History

Telfer was originally discovered after an intensive exploration and resource drilling program undertaken by Newmont from 1972 to 1975.

Telfer was then developed and operated by an unincorporated joint venture between Newmont Australia Limited and BHP Gold Limited until 1990 when Newmont merged with BHP Gold Limited to become Newcrest Mining Limited. Exploration and mining continued at Telfer until October 2000 when the operation was suspended due to oxide recoveries being exhausted.

Newcrest completed a comprehensive feasibility study in 2002 which established an optimum strategy for the mining and processing of ore from the surface and underground.

Construction of the new operation to exploit the primary deposits commenced in early 2003.

The Telfer open pit started production in 2004 and Telfer underground in 2006.

Ownership

Telfer is 100% owned by Newcrest.

Operations

Telfer produces gold doré and a copper-gold concentrate.

For the year ending June 2015, 520,309 ounces of gold and 23,119 tonnes of copper were produced.
Environment
Newcrest understands how integral the environment is to its business and has strong systems and policies in place to minimise and manage impacts.

Telfer’s environmental priorities include flora and fauna, land and water, air and noise, waste, rehabilitation and planning for mine closure.

Mining and ore processing
The Telfer open pit is a hard rock mining operation using conventional drill and blast and load and haul mining methods. The Telfer underground utilises sub-level cave mining with selective mining of the high grade reefs.

The Telfer concentrator uses a dual train comminution circuit, followed by flotation and cyanide circuits. The process is complex because of the need to accommodate differing ore types.

Copper-gold concentrates produced on site are filtered to produce a dewatered concentrate. This concentrate is trucked to Port Headland for export.

Safety and health
Telfer is committed to the health and safety of its employees. Telfer provides a range of education, training, counselling, prevention, and risk-control programs to assist employees, their families, and community members.

Families are a key focus at Telfer and special attention is paid to the needs of families of “fly-in, fly-out” (FIFO) employees.

Local hiring, training and development
The Telfer mine is situated in the traditional lands of the Martu people.

Newcrest has an ongoing training and employment program to assist the community and develop capacity. Newcrest also provides a range of training and employment opportunities to the Martu communities in Telfer.

Telfer’s training and employment program has resulted in more than 400 indigenous people, primarily members of the local Martu community, participating in a variety of training programs.

Many participants have since been employed by Newcrest, and others have gained employment with other organisations.

Economic contribution
Telfer creates economic value for Western Australia and local communities in a number of ways, including direct revenues from operations, employment, investments in public infrastructure and services, support for local and regional suppliers and a range of other indirect economic benefits.

All infrastructure development and services are provided through direct consultation with the Martu, their communities and their community management personnel.

In December 2015 Newcrest signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Martu people who are the traditional owners of the land surrounding the Telfer gold mine in Western Australia’s Pilbara region.

The agreement will provide $18 million over five years for the benefit of Martu, followed by a revenue based payment from mining in the agreement area. It commits Newcrest to providing practical support to improve the quality of life for Martu, including in the areas of training, employment and contracting, and logistical support. It also provides for ongoing heritage protection for areas of special significance.