GREAT DIVIDE MINING

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Media Release

GDM’s Challenger Mine Achieves First Environmental Milestone

Great Divide Mining (ASX:GDM) has achieved a significant environmental milestone at its Challenger Gold Mine near Adelong, completing the first stage of rehabilitation of land affected by historical gold mining activities dating back more than 150 years.

The Currajong site has now undergone environmental remediation, earthworks and contouring, followed by planting and ongoing environmental monitoring.

The achievement marks the first completed stage of Great Divide Mining's broader commitment to rehabilitate areas affected by historic mining activities across the Challenger mining lease.

To commemorate the occasion, local community representatives and invited dignitaries commenced tree planting near the rehabilitated site.

Great Divide Mining CEO Justin Haines said the milestone demonstrated that environmental rehabilitation and commercial mining operations could successfully progress together.

“Rehabilitation of historic mine wastes is a three-stage process,” he said. “Firstly, you remove the remnant waste rock and process it to extract remnant gold. Secondly, you recontour and reseed the site, and finally, you monitor and adjust as needed and report on the outcomes once rehabilitation is complete.”

"We're particularly proud of what we've achieved at Currajong. This is the first mine site I know of where historical environmental damage has been rehabilitated before new mining operations have even commenced," Mr Haines said.

"Since assuming stewardship of the Challenger site, we've remained sensitive to the environment while establishing regular cash flow through the recovery and sale of gold from historical mine waste.

"We're demonstrating that responsible environmental management and commercial success are not mutually exclusive."

"We recognise that we can never restore the environment to exactly as it was 150 years ago, when gold mining first commenced in this district, but there's enough knowledge, experience and local history within the Adelong community for us to give it a very good go.”

"Working with local residents, we'll be increasing tree plantings as we progressively rehabilitate additional areas of the historic mine site.”

"Our objective is to leave the land in a significantly better condition than we found it."

Great Divide Mining Chairman Paul Ryan said the completion of the Currajong rehabilitation represented another commitment delivered by the company.

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"When Great Divide Mining assumed responsibility for Challenger, we made a number of clear commitments to our shareholders and the Adelong community," Mr Ryan said.

"We committed to addressing the environmental legacy of historical mining activities, and we've delivered on that promise."

"We committed to establishing cash flow for our shareholders at the earliest commercially viable opportunity, and we've delivered on that promise as well."

"We committed to minimising disruption to local traffic, and our regular weekly gold concentrate shipments have enabled us to meet that commitment."

"And importantly, we committed to operating without toxic chemicals. We've honoured that commitment, using gravity separation and recycled water in our gold recovery operations."

"These weren't simply promises made to secure community support. They were commitments we intended to honour, and the completion of the Currajong rehabilitation is further evidence that we're doing exactly that," said Mr Ryan.

Mayor Cr Julia Ham and local councillor Cr James Hayes OAM welcomed the achievement, describing it as an example of how modern mining operations could work constructively with regional communities.

"Here's a mining company that not only *'talks the talk'* but also *'walks the walk'*," Mayor Ham said.

"This is proof positive that a modern mining operation can coexist with the community, regulators and the environment," she said.

"Great Divide Mining has demonstrated that environmental responsibility and commercial mining can go hand-in-hand, and that the legacy of historical mining can be addressed while creating new economic opportunities for the community."

"I look forward to the company continuing its rehabilitation of the broader Challenger mining lease, and I'd encourage my colleagues in surrounding districts to visit Challenger and witness firsthand, mining done right, Adelong style," added Cr Hayes.

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Snowy Valleys Council Mayor Julia Ham and Cr James Hayes plant first trees marking the completion of the first stage of environmental rehabilitation at the historic Challenger Gold Mine in Adelong, NSW.

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Great Divide Mining Ltd (ASX: GDM)

Great Divide Mining is an Australian Gold, Antimony and critical metals miner, explorer, developer and producer with five projects across 17 tenements (including two in application). GDM's focus is on operating producing assets within areas of historical mining and past exploration with nearby infrastructure, thus enabling rapid development. Through a staged exploration and development programme, GDM intends to generate cash flow from its initial projects to support further exploration across its portfolio of highly prospective tenements.
https://greatdividemining.com.au/