Ernest Henry Mining

ABOUT ERNEST HENRY MINING

Ernest Henry Mining (EHM) is a copper and gold mining and processing operation located 38 kilometres north east of Cloncurry in north west Queensland.

Since 2013 EHM has been part of Glencore, one the world’s largest diversified natural resource companies and a major producer and marketer of more than 90 commodities. Our operation forms a critical part of the company’s integrated north Queensland supply chain, from resource development, mining and processing, to transport, storage and export to worldwide customers.

Starting as an open pit mine, EHM transitioned to underground mining in 2011 as part of a $589 million life of mine extension project.

Hard rock mines, like EHM, can be mined using a number of different methods. Today we use an innovative, low cost and high efficiency mining method known as sub-level caving.

Crushed ore from underground is processed through our on site concentrator where minerals are separated from the remaining waste rock to produce copper concentrate containing gold.

The concentrate is transported to Mount Isa Mines for smelting. The smelting process adds value to our products by applying intense heat to the mineral-rich concentrates to burn-off remaining impurities to create 99.7 per cent pure copper anode.

The copper anode is sent to Townsville copper refinery where the refining process further purifies our product to create 99.995% pure, high-quality copper cathode, before being exported to international markets via Glencore’s port operations.

OUR APPROACH

We aim to achieve and maintain the highest standards of health, safety and environmental performance at our operations, and work in partnership with local communities. We believe that mining can be conducted in a way that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Our first priority in the workplace is to protect the health and well-being of all our people. We take a proactive approach to health and safety and we strive for continuous improvement in this space.

Our people are fundamental to our success. We believe that a diverse workforce is essential for sustainable business growth. We treat our people fairly and with respect and ensure they have the opportunity to develop their careers to match their potential.

We invest heavily in the selection, training and development of our people to ensure they have the skills they need to identify hazards and take appropriate action to control these in their workplaces.

We understand that our operations can directly and indirectly impact on the environment and we work to minimise our potential impact, complying with or exceeding relevant regulation. This is consistent with our values and is key to our continued licence to operate.

JOBS

~550 employees and contractors.

COMMUNITIES

$35M+ regional community investment since 2004.

We work to minimise and mitigate any negative impact from our activities and are always looking for ways to improve our performance.

In line with our commitment to the long-term social and economic development of Cloncurry, we work with and support the local community through our corporate social investment activities to achieve tangible and long-lasting benefits.

Our commitment is demonstrated through the provision of local employment opportunities, support for local businesses and funding for community projects and initiatives.

Our contributions have been essential to the growth of Cloncurry and its infrastructure, including water supply, education facilities and contributing towards a thriving community hub.
FROM OPEN PIT TO UNDERGROUND

EHM is named after Ernest Henry, a British explorer, grazier and miner of local significance who discovered the copper ore deposit which later became known as the Great Australian Mine and founded the Fort Constantine pastoral lease on which our operation is situated.

The EHM deposit was discovered in October 1991 during a government survey of the region using airborne geophysics. Open cut mining commenced pre-stripping in 1997 with commercial production starting the following year.

Initially we mined as an open cut operation using traditional drill and blast, and truck and shovel methods. After extracting almost 700 million tonnes of material, we completed mining the open pit in December 2011 and transitioned to an underground operation which has extended our life of mine significantly.

Areas of the pit are still maintained so that the underground portal, which is located in the pit, can continue to be used as the main point of entry for our underground mine.

COPPER IN SOCIETY

From the cables that feed electricity into our homes to the tiny connections in our computers and mobile phones, copper is an essential element in everyday life and continues to have an enduring role in modern society. The average suburban home contains close to 200 kilograms of copper.

Thanks to its phenomenal antimicrobial properties, copper is now used in high touch areas of hospitals, healthcare centres and even on public transport to combat the spread of harmful bacterial infection.

Add to that copper’s extensive use in green technologies such as solar cells and electric cars, and its clear copper is more than just an essential element for powering our houses and technological gadgets. Copper has an assuring role in guaranteeing the health of modern society, and has a vital part to play in the future of a sustainable world.