



## **KCGM MEDIA RESPONSE**

10 & 11th Feb 2008

**Subject: Expansion/Pit Stability**

**Journalist: Philippa Prior**

**Media: The West Australian**

### **Questions and Answers**

**Are residents likely to be adversely affected by the expansion of the Super Pit - if not why not.**

KCGM operates under strict environmental guidelines to ensure that our operations do not impact on local residents. The West wall expansion is a continuation of our daily operations - it is unlikely most residents will notice any difference.

**How does KCGM respond to concerns about safety/impacts of mine expansion recently raised by some local residents?**

Since 2004, KCGM has done extensive consultation with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community on this expansion, and has addressed all concerns through a very open and legitimate process. There is a very small number of complainants who are manipulating the media to try and derail the approvals process with spurious claims.

**Although KCGM does not have to offer assurances of safety of operations directly to local government, how do you liaise with them and residents to address safety concerns?**

KCGM has undertaken extensive consultation with all stakeholders on this project. It has included stakeholders meetings, information being readily available (online, through direct mail and through the Super Pit Shop). In addition KCGM has a comprehensive Public Interaction Line where all issues have been tracked and responded to.

**Do you support Ron's call to the State Government for a response to their concerns, for an assurance of the safety of local residents?**

The Kalgoorlie Boulder City Council has a right to request more information from the State government if required.

**What steps has KCGM taken to address these uncertainties outlined in the (Snowden) report?**

DoCEP have reviewed the Independent Report from Snowden and requested that KCGM develop and implement a rigorous system of pit wall performance monitoring and undertake three-dimensional numerical modeling. KCGM already has a rigorous system of pit wall performance monitoring which will be reviewed



and modified as required to incorporate the Golden Pike Cutback and three dimensional modeling is planned.

**What assurances have you given or been asked to give the State Government about the potential impact on safety of these identified issues?**

The lengthy, detailed and thorough process of consultation and approvals, with detailed technical reports is the assurance process.

**Why does KCGM believe that reducing the SEZ from 400m to 200m is safe, when it was originally implemented to mitigate risks associated with fly rock?**

On the basis of more than ten years experience, research and changing mining techniques, the conservative distance of 400m has shown to provide a more than adequate margin of safety for blasting in the Fimiston Open Pit. Results of investigations indicate that a 200m SEZ from primary blast holes would provide adequate protection from possible flyrock generated from blasting in the Golden Pike Cutback.

Terrock Consulting Engineers examined current blasting practices which demonstrated that improved blasting procedures (such as those used for the recent Chaffers Cutback) could minimise flyrock throw to 50 m. Allowing for a safety factor of 4 for personnel, this indicates that a 200 m blast clearance area would be required to maintain public safety. Flyrock would be further limited by the environmental noise bund and pit wall when blasting below ground level. KCGM has an excellent record for controlling flyrock – our assistance with the Piccadilly Street dam blasting was a great example of this.

KCGM will adopt the practices recommended by specialist consultants to minimise the potential impacts from flyrock generated during blasting.

**Given the concerns raised in the independent review concerning the potential for wall collapse and flyrock, can KCGM guarantee that properties edging the proposed expansion will not be at risk from the expansion?**

The lengthy, detailed and thorough process of consultation and approvals, with detailed technical reports is the assurance process. All our technical data which has also been independently reviewed, demonstrates that we can successfully manage the Golden Pike cutback. The flyrock review supported the findings that a 200m clearance area for flyrock was manageable provided that adequate quality control be implemented. KCGM already has a rigorous system of pit wall performance monitoring which will be reviewed and modified as required to incorporate the Golden Pike Cutback.