



Australian Site Tour Mt Keith Operation

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Competent Persons for Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves are named in the BHP Billiton Annual Report 2008, which can be viewed at www.bhpbilliton.com. Phil Hopkins (Resource and Reserves), who is a member of AusIMM and full time employee of BHP Billiton and has the required qualifications and experience, verifies that the relevant content of this document is based on and fairly reflects the information in the supporting documentation relating to Resources and Reserves.

Agenda

Key Messages

Sustainability

Business Overview

Growth Options

Key messages

- Increasing mining rate to compensate for increased strip ratio
- Processing plant improvements to treat talc ores
- Owner operator
- Growth options

Agenda

Key Messages

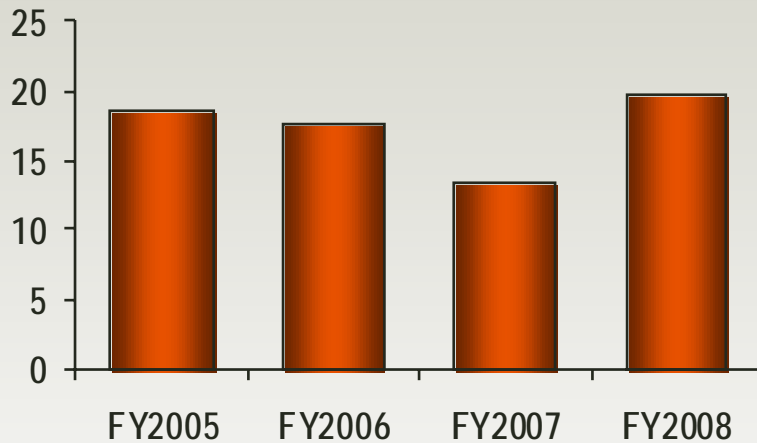
Sustainability

Business Overview

Growth Options

Zero Harm – our focus

Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR)



Boarding ramp

We are determined to improve our safety performance through:

- Continued implementation of Fatal Risk Control Protocols
- An emphasis on field leadership and operational discipline
- In-pit monitoring using radars
- Pit fleet boarding ramps to reduce personnel-equipment interaction
- Targeted programs to reduce the incidence of soft tissue injuries

People

Current Workforce:

- Nickel West Staff: 285
15% Female and 85% Male
- Contractors: 786
12% Female and 88% Male
- Total Workforce: 1071
3% Indigenous

Key Diversity Strategies:

- Work Readiness Programs
- Indigenous Participation Strategy
- A proactive recruitment model based on promoting diversity



Owner operation transition

- Mount Keith Mining Alliance commenced in March 2003
- Strategic decision transition to owner operation
- Modelled on Leinster success
- Business Benefits
 - Zero Harm culture
 - Direct operational control
 - Reduced turnover
 - Cost benefit (approx US\$7m pa)
- Completion of transition March 2009



Transition to owner operation

MKO ALLIANCE

KEY CHANGES FROM THE EXISTING AGREEMENT

As is the case at BHP Billiton's Leinster and Ravenshoe nickel operations, the Mt Keith Operation is a long-life mine projected mine life of greater than 15 years.

Moving to an owner operator model will enable us to develop our own operational procedures and ensure mining competencies. Our focus on Zero Harm, People, Value and Cost will also be enhanced by a one-team, one-business approach to mining.

In addition, moving to owner operator at Mt Keith is consistent with our long term business strategy to generate shareholder value and provide more opportunity for our people. Current BHP Billiton employees will be supported to

opportunities across Mount West and the wider BHP Billiton group. Mt Keith will benefit from combined business processes across processing and mining operations.

KEY POINTS

The current alliance agreement commenced in February 2006 with a term of three years. BHP Billiton Nickel West determined, following recent negotiations with Thiess, that the time was right to transition to owner operation on completion of the current agreement.

The move to owner operator is only possible because of the considerable contribution by Thiess employees over the past five years. Their invaluable expertise and exceptional performance as part of this mutually beneficial partnership

has enabled BHP Billiton to consider and ultimately pursue owner operator mining.

BHP Billiton and Thiess have established a team to complete the transition to owner operation. The team will focus on the following key outcomes:

- ensuring a safe and successful transition to owner operation;
- maintaining a high level of operational excellence;
- reinforcing BHP Billiton's commitment to Zero Harm, People, Value and Cost; and
- maintaining continuity and stability for Thiess and BHP Billiton employees throughout the transition.

