

## **Old timers add new lustre to our gold plans**

Gold mining is notoriously hard work. You have to explore for the stuff, find it, prove how much of it you have by drilling and sampling, work your resource into an economically mineable reserve, and then do a bankable feasibility study to help your mine get funded.

We don't have to do all of that – because much of it has been done.

That's the beauty of our pre-mined residue (PMR) project in the Eastern Goldfields region of northern South Africa. The material we're processing is high-grade material left over from historical mining.

It will complement the underground mining we plan at Rietfontein, which has a JORC resource of 2.55Mt @ 11g/t for 905koz of gold (indicated and inferred). A recent scoping study indicates a potentially low cost, 60koz a year operation.

Our pre-mined residue may have been waste material to the old miners, with their technology and logistics of the time. However, to us it is a significant new, pre-explored, pre-developed, pre-drilled, pre-blasted exploration resource with gold grading up to 12 grams a tonne.

What's more, the old miners used this rich rock as buttressing inside the mines. All we have to do is remove it on a conveyor belt.

In October, we conducted a sampling program of the PMR left behind at the old Beta South and Ponieskrantz mines on our tenements, which are two of the closest PMR projects to the central processing plant.

The sampling program confirmed the viability of our plan to mine the PMR.

We sampled the fine-fraction material – with a fraction size of less than 17 millimetres – because we plan to screen all the mined PMR material to produce a minus 17 mm size fraction for processing through the plant.

At Beta South that material gave us an average gold grade of 2g/t. At Ponieskrantz the average grade was 2.86g/t.

Because we expect the screening process to lift the gold grade, these are potentially economical grades that reaffirm our plan to accelerate the relaunch of gold production at the PMR project.

Given that the coarser fractions showed potentially economic grades, it's even possible that we install a mobile crushing circuit at the pre-conditioning centre to crush the coarser fractions before delivering it to the plant.

The sampling program is an essential part of building a solid production platform, firstly to justify pressing the green light on the project, and secondly to expand the production profile. We have access to nearly 40 historical mines and prospect areas where we plan to access and explore the residue.