



Sandsloot Exploration Project using Drill and Blasting and Mobile Tunnel Boring Methods

Dewaldt van Rooyen

Riaan Carstens

28 July 2022

Confidential

Contents

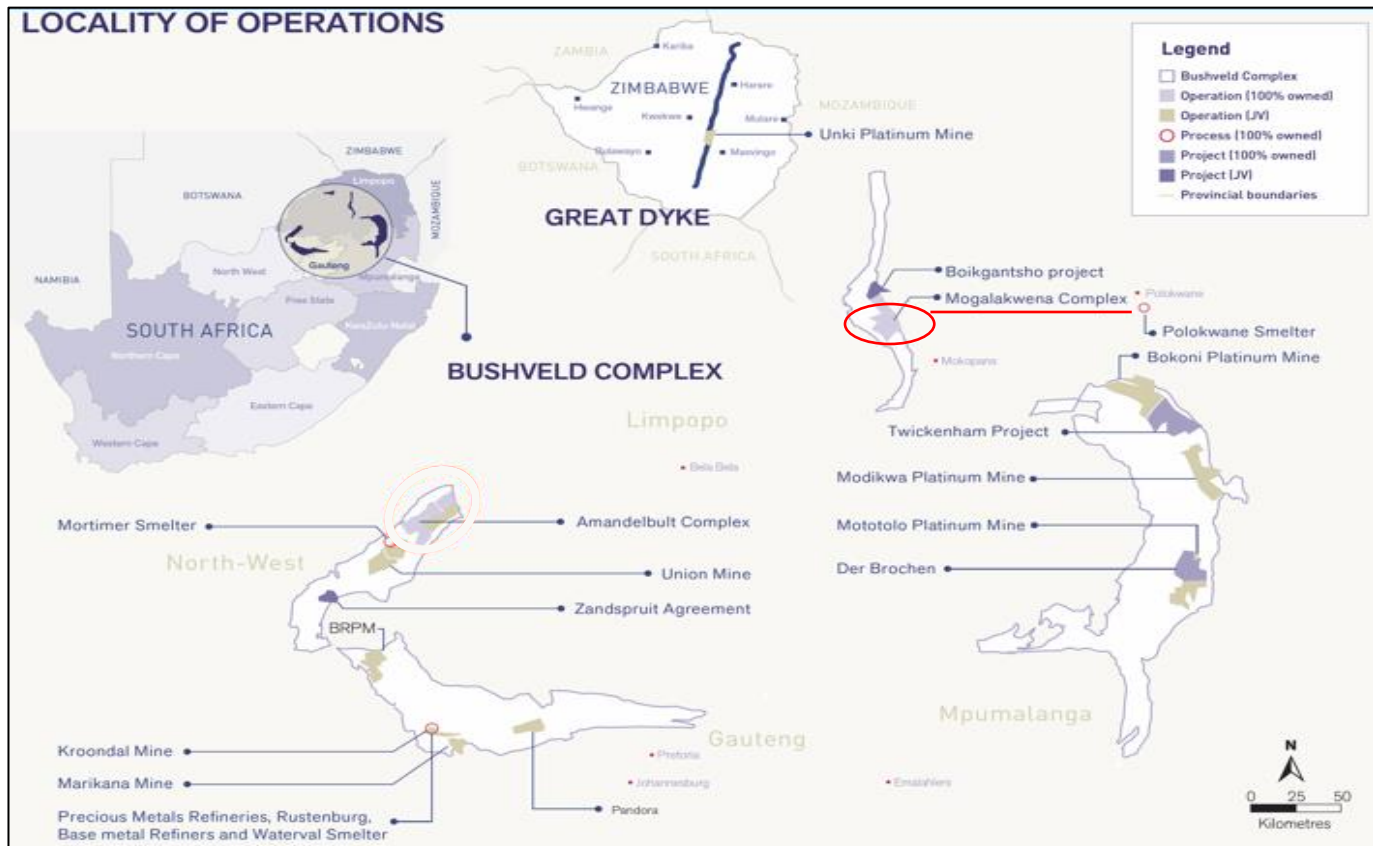
- OVERVIEW
- LAYOUT
- LOCATION
- HIGHWALL STABILITY
- SUPPORT DESIGN
- RISK MITIGATION
- LEARNING AND SUCCESSES



OVERVIEW

- Mogalakwena Mine has started an exploration project consisting of two tunnels developed into the highwall of Sandsloot open pit
- Purpose of the tunnels is to provide an underground drilling platform for resource drilling of the orebody located below the current pit bottom
 - Gathering data for input into a study evaluating massive mining options for an underground mine
- Two different mining methods:
 - Mechanized Drilling and Blasting (D&B)
 - Mobile Tunnel Borer (MTB)

