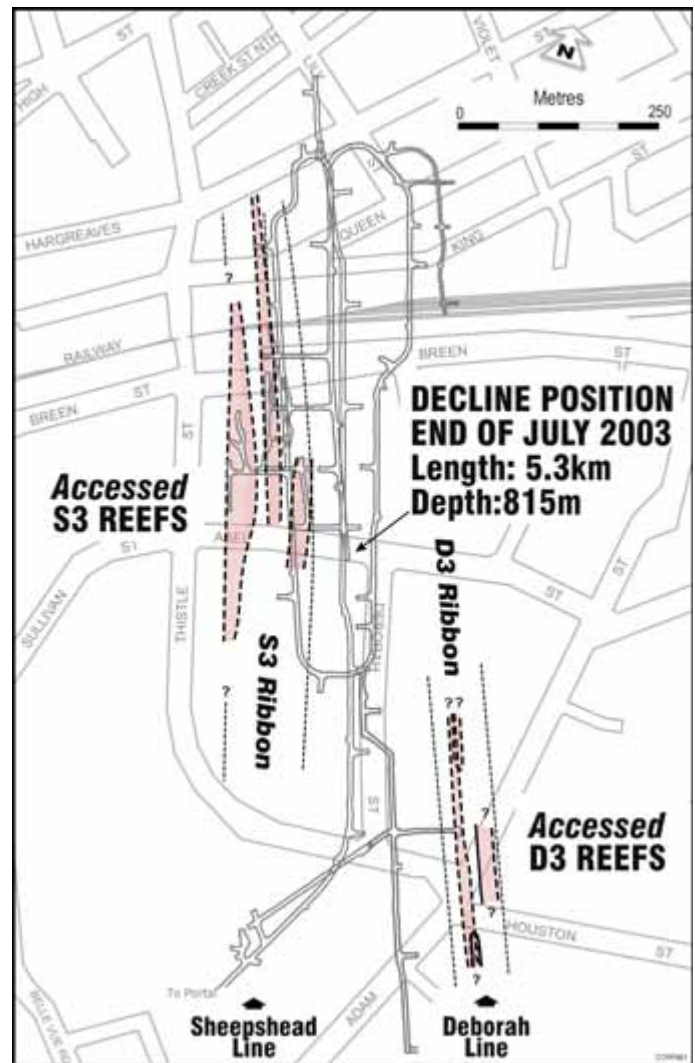
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Your community representatives are:

Mr Bernie Cusack, Mr Ken Draper, Mr Maurie Lewis, Mrs Mary Markey, Mr Ray Leerson has been invited to attend the ERC meetings on behalf of the Eaglehawk community.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th August 2003.

DECLINE DEVELOPMENT



Portion of the Swan Decline showing access to reefs tested.

This newsletter is published in the interests of keeping the public of Bendigo informed of the activities at the

New Bendigo Gold Project

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 1800 640 959
OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE www.bmnl.com.au