

Mining 101

Mining words

The mining industry uses some words in a very different way to that of the general public. Big excavators on tracks don't move to a new location, they 'walk', and if they need to be transported on a low loader, they are put on a 'float'.

There are several other words which when used in a mining context may be misunderstood by the public.

Risk: In our day to day lives risk means danger. For miners, *risk* is a statistical calculation. To them, everything has a risk, it is the level of each risk which they are interested in and which assists in determining the most appropriate course of action.

Failure: Failure, like risk, has no negative connotation. When something is said to have *failed*, that just means that it is no longer doing what it was designed to do, whether it is a pulley on a motor or a section of wall. The word is not used to then look for blame or suggest that something was not done correctly.

Relaxation: This word has a very different meaning for mining engineers. If a wall is *relaxing* this means that it is moving or adjusting towards the void created by mining.

Fretting: If you fret about something you are probably worried. In mining *fretting* refers to small amounts of material falling off a larger rock face.

North wall rock fall

By now you will be well aware of the rock fall on the north wall which happened just before 5.00am on Tuesday 26 April.

Approximately two million tonnes of rock has fallen from the wall.

In this *East Ender* we explain why it occurred and what happens now.



Above: This photo was taken by with our quadcopter a few hours after the rock fall. It clearly shows the amount of material that has fallen out of the wall and how much is in the bottom of the open pit.

Were we expecting this rock fall?

There was a smaller rock fall on 2 April last year. After this all mining in the open pit was halted. We have been monitoring the north wall using a sophisticated radar system and a range of other devices. This monitoring told us that the wall was moving. We advised the community of the likelihood of another rock fall on 20 April. We closed a section of the Pit Rim Walkway at that time.

Why did this slip happen?

The effects of historic underground mining beneath the north wall combined with the rock structure of the wall as seen in the 2 April 2015 slip weakened the area.

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North wall rock fall

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What happens now?

We wait. There is still unstable material which will fall. While we are waiting for this to happen we will determine the safest way of dealing with the fallen material and stabilising the north wall. Then we can determine the safest way of re-entering the pit. In the meantime any work near the slip has stopped. We are continuing to upgrade the perimeter road to the south of the pit and have moved a short section fence near the viewing area at the Cornish Pumphouse. This activity is unrelated to the 26 April rock fall.



Above: Work on the southern perimeter road continues. This road will be used to transport material from the new north wall pit access to the crusher. This road is currently being widened, which has meant that the fence near the Cornish Pumphouse has been moved a few metres.



Above: We have placed information sheets around the pit rim as well as delivering additional information to residents adjacent to the north wall.

How long will all of this take?

It will take months rather than weeks to determine the best course of action. The rock fall you can see on the north wall will be staying there for quite a while yet. We will keep the community informed as we work through the issues and develop strategies and timeframes.

How stable is the rest of the open pit?

Monitoring of the other walls shows that the movement was restricted to the section of the north wall which has fallen. There may be some subsequent smaller rock falls as the area settles. There are certainly some very large boulders within the slip area that will fall.



The rock fall has attracted a lot of visitors ...

Can we just shut the mine and walk away?

Our consent conditions require us to leave the walls of the open pit in a safe and stable condition. This is clearly not the case at present. We cannot leave the north wall as it is. Irrespective of whether we find a way to safely re-enter the open pit and resume mining or whether it is determined this will not be possible, the wall must be left safe and stable.

Can the Pit Rim Walkway still be used?

We have rerouted a northern section of the walkway onto a public road. The remainder of the walkway is open.

