



JUNE 2019

stawell gold mines' community newsletter

minews

A new chapter in the history of Stawell Gold Mines

Stawell Gold Mines marked a momentous occasion on the 31 January 2019 with the first gold pour following the commissioning phase of the mill and of mining processes.



General Manager Troy Cole stated, "The pour is demonstrative that all systems are up and going and we are ready to work towards full scale operations." The gold bar weighed approximately 244 troy ounces (7.6kg). Employees and contractors celebrated the successful pouring of the first gold bar since reopening with an in-house function. ■

Left: SGM CEO Campbell Olsen and GM Troy Cole with the first gold bar

Exploration update

Since recommencement of exploration drilling in February 2018, SGM have drilled almost 200 holes totalling 52km of drilling with three onsite Deepcore diamond drill rigs.

All core produced from the drilling has been processed at the SGM coreyard facility with new learnings incorporated into life of mine planning functions. Significant resource inventory has been included from this drilling which will see extensions to the life of the mine.

In April 2019, SGM drilled its first surface drill hole in a number of years. The drillhole was testing the Germania Mine target, looking for a buried basalt dome akin to the Basalt dome at Stawell. Although no basalt was seen in the 806.5m diamond drillhole, the nature of the features in the drillhole suggests that there may be potential to find a similar system. Further work will be conducted later in the year after winter. ■

Environmental Review Committee positions vacant

There are still vacant positions on the Environmental Review Committee. SGM invites people who are willing to represent the community and are interested in the environmental performance of the mine to apply to join. Application forms and further information is available on our website <https://stawellgoldminescommunityhub.com.au> ■

Underground production update

SGM undertook its first production stope firing in two years on 28 December 2018, in old areas on the West Flank.

Underground production has focused on areas on the West Flank while the new area on the East Flank was being developed.

Stopes on the West Flank are being drilled, fired and bogged on the 652, 633, 435 and 273 levels.

An important milestone occurred on the 18 April 2019 with the first firing of a stope on the 343 level in the Bengal orebody. Production will now increase in the eastern flank and development of tunnels continues to allow further access to the Bengal, Vincent and Jaguar ore bodies.

To provide sufficient ventilation and a secondary egress for the underground miners, two Raisebore-holes have been drilled to allow the installations between the 343 and 405 levels. ■

Contact us

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Mill Commissioning

On January 24 2019, following several months of demolition, refurbishment and construction the mill was switched on for the first time in two years.

The mill refurbishment included brand new carbon-in-leach tanks, replacement of the steel works surrounding the ball mill, and construction and design of the new honert screen structure, crusher and conveyor belts.

Since commissioning of the mill in January the mill has been running five days per week (Monday to Friday), with 24/7 operations expected to commence towards the end of the year as the underground operation is able to provide consistent ore to the surface.

The commissioning of the mill was a big milestone for SGM, and we are very appreciative of all the hard work from local contractors and staff that went into the project. ■

Carpark renovation

Following the exciting ramp up in operations at SGM, and on boarding of new staff we have had to update the visitor and staff car park.

Local contractors Grampians Excavations were engaged to complete the construction work at the car park which has provided more car spaces and better access for the public viewing our observation area in the future.. ■



SGM visitor and staff car park renovations



Above: Federal Ministers Grant Visit at Stawell Gold Mines with the laboratory model

SGM recommences search for Dark Matter

SGM welcomes the exciting news of the Federal Government's \$5 million funding to proceed with the construction of the Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory (SUPL).

This laboratory will be the first in the Southern Hemisphere and second in the world. The only other laboratory is located in Italy in the Northern Hemisphere.

SUPL will host a very sensitive detector called Sodium Iodide with Active Background Rejection (SABRE) and will be located in the 1025 level of the mine; which is approximately one kilometre below the surface. This depth was chosen to prevent any particles that aren't dark matter (cosmic radiation) from being detected by SABRE and generating unwanted data.

SGM will be in close collaboration with Melbourne University, Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Swinburne University, the Australian National University, University of Adelaide, the University of Western Australia, Princeton University and the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics in order to achieve SUPL construction milestones and have experiments running by 2020. ■

Skene Street School visit

This month SGM welcomed some excited young miners from the Skene Street School as part of their Community Access Program focusing on Jobs and Transport.

The students learnt about the various stages of the gold production process, were able to see how a surface loader operated and viewed trucks hauling rocks from the underground decline to the surface. The students enjoyed their time dressing up as SGM miners, learning about the different jobs and transport options at the mine and had the opportunity to hold some real gold! ■