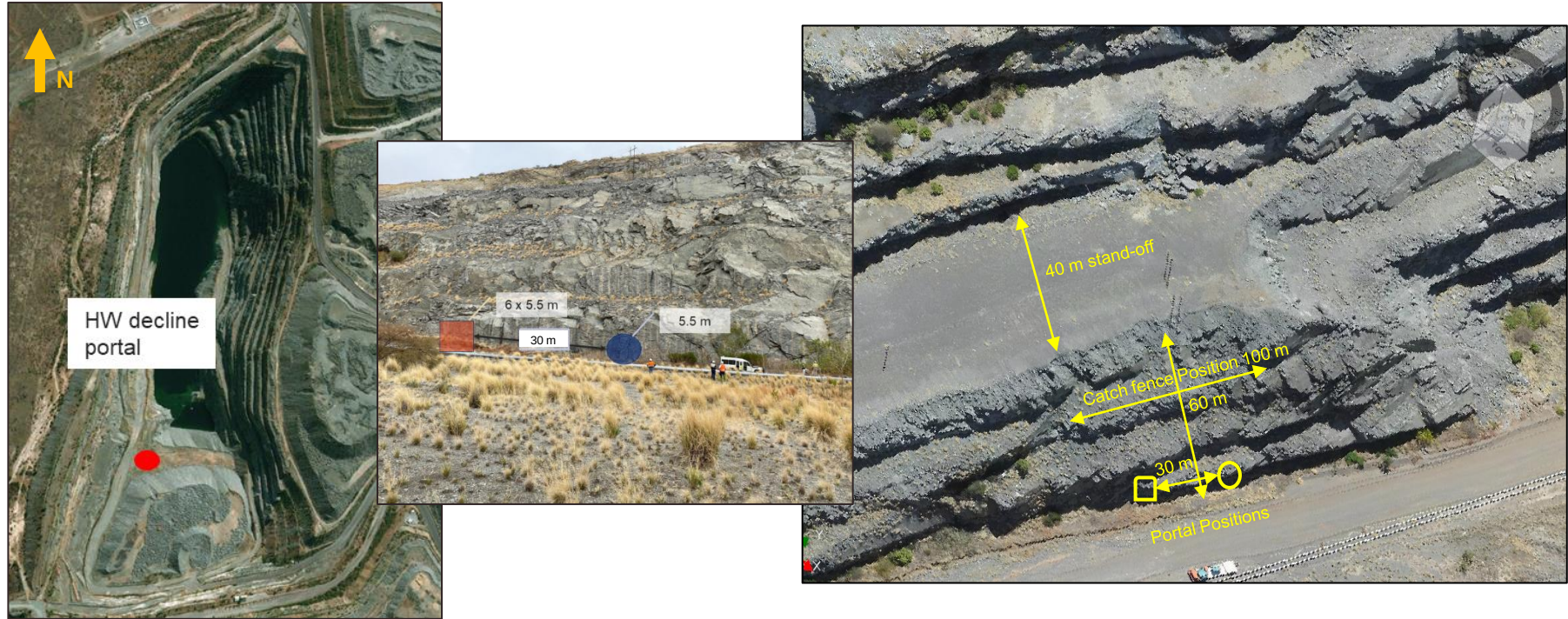
LOCATION



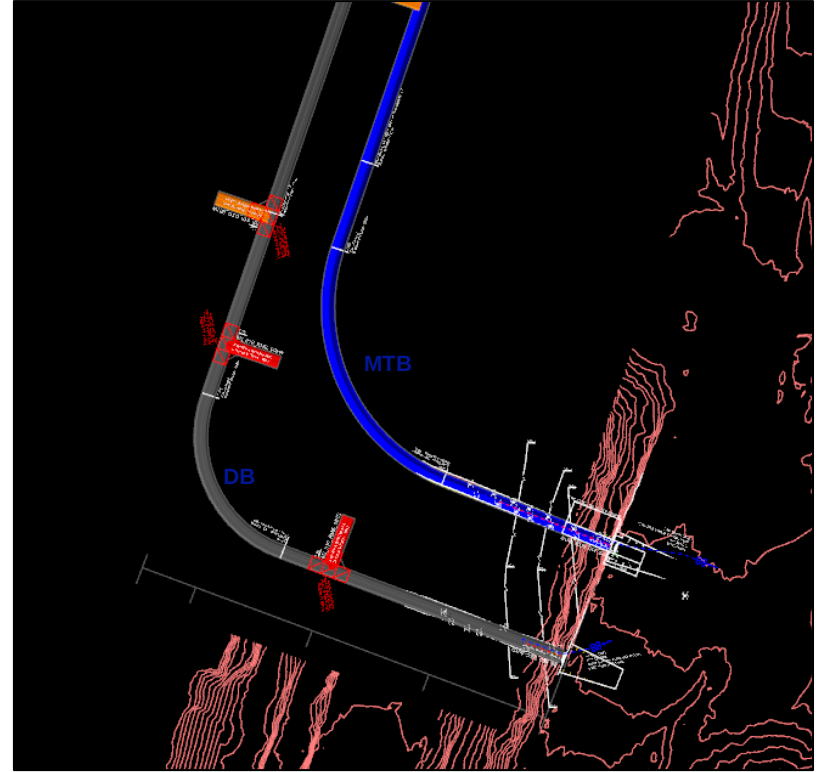
