



**RAVENSWOOD GOLD**

MINING WITH THE  
QUEENSLAND  
COMMUNITY IN MIND



# A GOLDEN FUTURE



After three years of expanding operations, Ravenswood Gold is geared towards a long-term future in gold mining. We speak to CEO, Brett Fletcher, as the company celebrates the end of phase one of the project

Writer: Marcus Käöpä | Project Manager: Thomas Arnold



“ Now that the project is established, we are looking at steady and stable operations while improving the business and growing mine activities - it is the end of the beginning stage at Ravenswood Gold.”

Gold is a distinctive and precious metal. It is unique in its combination of malleability, boiling point, conductivity and ductility, while also being prized for its evident beauty. Across the world, gold is a very real representation of wealth and, outside of trade and commerce, plays an important part in industry, such as the circuitry of computers, phones, detectors and many more modern pieces of technological hardware.

Australia is home to a huge gold mining industry, one that is embedded in its history and has been pivotal in the development of the nation. In 1851, Queensland saw the first recorded discovery of alluvial gold deposits - gold able to be extracted from water sources such as rivers and streams - at the Darling Downs, leading to a swiftly growing region of industry by the end of the decade. Today, Queensland sees multiple players bringing the region's deeply rooted legacy of gold to the surface.

Ravenswood Gold is one such company, a gold mining and processing facility located in the town of the same name in North Queensland. Ravenswood town has a long history of mining dating back to 1868, with the modern mine operating continuously since 1987. Ravenswood Gold acquired ownership of the mine in April 2020, including around 160 permanent employees. Since then, the company has expanded its number of permanent staff to support the expanded operations and grow the gold resources.


Ravenswood Gold is a private company owned by EMR Capital (EMR) and SGX-listed Golden Energy and Resources Limited (GEAR). EMR and GEAR established a joint venture

## **RAVENSWOOD GOLD - HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY**

Ravenswood Gold is committed to responsible and community-centric operations through:

- Acknowledging the Birriah people as the traditional owners of the land on which operations occur.
- Respecting the historic heritage of the town of Ravenswood and its surroundings.
- Compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, statutory obligations and agreements.
- Maintaining effective heritage management systems and practices.
- Taking all practicable steps to prevent or minimise the impacts of its operations on heritage aspects.
- Identifying and implementing opportunities to conserve or interpret local heritage.
- Ensuring all persons working on site are aware of and executing their responsibilities associated with heritage management.
- Continuous improvement of heritage management systems and practices.
- Considering community aspects and impacts in all stages of operations and development.
- Taking all practicable steps to prevent or minimise the impacts of its operations on the local community.
- Maintaining effective community and stakeholder engagement and management systems and practices.
- Compliance with the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 by maintaining a principally local and regional residential or drive-in, drive-out workforce.
- Working to maintain a positive and open relationship with the local community and stakeholders through effective communication.
- Ensuring the local community is kept up to date on operations and any changes that may affect them.
- Fostering sustainable social and economic initiatives through the Tourism Directions plan, supporting local organisations and providing local sponsorship opportunities.
- Sourcing local and regional supplies and services where practicable.
- Ensuring all persons working on site are aware of and executing their responsibilities associated with community aspects.
- Involving the community, employees and business partners in continuous improvement of community and stakeholder engagement and management systems and practices.

to acquire, operate and develop the Ravenswood Gold Mine which is located approximately 130 kilometres (km) south of Townsville and 90km east of Charters Towers in north-east Queensland.

For Brett Fletcher, CEO at Ravenswood Gold, this historic industry has always been familiar. “I come from a long line of people involved in mining; I was born in New South Wales (NSW) at Broken Hill, 



# Experience, equipment and know-how for North Queensland

Eagle Drilling QLD provides specialist hard-rock drilling services across Queensland. We operate on the surface and underground, offering diamond drilling and multipurpose drilling solutions. Our clients range from large mining companies to smaller, independent prospectors.

Eagle Drilling QLD services areas between Regional QLD and surrounds. Our head office is strategically located in Charters Towers, where we have an extensive fleet, including

our own aircraft, to allow us to work across Queensland with ease.

We employ some of the best professionals in the industry – skilled, capable and experienced in all aspects of surface and underground exploration drilling. As drilling specialists, we pride ourselves in leading the industry, using the best in technology, systems and equipment to get the job done safely, on time and within budget.