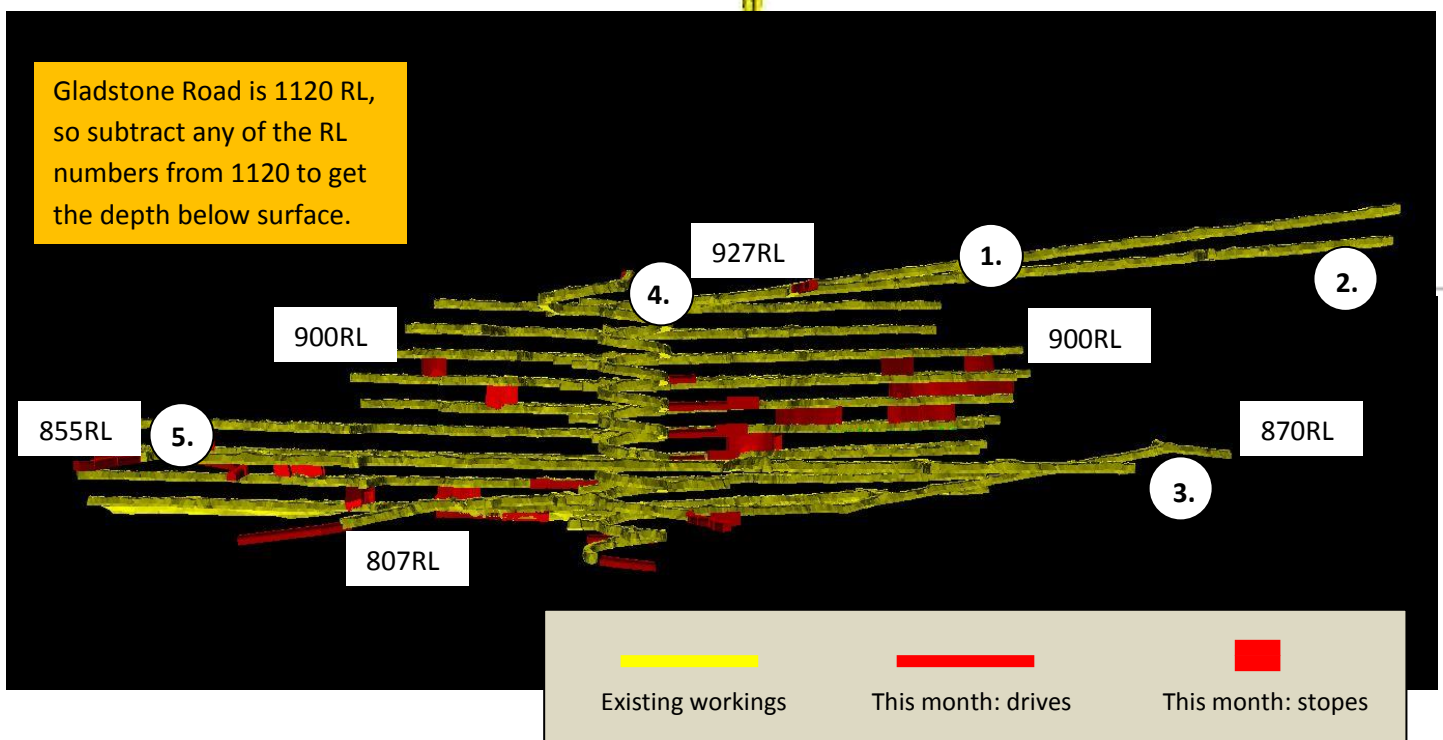


Will the rock fall have any effect on underground mining at Correnso?