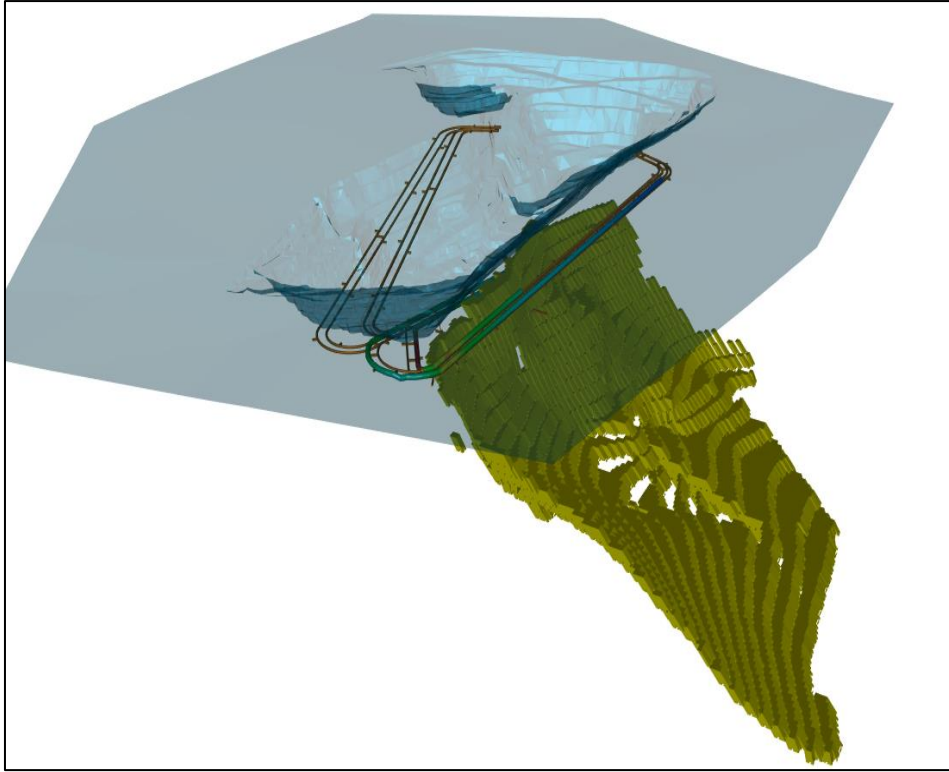
LOCATION



