Pioneering integration: BHP's innovative approach to a unified copper supply chain in South Australia

Lok Yan Lam1

1.Supply Chain Planning, BHP, Adelaide SA 5000, email: [lokyan.lam@outlook.com](mailto:lokyan.lam@outlook.com)

Keywords: Supply chain, Value chain model, Integration, Copper

# ABSTRACT

BHP has embarked on an exciting journey to achieve true integration across the Copper South Australia supply chain. This effort is underpinned by the development of an engagement policy, which governs the flow of information between operations and the business through Supply Chain Planning. Improvements have also been made to modelling capabilities by closely collaborating with our vendor, Deswik, ensuring that a robust system is used for planning across the copper supply chain.

The aims of this initiative are:

1. Establish a unified data platform enabling seamless information sharing across operations.

2. Standardise procedures and protocols to ensure consistent planning assumptions and outcomes.

3. Enhance communication channels to facilitate real-time collaboration and decision-making.

4. Provide comprehensive training programs to improve employee skills.

5. Implement a system for routine monitoring, feedback, and improvement.

The methods employed include the establishment of the centralized data management system, policy development and enforcement, setting up communication channels, comprehensive training, and continuous improvement protocols. However, integrating newly acquired sites poses a challenge as they operate on different principles and systems, creating hurdles in achieving uniformity.

The analysis involves evaluating the effectiveness of the integrated value chain model, focusing on the seamless flow of information, consistency in planning, efficiency in real-time collaboration, improvement in employee skills, and sustainable growth trajectory. Prospects include expanding the integration model to fully utilise the monte-carlo analysis, enhancing digital capabilities, and fostering innovation through strategic partnerships to further strengthen the supply chain.