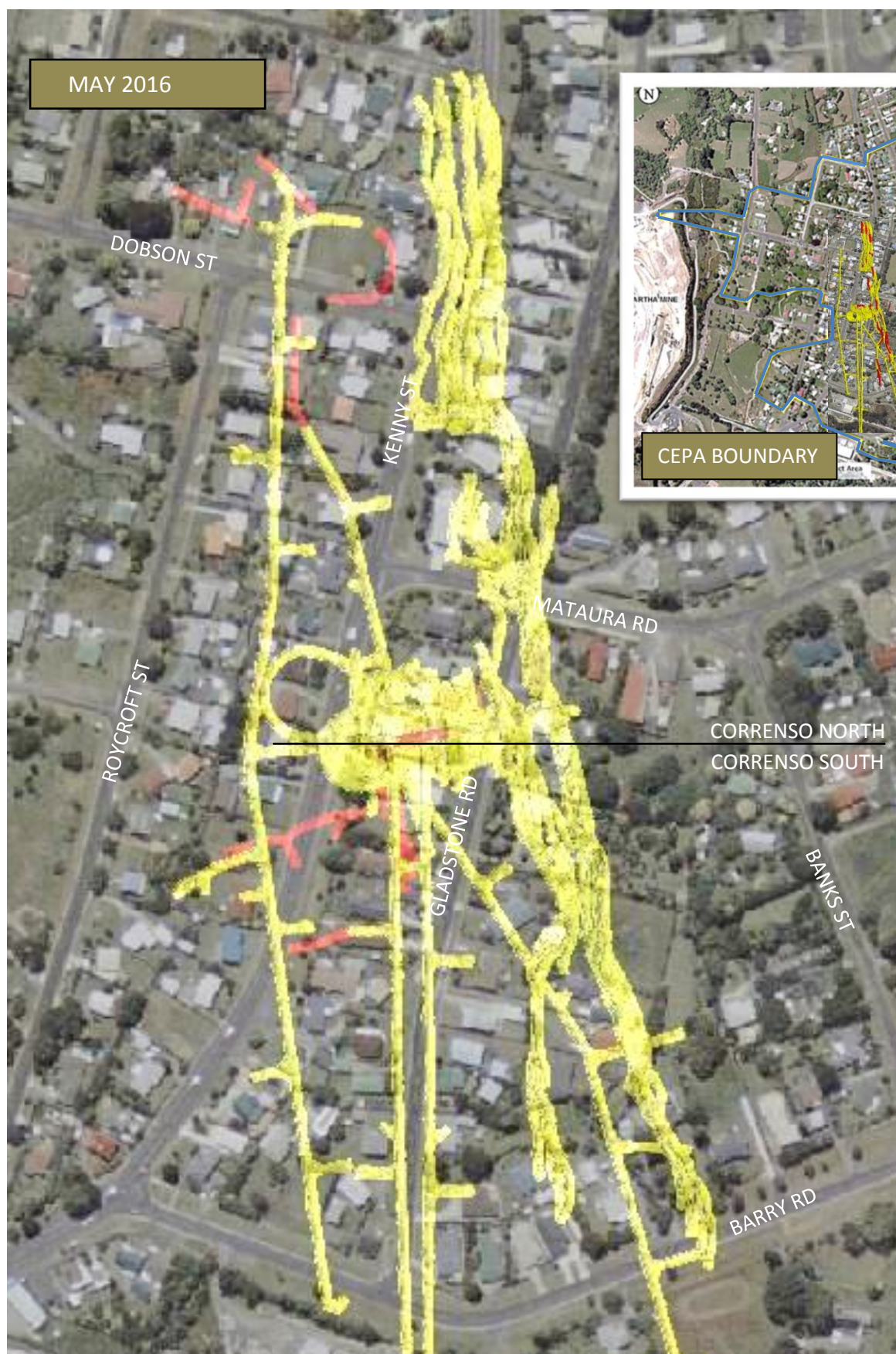
Although the rock fall looks dramatic, its effects are limited to the north wall of the Martha open pit. Mining operations at Correnso have not been affected. Work underground continues as usual.

Will there be any job losses?

After the 2 April 2015 slip mining in the open pit ceased. With no work available the Macmahon Contractors contract was terminated. About 50 people lost their jobs at this time. Mining had not resumed when the most recent rock fall occurred, so there will be no jobs lost as a result of this event.



MAY 2016



KEY

- CEPA Area
- Existing mining
- Planned mining for this month

This information prepared 3 May 2016

Mine Development Plan

Published at the start of each month as required by Condition 22a of the Correnso Underground Conditions of Consent

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