



First gold poured at Westonia minesite

CATALPA Resources Limited has completed its first gold production at its Edna May Gold Project in Westonia, within budget and two months ahead of schedule.

The mine had been closed since 1989 but Catalpa started reopening it in March last year.

The first gold bar was poured last Wednesday, April 28, at the Edna May Gold Project processing plant just nine months after project approval.

The gravity and carbon recovery circuits were commissioned in mid-April, resulting in the first production gold pour of 414 ounces of

dore.

The dore is an alloy of gold, silver and other metals and is expected to refine to about 85 per cent pure gold.

Managing director Bruce McFadzean said ramp-up to full production capacity of 2.8 million tonnes per annum was underway and would see Catalpa producing gold at a rate of more than 130,000 ounces per annum by July this year from Edna May.

"This is a significant milestone in Catalpa's history and an achievement that all of our contractors and employees can take pride in," he said.

"We delivered this milestone ahead of

schedule, but more importantly, with zero lost time injuries throughout the construction and commissioning period."

The occasion marks the fourth mining episode in Edna May's 100-year history, which fittingly coincides with Westonia's centenary celebrations in coming months.

The first gold was discovered in Westonia in 1910, leading to the foundation of the small mining town.

Mr McFadzean said Catalpa was carrying out further exploration to potentially extend the Edna May mine's life.

"We are very confident in the project's explo-

ration upside potential, with a view to extending the Edna May life of mine beyond its current nine years," he said.

"With our exceptional forward-sold gold price of \$1557.50 for 352,316 ounces of Edna May's production, we expect to realise excellent cash operating margins to retire debt and fund Catalpa's future growth."

The importance of mining in the region will be further brought to light at Westonia's centenary celebrations to be held on August 1, which will include a band at the Westonia Tavern, a historic photographic competition, period costume competition and other attractions.



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Solid gold: Westonia Shire councillor Peter Antonio and Shire president Louis Geier joined the team in the Edna May Operations gold room to share in the experience of the company's first production gold pour. The team is general operations manager Stuart Pether, gold room supervisor Merv Dickey, Edna May Gold Project resident manager John Fraser, process manager Mark Eichorn and process operations superintendent Ben Hooper.