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“WE ARE LOOKING AT STEADY AND STABLE OPERATIONS WHILE IMPROVING THE BUSINESS AND GROWING MINE ACTIVITIES - IT IS THE END OF THE BEGINNING STAGE AT RAVENSWOOD GOLD”

- BRETT FLETCHER, CEO, RAVENSWOOD GOLD

a well-known mining town, and my father worked for the multinational mining giant Rio Tinto for 35 years, one of many family members on both sides who worked in the sector,” he tells us.

“Naturally, I went into the industry myself and worked at a variety of mines, from being Mine Manager at Broken Hill and working on the west coast of Tasmania as General Manager of the Rosebery operation, to working the Century Mine in Townsville (Queensland) and managing at a large zinc smelter in Hobart. I have held numerous corporate roles travelling to mines around the Pacific region and have been with the Ravenswood Gold project from day one.”

Now, Fletcher has the privilege of watching Ravenswood Gold move forward with a long and productive future. The company has undertaken significant expansion in recent years to increase production capacity. Initially, investment had been a concern due to its timing alongside the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic which made way for certain challenges in the industry. However, according to Fletcher, Ravenswood Gold’s management team was very effective when it came to pandemic-related challenges.

“Over 95 percent of Ravenswood Gold employees commute from the local region, and we partner with suppliers from North Queensland ☑

## Greenstone

**Greenstone is a leader in the design, engineering and manufacturing of material handling solutions for the C&D recycling, concrete batching, quarrying and mining industries.**

Our approach is simple. Listen to our customers and their needs, call on our years of strong industry experience and the knowledge and technical expertise of our comprehensive team of engineers, technical staff and well-respected project managers.

The result is first-grade equipment and plant solutions brought in on time and on budget to industry leading clients who keep returning to a team they trust.

Greenstone is proud to be the company of choice for many industry leading organisations, both nationally and internationally. Our quality of work and outstanding reputation has led to some of the most recognised names in C&D recycling, concrete batching, quarrying and mining industries turning to Greenstone.

Reliability, innovation, quality and a willingness to go the extra mile, are all values that Greenstone is noted for today. We continue to grow and are proud to partner each step of the way with our clients.

Greenstone has built a well-earned reputation as the one-stop shop for making your material handling vision a reality, providing its clients with clear and transparent communication to achieve your company goals.

With its wide range of services across design and engineering, fabrication and full project management through to construction, the Greenstone team of industry experts can tailor a solution for your specific industry and company needs. We are there for you every step of the way.

Greenstone is also ISO certified, which assures the highest industry standards recognised internationally.

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# A LEADER IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

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The result is first-grade equipment and plant solutions brought in on time and on budget to industry leading clients who return again and again to a team they trust.

We are ISO certified, which assures the highest industry standards recognised internationally.

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where possible,” Fletcher explains. “In 2022, over 70 percent of Ravenswood Gold’s procurement expenditure was spent in Queensland, with around 23 percent directly in the local region. This translates to tens of millions of dollars invested back into our local area.

“We were quite lucky in the sense that we have been able to get the

project built and operational without major disruption because we have such a local workforce - even our contractors are locals. As for the supply chain, there have been challenges in this area. However, most of our supplies are manufactured in Australia, making transportation at a time of restrictions relatively straightforward.”

## **RAVENSWOOD GOLD – SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Ravenswood Gold is committed to safe and sustainable operations through:

- Providing visible leadership and never walking past an unsafe condition or unsafe act.
- Continually placing the health and safety of workers as a priority over production.
- Maintaining clear and open communication lines for safety-related information between all levels of the business
- Demonstrating a commitment towards achieving an injury-free workplace.
- Involving all employees and business partners in the improvement of occupational health and safety performance, through open communication and consultation.
- Ensuring all employees and business partners are aware of their responsibility for the safety of themselves and their colleagues.
- Ensuring all individuals carry out their work safely and are provided with the resources to do so.
- Implementing risk management systems to identify, assess, monitor and control hazards in the workplace.
- Providing adequate health care to all workers and the Ravenswood community.
- Continuously aiming to improve safety-related performance.
- Meeting or exceeding all relevant legal obligations.
- Maintaining robust environmental management systems and practices.
- Complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and statutory obligations.
- Taking all practicable steps to prevent or minimise the environmental impacts of its operations.
- Managing natural resources, particularly water, in a responsible and sustainable manner.
- Considering life of mine aspects, including rehabilitation, in planning processes.
- Progressive rehabilitation of areas no longer required by the operations.
- Ensuring all persons working on site are aware of and executing their environmental responsibilities.
- Involving all employees and business partners in the continuous improvement of environmental management and performance.
- The promotion of a proactive environmental culture.