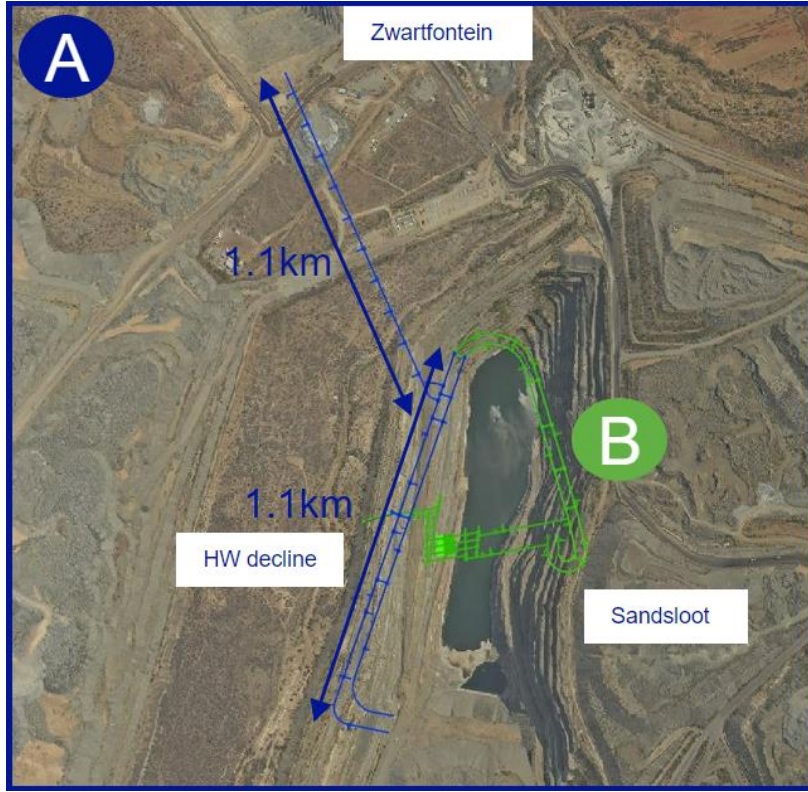
LOCATION



LAYOUT



LAYOUT



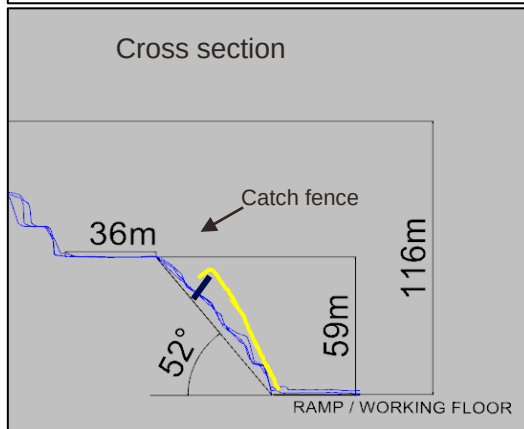
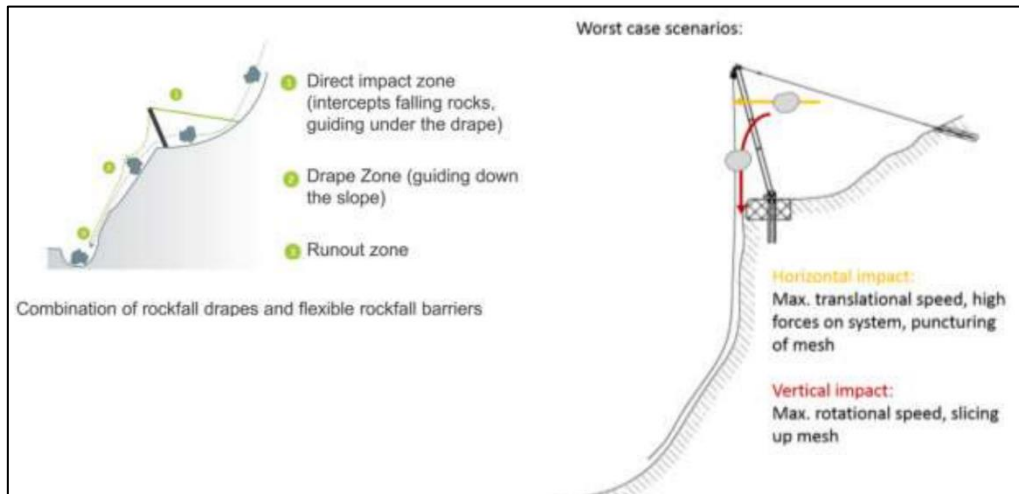
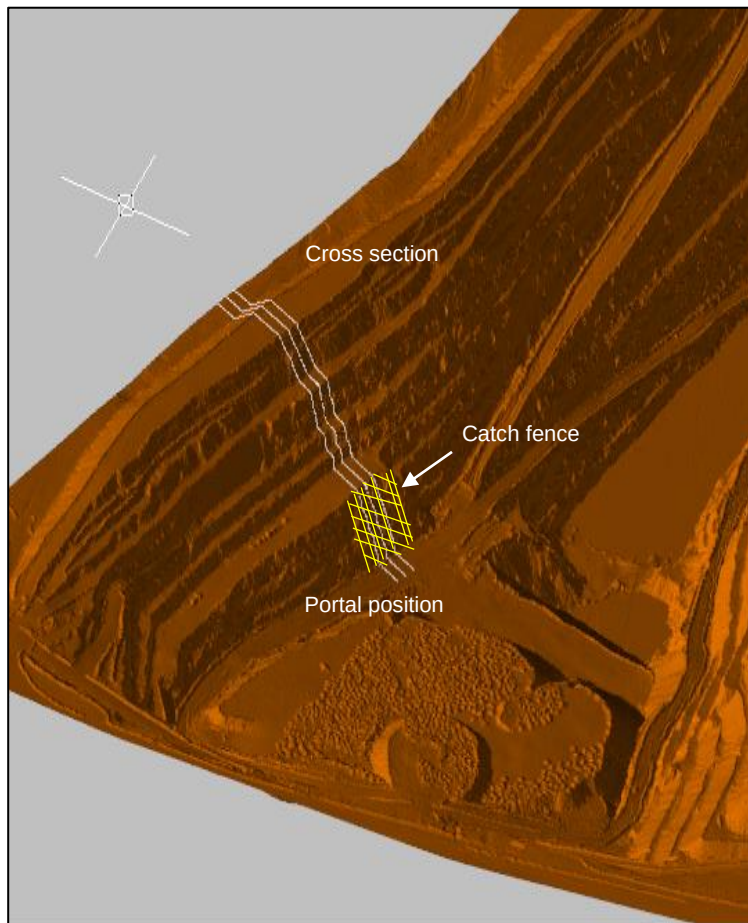
Phase A