MEET THE TRANSITION TEAM

The Alliance Transition Team comprised representatives from both Thiess and BHP Billiton Nickel West and is made up of:

- Andrew Dignall – BHP Billiton Manager
- Andrew King – BHP Billiton Manager
- Graham Thorpe – BHP Billiton VP Finance
- Simon Colbourne – BHP Billiton Manager Supply
- Greg Peavey – BHP Billiton Manager Process Systems
- Alan Bell – BHP Billiton Manager
- Tim Andrews – BHP Billiton Mining Manager
- Emma Bellamy – BHP Billiton Resource Manager
- Neil Stewart – Thiess Mt Keith Mining Manager

The team will meet frequently during the transition and to coordinate the ongoing support of the project.




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Mount Keith mine and concentrator

Mine

- Open cut nickel mine
- Reserves¹ of 164 mt @ 0.57% Ni
- Mining rate of 38.8mbcm in FY2008
- Expanded fleet capacity in FY 2009
- Mine life of over 14 years

Concentrator

- Ore throughput capacity ~11.5 mtpa
- Recovery of 65%

Production

- 30-45 ktpa Ni in concentrate @ ~20% Ni grade

1. Total; full details available in the BHP Billiton Annual Report 2008

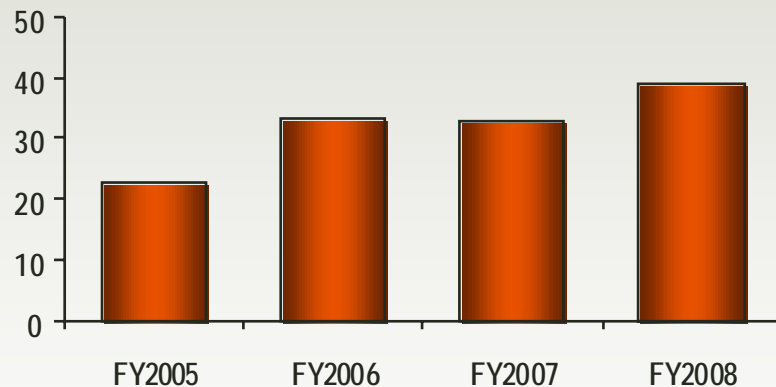


Hitachi EX 8000 Shovel

Mount Keith mine

Mining Rates

(Million BCM)

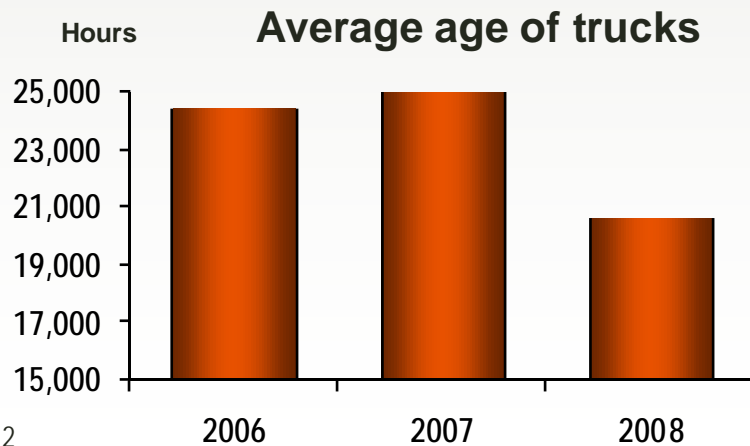


- Increase in the fleet size as the pit expands and gets deeper
- Accelerated stripping to expose more ore
- Increased continuity and reliability of ore for the processing plant
- Blending opportunities to improve the management of head grade, throughput and recovery