## **Powertx Pty Ltd**

**Powertx Pty Ltd specialises in the design and construction, modification and testing of high voltage electrical systems and related LV reticulation/infrastructure including earth modelling, design and testing. RPEQ design certification can be provided by our in-house engineering and engineering consultants.**

Powertx fosters strong and lasting relationships with other construction industry leaders and OEM suppliers. This brings synergies and economies producing a broader scale of capabilities and resources, capturing all installation and commissioning requirements including MDR’s and critical spares.

Associated industries include:

- MV and HV Primary and Secondary Equipment Providers
- Switchroom Providers
- Civil Contractors
- Overhead Powerline Contractors
- National Electrical and Communications Association
- Energy Network Providers

### **Example Project**

66kV METERING STATION, 66/11kV (20MVA) SUBSTATION AND 66/11kV(10MVA) SUBSTATION

As part of the mine’s HV power infrastructure upgrade, Powertx was engaged by Ravenswood Gold for the design, manufacture, and installation of three separate 66kV stations, undertaken on both greenfield and brownfield sites. The three installations consisted of:

- **Design, Construct and Commission** a 66kV Metering Station including the design and implementation of N.E.R compliant revenue metering.
- **Design, Construct and Commission** a 66/11kV 10MVA Substation including 4.5MVAR Power Factor Correction (Nolan Substation).
- **Design, Construct and Commission** a 66/11kV 20MVA Substation including design, installation, and commissioning of point on wave switching and Inter Substation IEC61850 GOOSE communications (ER 4 Substation).

Whilst on site, Powertx has been involved with HV protection testing and temporary HV distribution and has recently been engaged to design, construct and commission a 66/11kV 3MVA Substation to supply the Accommodation Village and Water Treatment Plant.

[www.powertx.com.au](http://www.powertx.com.au)





## LEADERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HIGH VOLTAGE SERVICES



**Powertx Pty Ltd** is a privately owned Queensland based Electrical Construction Company specialising in turnkey solutions for the high voltage infrastructure requirements of the mining and heavy industry sectors, including renewable energy and utility projects.

Our services include the design and construction of substations and cable distribution systems including the associated engineering, testing and commissioning.



### CRITICAL SUPPORT

Ravenswood Gold is unique in its localisation. According to Fletcher, 95 percent of the company's employees are locals from the region, with Ravenswood Gold's entire employee count standing at 420 - with an additional 240 permanent contractors - where in 2020 it was 160 - proof of the mine's expansive and productively sustainable operations.

Similarly, it is also the use of localised contractors that is helping shape Ravenswood Gold's success. On top of major growth in its own workforce, Ravenswood Gold has seen an increase in business partnerships, which are key for the company and have been supporting its growth since its establishment.

"Our relationships provide critical

support for the project in the present and into the future, and include Cater Care, who run our village for us and the catering on site; Roc Drill, who has the production drilling contract in the pit; Orica, who support us with blasting and explosive services; Pensar, who have undertaken the civil earthwork for our Tailings Storage Facility; and SimmCo, our local earth moving contractor," Fletcher elaborates.

"Thanks to our collective partnerships, our workforce reaches approximately 660 permanent long-term employees, and at times we have seen an additional 1,500-2,000 contractors come in to help build the project."

Ravenswood Gold boasts productive business relationships with

### ECG Engineering

During 2021 and 2022, ECG Engineering (Queensland) was proud to provide electrical design capability to the Ravenswood Gold project, located 130km south of Townsville, Queensland and owned by EMR Capital and Golden Energy and Resources Ltd.

Responsible for the electrical, instrumentation and control systems design, ECG has played a significant part in the project which involved upgrading capacity of the 5 mtpa plant by more than doubling the output to 12 mtpa.

Commissioning was completed in late 2022, with full production to start in early 2023.

[www.ecg-engineering.com](http://www.ecg-engineering.com)

### Fenner Conveyors

Streamlining Conveyor Efficiency  
A key supplier for Ravenswood Gold's Conveyor Expansion Project, Fenner Conveyors was contracted to streamline operational processes and reduce overall down-time, with a focus on improving site efficiency.

