The discovery of copper and gold in the Cadia area dates back to 1851, with modern era exploration in the district commencing in the mid 1960s.

In 1992, the Cadia Hill gold-copper porphyry deposit was discovered by Newcrest. The Cadia East deposit was subsequently discovered in 1994 followed by the Ridgeway deposit in 1996.

Cadia Valley Operations (CVO) is 100% owned by Newcrest.

CVO produces gold doré and a copper-gold concentrate.

The Cadia Hill open pit is in a period of care and maintenance.

Underground mining continues at the Ridgeway deposit, with block cave mining being undertaken in the Ridgeway Deeps area.

The Cadia East underground panel cave mine commenced commercial production from Panel Cave 1 on 1 January 2013 and Panel Cave 2 on 1 October 2014.

For the year ending June 2015, 667,418 ounces of gold and 73,697 tonnes of copper were produced at CVO.
Environment

Newcrest understands how integral the environment is to its business and has strong systems and policies in place to minimise and manage impacts.

CVO’s Environmental Management System, which is consistent with ISO 14001 requirements, helps ensure that potential environmental impacts are identified, managed and a program of continual improvement is implemented.

CVO’s Environmental Management Strategy provides guidance on legal requirements, including the requirements of the Cadia East Project approval, and describes how all parts of the Environmental Management System link together. It also provides monitoring details and how the plan will be reviewed.

Mining and ore processing

With the Cadia Hill open pit on care and maintenance, mining at CVO is being undertaken at two underground mines, Ridgeway and Cadia East. Crushed ore from both mines is transported to the surface process plant. The process plant comprises a crushing, grinding and flotation circuit to produce a gold rich copper concentrate.

A gravity circuit recovers a proportion of the gold which is smelted on site to produce gold doré. A notable aspect of Concentrator One’s design is the use of high capacity equipment in a single processing line to minimise capital and operating costs.

Underground ore from Ridgeway is processed in Concentrator Two, which uses similar processes to the adjacent Concentrator One, with the major difference being the size of the facility, which is designed to treat lower volumes of higher grade ore.

The concentrates from both treatment plants are combined and pumped as slurry to a filtration plant where the concentrate is de-watered and transported by rail to Port Kembla for export.

Safety and health

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

Local hiring, training and development

The majority of CVO’s workforce is from the local region.

Newcrest offers ongoing training and career progression to all employees at CVO.

Economic contribution

CVO creates economic value for local communities in a number of ways, including employment, direct revenues from operations, investments in public infrastructure and services, business opportunities for local suppliers and a range of indirect economic benefits.

CVO’s local community comprises the Cadia District, the town of Orange and surrounding region.

Newcrest purchases from local suppliers, employs local people wherever possible, and invests in the community. Newcrest’s direct financial commitment to the local community includes school and education programs, community infrastructure, disadvantaged assistance programs, health facilities and support for community groups.

CONTACT

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