***Expanding Prominent Hill***

Prominent Hill is owned and operated by BHP Group Ltd and is located on the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara (AMY) lands in northern South Australia. Prominent Hill is currently expanding its open stoping operation from 4.5 Mtpa to 6.5 Mtpa.

The current operation is truck haulage to the surface while the mine transitions to shaft hoisting once the expansion is complete to facilitate the production rate increase. The mine expansion requires additional mine infrastructure to be developed including an underground crusher, hoisting shaft, decline extension and haulage level as part of the ore handling system and an upgrade to the ventilation system including refrigeration.

This paper discusses the planned expansion project and the challenges in implementing the project while maintaining the mines production rate and preparing for the ramp-up in the production rate.