- 4.1km Development
- 1.2km Cutting
 - 2.9km Drill & Blast

Phase B

5.8km Development

HIGHWALL STABILITY



HIGHWALL STABILITY

Process:

- Dressing the highwall
- Identify areas requiring additional spot bolting



HIGHWALL STABILITY

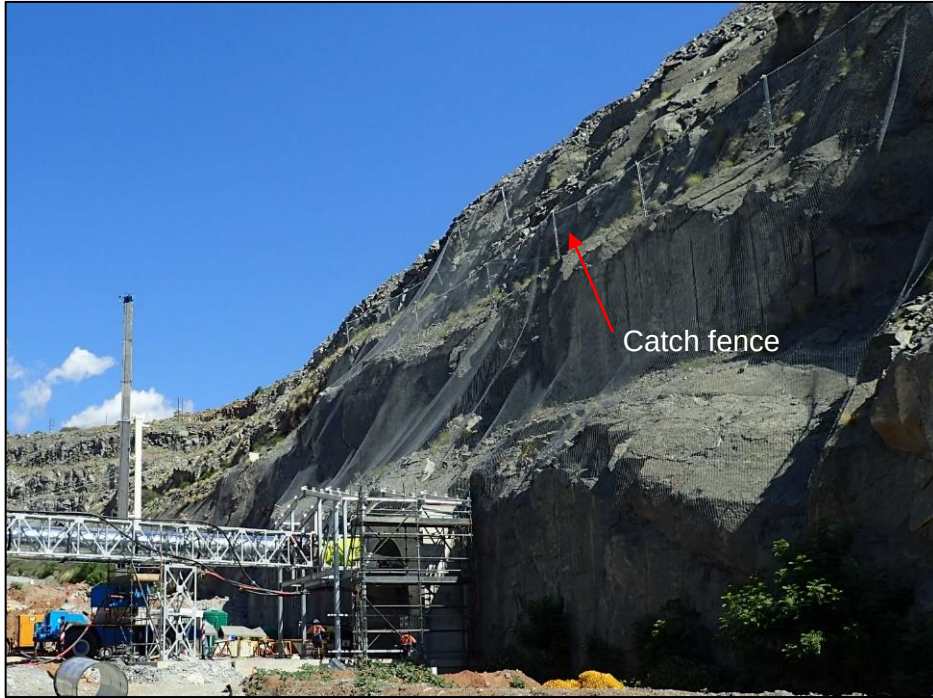
Process:

- Temporary netting to protect workers during catch fence installation
- Execution of catch fence installation



