Prior to Newcrest commencing exploration in 1992, no history of gold mining or record of gold mineralisation at Gosowong existed.


The Gosowong Contract of Work was granted by the Indonesian Government in 1997, with engineering, feasibility and environmental impact studies completed thereafter.

The first ore was delivered to the run of mine pad in early June 1999, and the first gold doré was poured at Gosowong in July 1999.

Gosowong is owned and operated by PT Nusa Halmahera Minerals (PTNHM), an Indonesian company owned by Newcrest (75%) and PT Aneka Tambang (25%).

Gosowong currently encompasses the Kencana and Toguraci underground mines.

For the year ended June 2013, 312,711 ounces of gold and 342,835 ounces of silver were produced. Since mine operations commenced in 1999, over four million ounces of gold and three million ounces of silver have been produced.

Newcrest’s vision is to be the Miner of choice™ for all stakeholders including our employees and contractors, the communities in which we operate and our shareholders. Social responsibility, safety and sustainability are the fundamental guideposts to our vision.
Environment
PTNHM has strong systems and policies in place to manage any impacts of its activities on the environment. Environmental aspects relevant to operations at Gosowong include energy, water, waste, greenhouse gas emissions, materials (cyanide and other reagent use) and biodiversity management. They are managed through PTNHM’s environmental systems.

Considerable effort was made to achieve certification with the International Cyanide Management Code. PTNHM undertook a gap analysis and implemented subsequent actions to ensure the management of the company’s cyanide usage is to a best-practice level. Certification was awarded in 2011.

Mining and ore processing
The Kencana underground mine utilises predominantly underhand cut-and-fill with some long hole stoping while the Toguraci underground mine uses long hole stoping and overhand cut-and-fill.

The processing plant at Gosowong, which has a capacity of up to 800,000 tonnes per year, comprises a primary jaw crusher followed by a SAG and ball mill circuit and a Vertimill circuit. The ore then undergoes a conventional cyanide leaching process.

Gold and silver is recovered from the cyanide solution using the Merrill-Crowe zinc precipitation process and smelted to produce gold and silver doré. The gold doré is then refined at Logam Mulia which is owned by Newcrest’s joint venture partner PT Aneka Tambang.

Safety and health
PTNHM is committed to the safety and health of all people involved in its business.

Gosowong is located in a malaria-endemic area and PTNHM continues to address this with various strategies to manage malaria. Education, counselling, prevention, risk-control, and treatment programs are available to all employees. Treatments are also available to employees’ families.

Employees are provided with safety inductions to learn about the potential hazards of malaria and can find further information or report cases of malaria through Gosowong’s safety officer, malaria control officer or site doctor.

Prevention and risk-control measures include reporting of potential malaria hazards, fogging, indoor residual spraying and sanitation.

Local hiring, training and development
Gosowong’s policy is to recruit locally where the relevant skills and experience are available. In this context, ‘local’ means a resident of North Maluku Province. Approximately 98% of Gosowong’s workforce are Indonesians.

Economic contribution
Gosowong creates economic value for Indonesia and local mine communities in a number of ways, including direct Government revenues from mine operations, investments in public infrastructure and services, support of local suppliers and a range of indirect economic benefits.

PTNHM’s commitment to social economic development has grown during the life of the mine. Today PTNHM invests extensively in community initiatives – through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, committing 1% of annual revenue to the program - to share the benefits of mining, support community needs and strengthen socio-economic development in the region.

PTNHM’s commitment to the local economy is further demonstrated by implementing a policy of using locally-based suppliers, where possible.

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