

Olympic Dam

Resource Copper (Cu), Uranium (U), Silver (Ag), Gold (Au)

Company [BHP](#)
(<http://www.bhp.com>)

Status Operating

- Mining operation**
- Underground mine with more than 450 km of underground roads and tunnels
 - Automated train system hauls ore to surface crushing, storage and ore hoisting facilities
 - Processing plant to extract high-quality copper concentrate from sulfide ore through a flotation process
 - Fully integrated metallurgical complex with grinding and concentrating circuit, hydrometallurgical plant with solvent extraction circuits for copper and uranium, copper smelter and refinery, recovery circuit for precious metals

More information is available from the [BHP website](#)
(<https://www.bhp.com/our-businesses/minerals-australia/olympic-dam>).

Location 560 km north of Adelaide in the State's Far North



Tenement information Special Mining Lease SML1

Tenement information can be accessed via the [South Australian Resources Information Gateway \(SARIG\)](#)
([https://map.sarig.sa.gov.au/Shortcut/Olympic%20Dam%20\(Cu-U-Au-Ag\)](https://map.sarig.sa.gov.au/Shortcut/Olympic%20Dam%20(Cu-U-Au-Ag))).

Under Actions, select the Identify tool, and then click on the highlighted Olympic Dam on the map. To view the tenement information, under Olympic Dam SML click the dropdown next to the Tenement Label title.

The deposit Olympic Dam is on the eastern margin of the Gawler Craton and is one of the world's most significant deposits of copper, gold, silver and uranium. The deposit is unconformably overlain by about 300 m of Neoproterozoic to Cambrian age, flat-lying sedimentary rocks of the Stuart Shelf. The deposit is hosted within the Olympic Dam Breccia Complex, occurring entirely within the Roxby Downs Granite.

Mineralisation is contained within a granite-hosted breccia complex. The principal copper-bearing minerals in the deposit are chalcopyrite, bornite and chalcocite, occurring as disseminated grains, veinlets and fragments with breccia zones. Gold typically occurs as extremely fine particles within and associated with the copper sulfide grains. Silver largely occurs in solid solution with the sulfide minerals.

More information about the [Geology of the Olympic Dam deposit](https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MESAJ023004-011.pdf)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/MESAJ023004-011.pdf>)
(PDF 5.1 MB)

Resource estimates and production estimates Company released resource estimates and production statistics are available from the [BHP Annual Report 2018](https://www.bhp.com/investor-centre/annual-report-2018)
(<https://www.bhp.com/investor-centre/annual-report-2018>)
- refer to section 6.

Approval process The Olympic Dam Mine operates under the *Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Act 1982* ([https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/ROXBY%20DOWNS%20\(INDENTURE%20RATIFICATION\)%20ACT%201982.aspx](https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/ROXBY%20DOWNS%20(INDENTURE%20RATIFICATION)%20ACT%201982.aspx)) and the Olympic Dam and Stuart Shelf Indenture (the Indenture) which is a Schedule to the Act.

BHP is proposing a significant increase of copper production at the Olympic Dam mine to up to 300,000 tonnes a year. The Minister for Energy and Mining and Minister for Planning have declared this proposal a major development under the *Development Act 1993* (<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/DEVELOPMENT%20ACT%201993.aspx>).

The following documents are available on the SA Planning Portal:

- *Olympic Dam Resource Development Strategy*
(https://plan.sa.gov.au/state_snapshot/development_activity/major_projects/majors/olympic_dam_production_growth_plan)
released on 14 February 2019
- *Assessment stages and documentation for the previously proposed open-cut mine Olympic Dam Expansion*
(https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/current_planning_system/development_assessment/major_projects/ma/olympic_dam_expansion)
, including:
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - BHP response document
 - Government assessment reports

News releases:

- Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, Minister for Energy and Mining
State Government announces assessment guidelines to increase copper production at Olympic Dam
(https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/liberalpartyofaustralia/mailings/3708/attachments/original/05-19_BHP_expansion_corrected_v2.pdf?1590046704)

Friday 22 May 2020

- Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, Minister for Energy and Mining, and Hon Stephan Knoll MP, Minister for Planning
Proposed expansion of Olympic Dam declared a major development
(https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/liberalpartyofaustralia/mailings/2012/attachments/original/02-14_BHP.pdf?1550115973)

Thursday 14 February 2019

- BHP
South Australian Government major development declaration for Olympic Dam
(<https://www.bhp.com/media-and-insights/news-releases/2019/02/south-australian-government-major-development-declaration-for-olympic-dam>)

Thursday 14 February 2019

Current documents **Environmental protection and monitoring programs (EPMPs)**

- *Environmental management program*
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890837.pdf>)
(PDF 189 KB)
- *Environmental management manual*
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890852.pdf>)
(PDF 1 MB)
- *Environmental management program - targets actions and major changes*
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890833.pdf>)

(PDF 64 KB)