HIGHWALL STABILITY

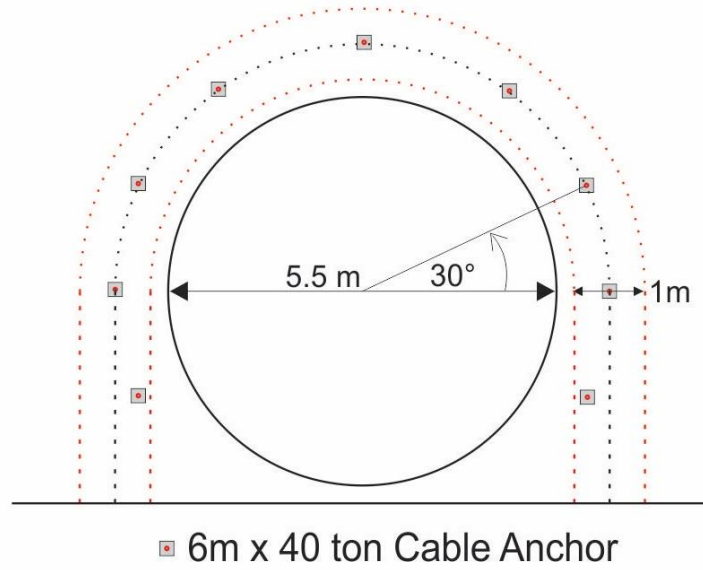
Completed catch fence



SUPPORT DESIGN

Portal Highwall Support – MTB

- Cable anchors
- Concrete Structure against Highwall



SUPPORT DESIGN

MTB- Concrete structure was build against the highwall

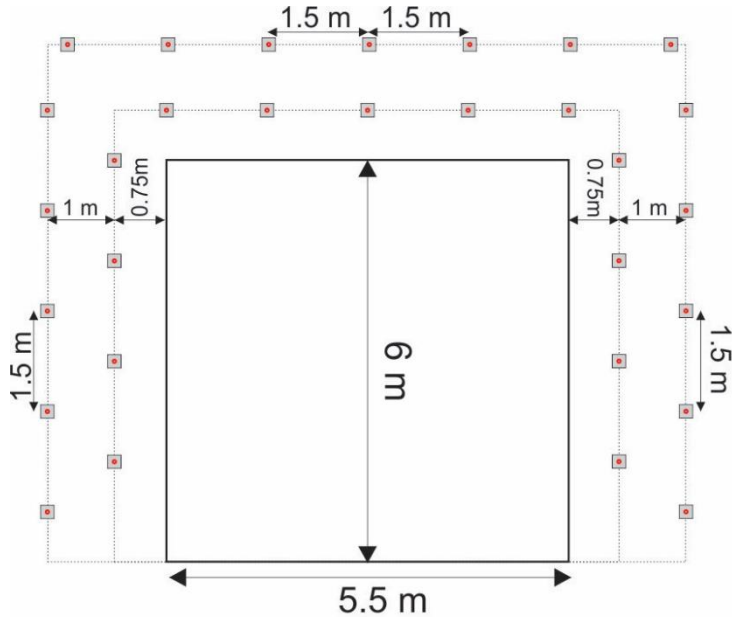
- Concrete constructed for MTB to bore through



SUPPORT DESIGN

Portal Highwall Support – D&B

- Cable anchors
- Mesh



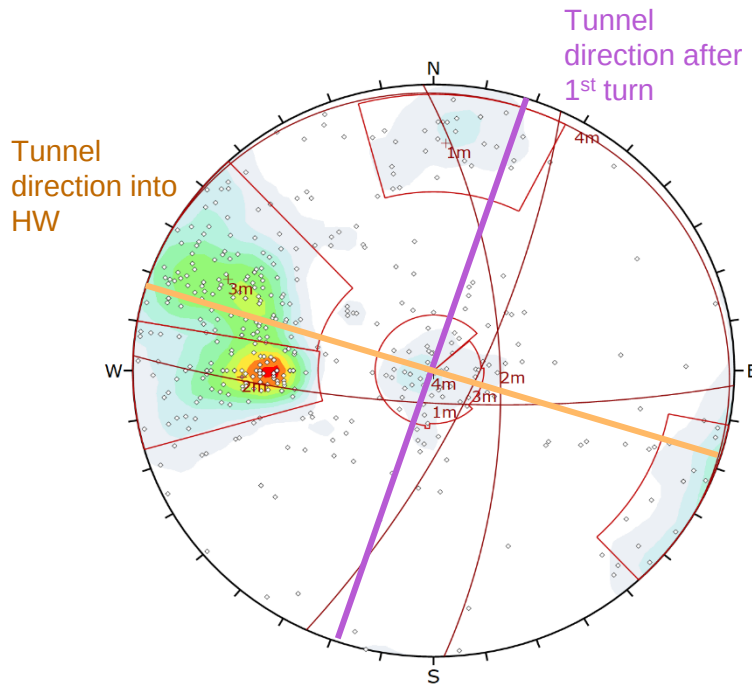
■ 6m x 40 ton Cable Anchor

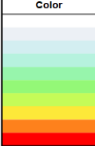


SUPPORT DESIGN

- Detail highwall mapping
- Exploration drilling
- Stereonet plot analysis showing tunnel directions

Set	Dip	Dip Direction
J1 (Minor)	77	183
J2 (Major)	65	88
J3 (Major)	74	115
J4 (Minor)	2	29



Symbol	Feature		
○	Pole Vectors		
Color	Density Concentrations		
	0.00 - 1.10		
	1.10 - 2.20		
	2.20 - 3.30		
	3.30 - 4.40		
	4.40 - 5.50		
	5.50 - 6.60		
	6.60 - 7.70		
	7.70 - 8.80		
	8.80 - 9.90		
	9.90 - 11.00		
Contour Data	Pole Vectors		
Maximum Density	10.36%		
Contour Distribution	Fisher		
Counting Circle Size	1.0%		
Color	Trend	Plunge	Label
Mean Set Planes			
1m		3	13
2m		268	25
3m		295	16
4m		209	88
Plot Mode	Pole Vectors		
Vector Count	411 (411 Entries)		
Hemisphere	Lower		
Projection	Equal Angle		

