

CHALLENGER SUSTAINABILITY

Employees

The Challenger workforce totalled 272 at the end of the financial year comprising 100 Kingsgate personnel (employees and casual contractors to fill vacancies); and 172 contractors. Contractors on site include: Leighton with 154 personnel providing mining services; Sodexo, 12 personnel providing catering and cleaning services; Powerwest, 2 personnel for power supply services; and AWG, 4 personnel for air leg and rise mining services.

Turnover for Challenger permanent employees during the financial year was 23%, with 23 terminations and 22 new starters. New employees recruited on a casual basis with a view to permanency accounted for 19 positions.

During the year Kingsgate have rebuilt the Challenger management team improving the depth of mining engineering experience. The new management, combined with targeted training has brought about a cultural change with the emphasis now being on proper planning, appropriate contractor management, accountability. To encourage staff retention, there was a focus on improving the site facilities with an upgrade to the mining office as well as site communications to allow employees to communicate with their families while on site.

Community

The remoteness of Challenger mine – 310 kilometres by road from the nearest town at Coober Pedy – reduces the capacity for local involvement with surrounding communities. Challenger continued to support its nearest communities with local sponsorships including:

- › The Umoona Community Council;
- › Glendambo Pastoralists Ball;
- › The Royal Flying Doctor Service; and
- › The Coober Pedy Football Club.

Challenger is located within the Commonwealth Government, Woomera Prohibitive Area (WPA). The Department of Defence (DOD) continues to utilise the area for rocket testing and other commercial activities. In the last 10 years DOD have not impacted on mine operations.

Challenger Mine has fostered strong relations with the University of Adelaide over the past nine years. Each year selected students from the Schools of Geology and Mining Engineering undertake field trips to Challenger, where they experience a very detailed and hands-on introduction to mining. Kingsgate offers academic Bursaries and Prizes to students in both disciplines.

Environment

Full details of all environmental monitoring reports and a detailed review of all environmental issues are contained within the 2013 Mining and Rehabilitation Compliance Report (MARCR). The MARCR can be downloaded from DMITRE's website www.minerals.dmitre.sa.gov.au and can be found using the search word "Challenger".

Water usage

A supplementary groundwater extraction bore (Cusher 3) was commissioned at Challenger to increase the supply of potable water made available to the accommodation camp. A third reverse osmosis plant was also commissioned to accommodate the increase in volume of water that needs to be filtered for potable use.

A total of 436,175 tonnes of water was used to process 556,631 tonnes of ore during the financial year with a ratio of 0.78 tonnes of water to one tonne of ore. Water usage was reduced onsite via recycling of supernatant water from Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) 2 via the decant water return system.

