



New lease of life for process plant

A Western Australian gold mine is using second hand equipment as an integral element of its revamped operations.

With a May commissioning date, the \$92 million Edna May gold project, on the western edge of WA's Wheatbelt region, is based on an area which has been mined since 1911 but **Catalpa's** operations will be firmly in 21st century.

The company is planning production of more than 100,000 ounces of gold annually for a lifespan of more than seven years.

At the centre of this production is a conventional SABC FF circuit (SAG mill Ball mill pebble crusher feed forward) which will give a recovery rate of

around 92 per cent.

The process plant was purchased from the Big Bell mine site, which had closed in 2003, and transported to the Edna May gold project in 2007. Key plant components were stored under cover in Perth for safekeeping until ready for placement onsite.

The process plant consists of a 2kW SAG mill and a 3.7kW Ball Mill along with all other components necessary to reconstruct the 2.8–3.2mtpa plant.

Work on this integral part of the mine operations has been swift and is on track for commissioning in the coming weeks and is on time for the commencement of production in June this year. ■