

# Creating the modern mine; Beyond 2025 at Prominent Hill Operations

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## ABSTRACT

Prominent Hill is an operating copper-gold-silver mine in South Australia, currently producing in the bottom half of the cost curve globally and delivering on its annual production guidance for the past six years. Mining operations commenced in 2006 when pre-strip for the open pit began. Open pit ore processing started in 2009 and in 2018 the site converted to an underground-only operation ramping up to a 4 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) run rate in 2020. Further plans are in place to increase production to between 4 and 5 Mtpa by 2022.

In 2020, the operation started to take a more assertive approach to understand its ore body. The Prominent Hill (PHOX) Expansion Study was established to examine the safety, economic and technical feasibility of installing a shaft which would further increase the annual underground mining rate, extend the mine life, and reduce the overall operational risk. In November, OZ Minerals announced plans to invest \$47m to progress the Study and continue infill drilling ahead of a final investment decision expected mid-2021.

In parallel to the Expansion Study, the Site Leadership Team initiated a broader program to reframe how the mining operations will work into the future. The program tackles three core areas of focus: Thriving People, Maximising Asset and Ore Body Value, and Enabling Technologies. The work underway will position Prominent Hill as a Modern Mine; delivering value for OZ Minerals five stakeholder groups and ensuring the safety, cost, and production fundamentals as a long-life asset within the OZ Minerals portfolio.

The purpose of this presentation is to share the visionary thinking about what mining operations may look like in the future and some of the key learnings from the program.