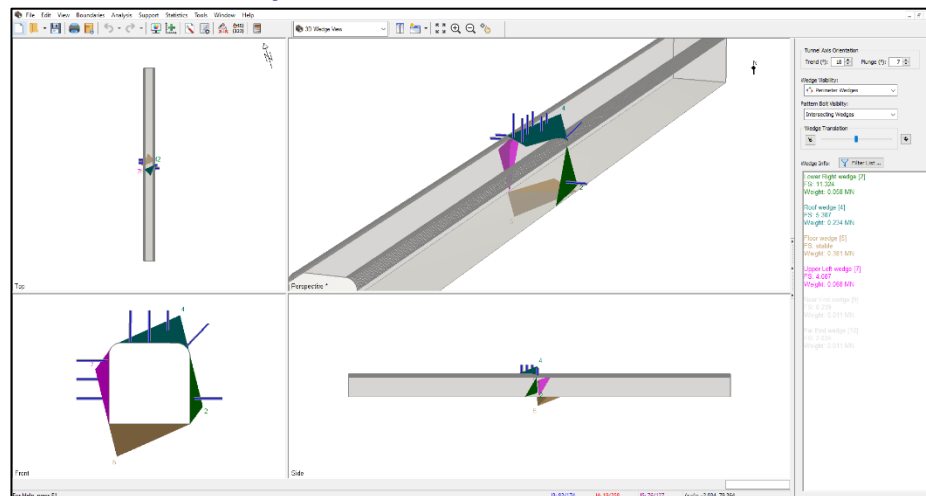
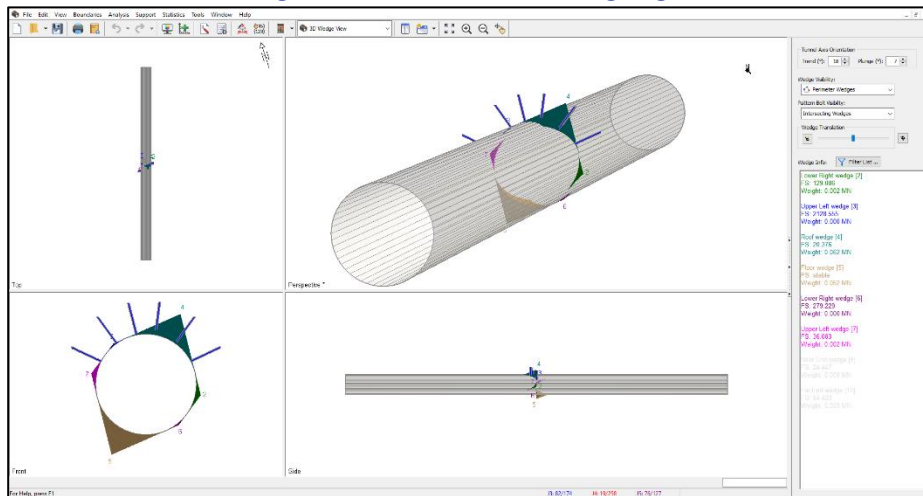
SUPPORT DESIGN

Input parameters for modelling:

MINING TECHNIQUES	MTB	DB
MODEL INPUT PARAMETERS		
Friction angle (Phi) (°)	35	35
Cohesion (MPa)	0.05	0
Tensile strength (MPa)	0.05	0
Dimensions (m)	5.5 Ø	6 x 5.5
SUPPORT PROPERTIES		
Bond strength (MN)	0.2	0.2
Bolt Length (m)	1.8	2.4
Bolt Yield Strength (kN)	200	200

