

Martha Exploration Project



Golden Link

The Martha Exploration Project

Over the past few years we have carried out our exploration work in and around Waihi to identify areas that may contain gold and silver deposits with the aim of extending mining in Waihi beyond 2015. We have called this programme Golden Link. The Martha Exploration Project is one part of this.

The exploration drilling within the Martha Mine open pit indicates the presence of promising deposits that warrant further investigation. To do this we propose to go underground.

The Martha Exploration Project is a small underground exploration programme located entirely within the existing Martha Mine licence area and within the boundaries of the pit rim. This project will not tunnel under any residential property.

In terms of scale, less waste rock and ore will be moved in a year than is currently mined from the Martha open pit in a month.

We have produced this brochure to share information about the Martha Exploration Project. We have also compiled a Question and Answer document to address any queries you may have at this early stage.

As always, we are keen to answer any other questions you may have about any aspect of our operations. We value your feedback and encourage you to phone us if you would like to arrange a time and place to talk. Our contact details can be found at the end of this brochure.

Martha Exploration Project

The historic Martha Mine was an underground operation worked between the 1880s and 1952. A substantial amount of gold and silver was mined and a total of around 175 kilometres of tunnels were constructed. The workings descended to a depth of 600 metres with 15 levels of tunnels.

The current Martha Mine open pit has been operating since 1988 and is now about 260 metres deep. Like its predecessor it has produced a substantial amount of gold and silver – precious metals the early miners left behind.

Open pit mining is due to end in 2014 when the Martha East Layback is complete. Our mining licence runs out in 2017. Before we complete all activity in the open pit we wish to evaluate the economic potential of the gold and silver remaining below the pit floor. To do this we propose to go underground inside the current mining licence boundary to explore this potential.

We lodged an application in early October to vary the existing mining licence to permit us to carry out the Martha Exploration Project.

This involves constructing an exploration decline (tunnel) under the northwestern wall of the open pit and some limited trial stopes (mining) under the pit. The exploration tunnels will be used to explore and confirm the nature and extent of this ore. Trial stopes will determine whether mining beneath the existing Martha pit is viable.

The entry (portal) to the exploration decline is from the ramp on the northwestern wall of the pit at an elevation approximately 200 metres from the top of the wall. The exploration decline extends to approximately 280 metres below surface and 20 metres below the bottom of the pit.

Below: The Martha open pit showing the proposed Martha Exploration Project underground workings.



All information in this document is correct at 17 October 2011.
Details may change as a result of consultation with the community and further technical studies.

View looking northeast from western end of Martha Pit showing proposed Martha Exploration Project underground workings.



The Martha Exploration Project includes the following:

- an exploration decline 5.1 metres wide by 5.3 metres high, approximately 2.6 kilometres long constructed from the portal in the north-western wall
- stockpiling of waste rock and ore for crushing and conveying to the waste rock embankments and processing plant
- another portal, located 80 metres from the top of the pit's north wall, to provide a second access point and fresh air intake
- an underground ventilation shaft and escape shaft, also contained within the pit.

We expect this work will take two to three years to complete. This will approximately coincide with the completion of the Martha East Layback.

We expect the project will have minimal vibration or noise effects on neighbouring properties. Current permitted blast vibration levels are 5mm/s maximum on weekdays between 10.00am to 3.00pm, and Saturday 10.00am to midday. No change is proposed during these times. We will seek permission to allow blasting at other times at significantly lower levels of vibration (1mm/s maximum), which is the same as allowed with our other underground operations.

We do not expect this work will create more noise or dust than our current operations. However, as operations move so will the source of the effects. There are currently strict dust and noise limits enforced by the Waikato Regional and Hauraki District Councils and these will continue to be met.

This proposal requires a variation to our existing mining licence. It is not a Resource Management Act process. There is, however, an opportunity for anyone to have a say once the initial decision on the variation is publically notified. We will keep the community informed.

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We are proud of our environmental track record on site and around Waihi.



We employ 350 staff. A similar number provide goods and services to us.



One quarter of Waihi's economy is derived from mining.



We've been part of the Waihi community over more than two decades.



Our local schools are among the many groups and organisations we partner.



If it can't be done safely, it won't be done at all.

Do you want to find out more?

Newmont Waihi Gold is committed to a long-term partnership with the Waihi community and it is important to us that you have reliable information about what we are proposing and what it means for you. We hope this information pack answers any initial questions you may have.

We will make every effort to keep you informed about progress on the Correnso proposal.

We believe it is important to begin considering what options and opportunities may be presented in order to work towards achieving positive outcomes for individual households. This includes the Amenity Effect Programme and other initiatives.

The Newmont Golden Link information office in Seddon Street, next to the Waihi Memorial Hall, has staff available to answer questions and listen to your views. You can also get copies of all brochures, Question and Answer sheets and other documents at the information office.

The information office's opening hours are:

- 10.00am to 2.00pm - Monday to Friday.

We intend keeping the office open for at least a year.

We will also be holding community briefings and hope that community groups will invite us to meetings so we have an opportunity to further outline the information we have available. We will also keep you updated through the Waihi Leader and through our website www.marthamine.co.nz.

In addition, as always, our community engagement line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please call 0800 NEWMONT (0800 639 6668).

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