Positioned for success



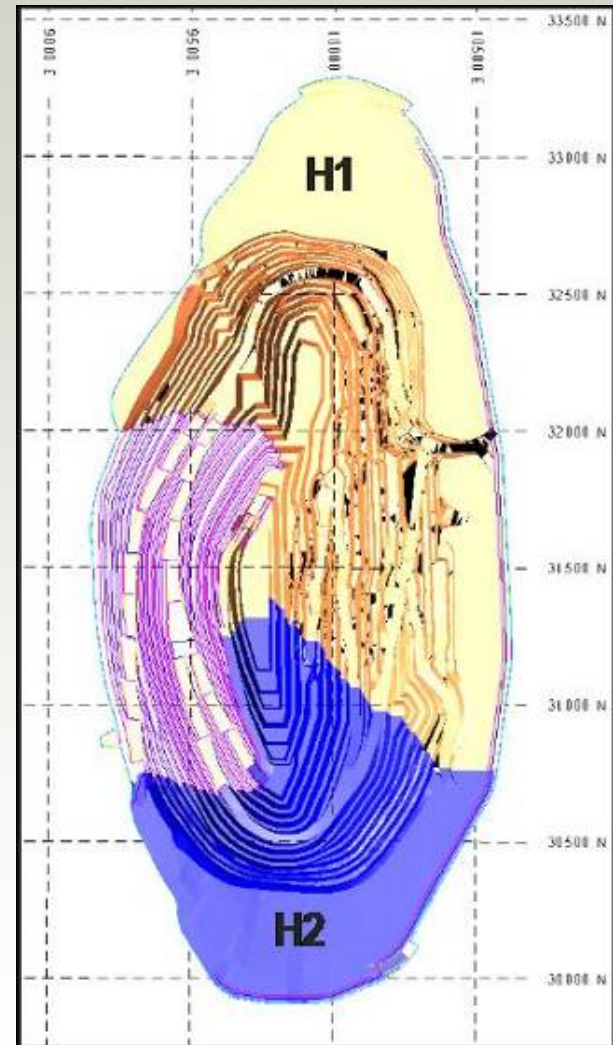
The first Hitachi EX8000 and the build team.



FRCP Compliant 793 Haul Truck

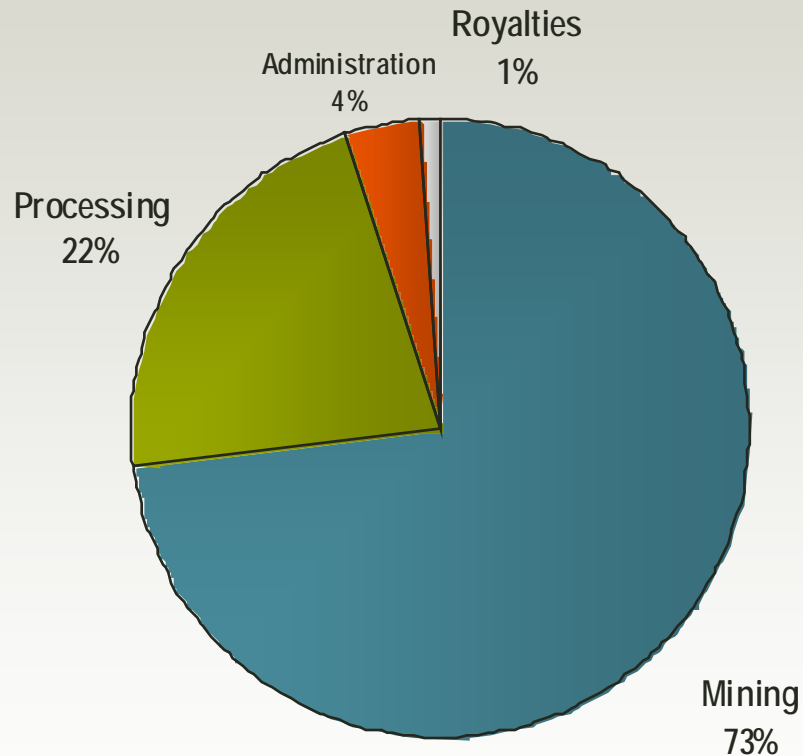
Mount Keith optimisation – maximising value

- Additional 120,000m of drilling data resulted in greater understanding of resource
- Optimised economic value for business via new mine design
- Final result:
 1. Managed underlap between Stages G and H in FY2011 and 2012; and
 2. Strip ratio and ore generation more consistent.



FY2008 Cost structure

Cash operating cost (%)



Cost Reduction Initiatives

- Transition to owner-operator
- Increase in tyre life from 2,700 hours to 7,000 hours
- Diesel consumption reduction through use of catalyst and improved equipment operation
- Efficient reagent addition – on-stream analysis.

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Mount Keith growth options

Talc Redesign

- Improved recovery of nickel
- Increased viability of other deposits.

Satellite ore bodies

- Significant growth potential
- Exploration and definition drilling under way.



Ground Control Radar

Talc Redesign – unlocking value

Talc Ore - before...



Conventional Process

Talc Ore - Pilot Plant



BHP Billiton's Talc Redesign

- Creates value through allowing treatment of otherwise difficult to treat ore
- Increased recovery for Talc/Nickel ores
- Access to Talc/Nickel ore in stockpiles
- Makes other resources commercially feasible
- BHP Billiton proprietary technology

Conclusion

- Increasing mining rate to compensate for increased strip ratio
- Processing plant improvements to treat talc ores
- Owner operator
- Growth options



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