- [Monitoring program - fauna](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890851.pdf>)
(PDF 42 KB)
- [Monitoring program - flora](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890849.pdf>)
(PDF 3 MB)
- [Monitoring program - airborne emissions](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890848.pdf>)
(PDF 956 KB)
- [Monitoring program - Great Artesian Basin](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890846.pdf>)
(PDF 3 MB)
- [Monitoring program - environmental radiation](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890844.pdf>)
(PDF 521 KB)
- [Monitoring program - groundwater](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890841.pdf>)
(PDF 2 MB)
- [Monitoring program - waste](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890839.pdf>)
(PDF 5 MB)
- [Monitoring program - energy use and greenhouse gas emissions](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890836.pdf>)
(PDF 30 KB)
- [Monitoring program - social effects](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR3890835.pdf>)
(PDF 31 KB)

Closure management plan

- [Closure management and rehabilitation plan for Olympic Dam](#)
(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/image/DDD/PEPR4700340.pdf>)
(PDF 9 MB)

Compliance Reporting

- [Great Artesian Basin Wellfields Report 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 \(PDF 3 MB\)](#)
(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/351757/4258679_-_ANNUAL_COMPLIANCE_R~ort_1_July_2018_30_June_2019.PDF)
- [Annual environmental protection and management program - Olympic Dam 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019](#)
(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/351760/4258678_-_EPMP_COMPLIANCE_REP~t_-_1_July_2018_30_June_2019.PDF)
(PDF 8 MB)

Historical documents and records are available via the [South Australian Resources Information Gateway \(SARIG\)](#)

(<https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/wci/ResultSet?>

[w=NATIVE%28%27TENEMENTS+ph+is+%27%27SML00001%27%27%27%29&sid=83712d08125042359ad620168f74b57d&upp=0&order=NATIVE%28%27TITLE%2Fascend%27%29&rpp=25&r=1&set=4&reorder=1](https://sarigbasis.pir.sa.gov.au/WebtopEw/ws/samref/sarig1/wci/ResultSet?w=NATIVE%28%27TENEMENTS+ph+is+%27%27SML00001%27%27%27%29&sid=83712d08125042359ad620168f74b57d&upp=0&order=NATIVE%28%27TITLE%2Fascend%27%29&rpp=25&r=1&set=4&reorder=1))

Uranium incident reports South Australia's uranium mines and processing facilities are required to report incidents involving the unplanned release of radioactive process materials, radioactive liquids or radioactive wastes associated with the physical and chemical processing of uranium ores, following standard criteria and procedures.

[Olympic Dam uranium incident summary since 2003](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/olympic_dam/olympic_dam_uranium_incident_reports)

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[Back to summary of major mines and quarries](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries)

Mining

(<https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining>)

[Update on Mining Regulations 2020](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/update_on_mining_regulations_2020)

[Mining regulation in South Australia](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mining_regulation_in_south_australia)

[Public notices \(mining\)](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/public_notices_mining)

[Approved PEPRs](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/approved_peprs)

[Claims, leases, licences, private mines](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/claims_leases_licences_private_mines)

[Forms and fees](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/forms_and_fees)

[Mineral royalties](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mineral_royalties)

[Financial assurance](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/financial_assurance)

[Mines and quarries](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries)

[Angas Zinc Mine](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/angas_zinc_mine)

[Beltana](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/beltana_flinders_zinc)

[Beverley and Beverley North Uranium Mine](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/beverley_and_beverley_north_mines)

[Bluff Road Quarry](#)

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/bluff_road_quarry)

Cairn Hill

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/cairn_hill)

Campoona Graphite Project

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/campoona)

Carrapateena Project

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/carrapateena)

Challenger Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/challenger)

Four Mile Uranium Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/four_mile_uranium_mine)

Hillside Project

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/hillside_project)

Glenshera Sand Glass Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/glenshera_sand_mine)

Golden Grove Extractive Industries Zone

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/golden_grove_extractive_industries_zone)

Honeymoon Uranium Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/honeymoon_uranium_mine)

Jacinth and Ambrosia

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/jacinth_and_ambrosia)

Kanmantoo Bluestone Quarry

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo_bluestone_quarry)

Kanmantoo Copper Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/kanmantoo_copper_mine)

Kookaburra Gully Graphite Project

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/kookaburra_gully_graphite_project)

Leigh Creek Coal Mine

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/leigh_creek_coal_mine)

Linwood Quarry

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/linwood_quarry)

Middleback Ranges

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/middleback_ranges)

Mindarie Mineral Sands Project A2 & C

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/mindarie)

Olympic Dam

(https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/olympic_dam)

https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/olympic_dam/olympic_dam_uranium_incident_reports

Peculiar Knob Iron Ore Mine

https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/peculiar_knob_iron_ore_mine

Penrice Mine

https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/penrice_mine

Porta Coal Mine

https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/porta

For inquiries relating to this mining operation please contact:

Prominent Hill Mining Regulation
https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/prominent_hill

Mineral Resources Division

Sellicks Hill Quarry
Department for Energy and Mining
https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/sellicks_hill_quarry

Email: DEM.MiningRegRehab@sa.gov.au

DEM.MiningRegRehab@sa.gov.au

Sivour Graphite Project
https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/sivour_graphite_project

Phone: +61 8 8429 2583

Tarcoola Gold Project

https://energymining.sa.gov.au/minerals/mining/mines_and_quarries/tarcoola_gold_project

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