This was done through the supply of specially engineered rollers and pulleys, alongside conveyor alignment, belt cleaners, rubber lining, and belt installation services.

Fenner is a long-standing supplier for Ravenswood Gold; from its Engineering Teams assisting with component design and system improvements, to detailed scoping and inspections from Service Teams.

From years of demonstrated performance and built trust, Fenner was also contracted to supply belt spares for the Conveyor Expansion Project featuring its impact resistance compound and carcass combination for gold mining applications: Tuff As™ & Crows Foot Weave.

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the likes of AUSENCO, the company's engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) contractor, a partner who has helped design, engineer and manage the expansion project. On top of this, the company has multiple construction partners based in the Queensland area; this localisation has given Ravenswood Gold an advantage in overcoming the challenges caused by the COVID-19 period. Additionally, Ravenswood Gold's incorporation of the latest technology has helped the company establish itself in the field, especially during a period of global challenges.

"We have this Chrysos

PhotonAssay™ machine which is a pretty unique piece of technology that helps us analyse our gold content, owned and operated by Chrysos Corporation," Fletcher says. "All of our drill results, metallurgical samples, tests and more are now run through the high-tech machine which rapidly analyses and determines the grade of gold that's in the pit or being processed."

The advantage of such technology is multifaceted, including providing more accurate test results faster, and improving the overall profitability of gold mining operations through streamlining gold analysis. ■

## Pensar Project Infrastructure

**Pensar challenges established thinking to deliver innovative solutions and works hand-in-hand with our clients to achieve their vision and build critical infrastructure for the future.**

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## Wilson Security

**Since 2021, Wilson Security and Ravenswood Gold have partnered to create a customised, broad security strategy.**

From welcoming visitors through to asset protection and traffic and flood management, Wilson Security works closely with Ravenswood Gold, using its Integrated Security Solution Model to protect and support the northeast Queensland mining community. A national leader in security, Wilson Security is rapidly expanding and sharpening its operations across the resources sector. To learn how we can protect your future, call 1300 945 766 or email us at [marketing@wilsonsecurity.com.au](mailto:marketing@wilsonsecurity.com.au).

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### **ESTABLISHING A LEGACY**

Further proof of Ravenswood Gold's success is embodied by its milestones. With the Olympics coming to Brisbane in 2032, there are exciting prospects on the horizon for the company. For example, Ravenswood Gold is proud to have commenced discussions with the Queensland government about an opportunity to provide gold for medals at the Olympics.

"Although we are currently working through this process and it may take some time, we see this as a recognition opportunity for the Birriah people, the traditional owners of the land on which we operate, who are very supportive of this as well," Fletcher explains.

There is no doubt that there are exciting times ahead at Ravenswood Gold. While the Olympics remains a plan for the future, the company's current activities include the opening of the expanded processing plant and new tailings storage facility expansion. This opening will showcase the company's completion and full operation of the Buck Reef West pit mine, the completion of the process plan expansion, and the fully functional tailings storage facility.

"We are very proud to be opening

our doors to some of the many people that have helped us execute the various aspects of the Ravenswood Expansion Project since 2020," Fletcher says. "The official opening ceremony is a way for us to thank everyone that has played a part, from our owners to our business partners, government representatives, local community and, of course, our hard-working employees."

This marks a milestone and shows that Ravenswood Gold is a company of opportunity, supported by employees, partners and the wider community who have been paramount to the project's success over the past three years. The ceremony will see state and federal politicians of various departments, foreign ambassadors and representatives from over 30 supplier groups gather to celebrate the completion and future prospects of the Ravenswood Gold project.

For Fletcher, the next six to 12 months will revolve around ensuring a steady and stable operation, making sure that the project is delivering on what is promised, and looking for ways to improve the business.

"We are definitely at a turning point at Ravenswood Gold," Fletcher concludes. "We originally picked

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up the asset and had a very clear strategy on what needed to be built to transform the business into a long-life, low-cost, large-scale operation, looking at a production rate of around 200,000 to 250,000 ounces a year.

"There was a lot of project work to be done, but as I sit here three years later it's fair to say we have finished that construction phase and are ramping the plant up to its new full capacity. We are going to focus on improvement: how can we achieve more production? How do we reduce costs? How can we increase the life of the mine? That is very much our medium-term focus, with the long-term being consistency and growth." <sup>MC</sup>



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