Below: Skene Street School students within a surface loader bucket

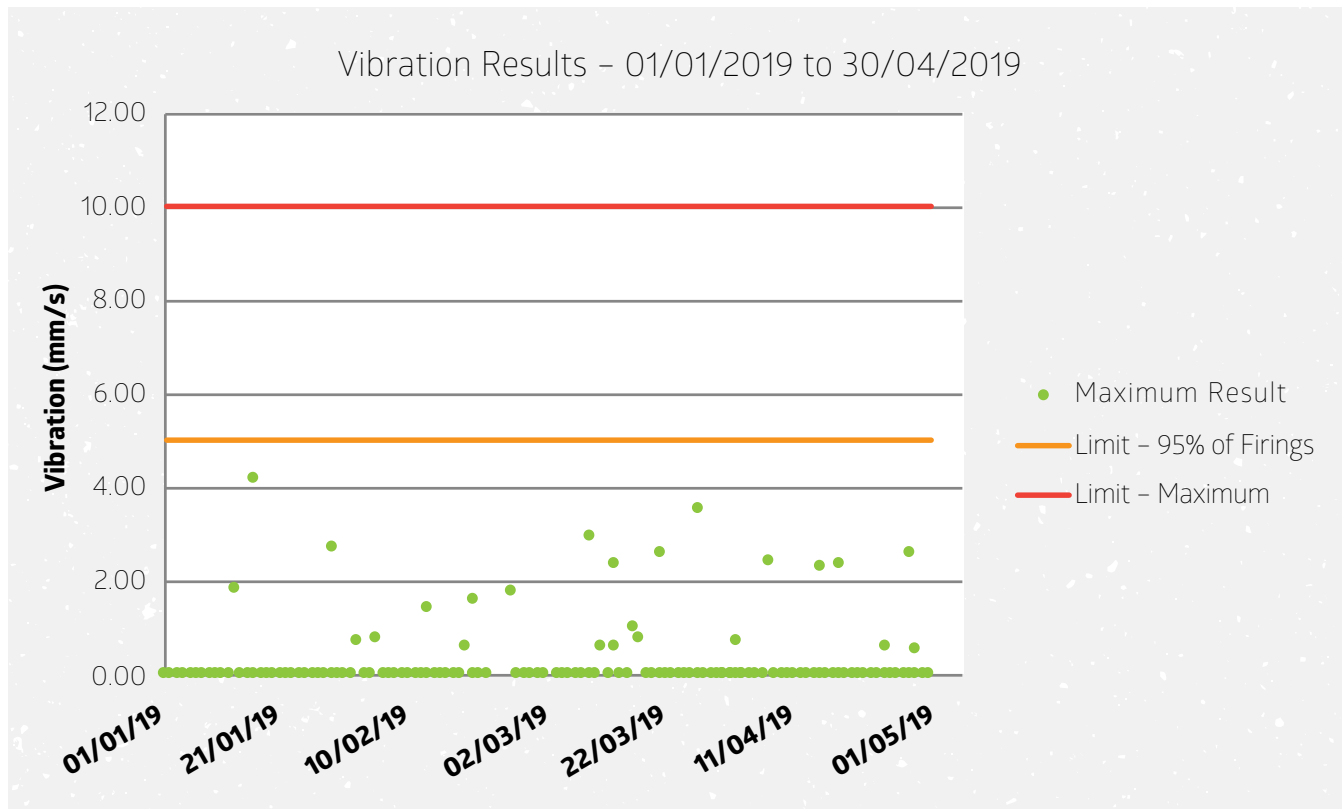


Vibration results: January to April 2019

SGM undertook a total of 350 firings from January to April 2019 with 84 production stopes and 266 development firings. All firings complied with the mining licence limits for surface vibration which are:

- › No firings to exceed 10 mm/s at any time; and
- › 95% of firing must be less than 5 mm/s within a 12-month period.

Individual results from each of these firings can be seen in the below graph.



Stawell Gold Mines vibration monitor results for January to April 2019

Upcoming Community Information Session

As part of our commitment to keeping the community informed, SGM will be hosting a Community Information Session on Wednesday 19 June from 11.00am to 2.00pm at Shop 108, Main Street, Stawell.

Stawell Gold Mines representatives will be available to answer questions and any enquiries the community may have relating to our current and future operations. ■

Upcoming blasting locations and processes

As SGM continues ramping up to full scale gold production, underground development and production blasting will continue in a number of different areas in the mine in order to have sufficient gold bearing ore available for crushing and processing.

The Blasting Locations Map (next page) shows in green the approximate areas where production blasting will occur over the coming months with the current blast monitoring network highlighted in yellow. As mining activity continues into new areas on the East Flank, the blast monitoring network will be extended to ensure all blasts continue to comply with SGM's environmental regulations.

SGM offers a blast notification text message system when production blasts will occur with the date, approximate time, and the location of the firing. Any resident who would like to be included in the blast notification text message system is encouraged to contact Stawell Gold Mines on 03 5358 1022 or enquiries@stawellgoldmines.com.

Stawell Gold Mines also publishes material including Fact Sheets to help with your understanding of the blasting processes, controls and monitoring in place to protect structures and amenity. A Blasting and Vibration Fact Sheet, which details additional information and responses to some frequently asked questions relating to blasting activity, can be found on our Community Hub website at stawellgoldminescommunityhub.com.au/ or by visiting our Facebook page facebook.com/stawellgoldmines/. >>

Upcoming blasting locations and processes (cont.)