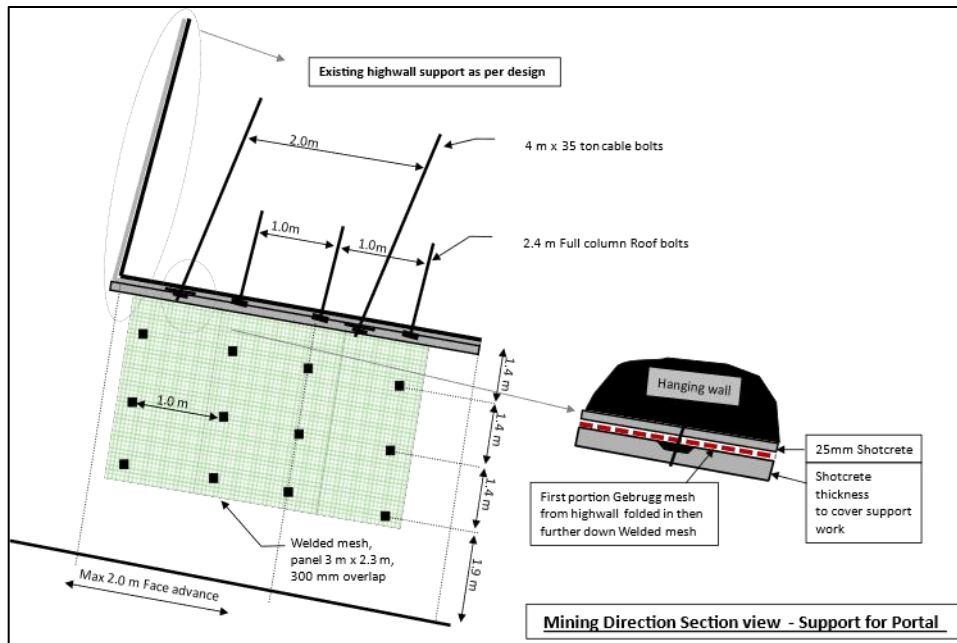
SUPPORT DESIGN

- Various kinematic models were used
- Estimate the possible failure mechanisms
- Results was used as input into support design
- 10 of 10 Joint Combinations were run
- Possible wedge failures from hangingwall, sidewall and face were analyzed as well

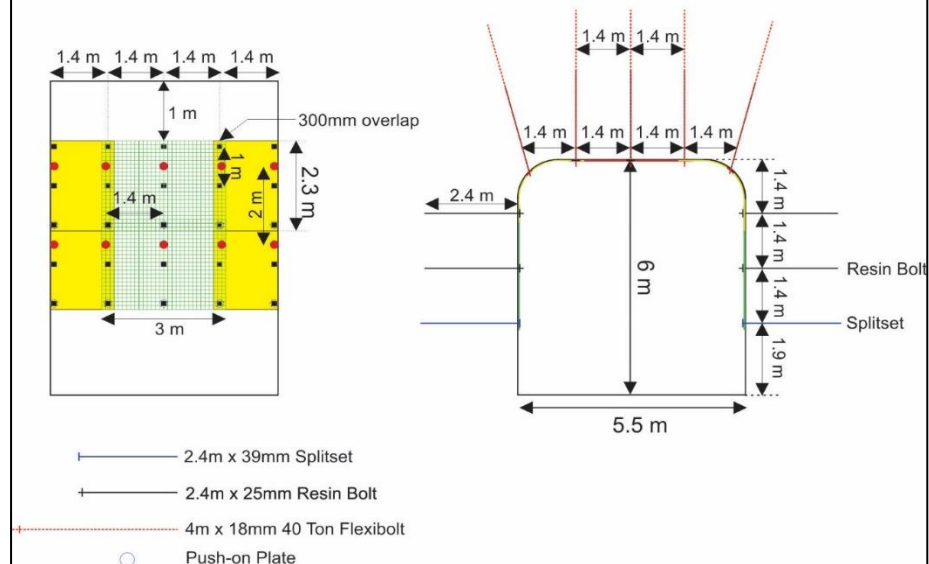


SUPPORT DESIGN

D&B - Portal Support



Support Standard - 6m high x 5.5m wide Decline Initial 10m from Portal Access



SUPPORT DESIGN

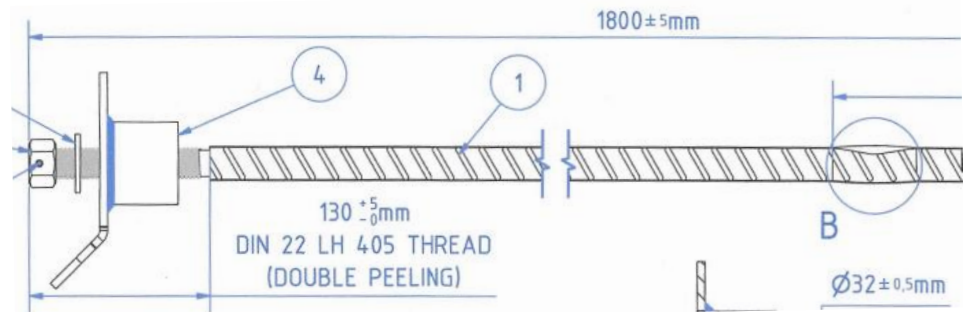
Support product list used as Primary and Secondary Support

Method	D&B	MTB
Support Function	Product	Product
Primary bolt	2.4 m, 25 mm Secura bolts 0.9 m and 2.4 m Split sets	1.8 m, 25 mm Secura bolts
Secondary bolt	4.0 m, 18 mm Flexi cable bolt	4.0 m, 18 mm Flexi cable bolt
Primary resin	1050 mm x 30 mm Slow and fast resin capsules	800 mm x 30 mm Slow and fast resin capsules
Secondary grout	Pumpable grout	Pumpable grout
Primary mesh	5.6 mm dia Galvanized welded mesh	
Secondary support	Fibre reinforced shotcrete	3.2 mm dia Galvanized welded mesh and or Fibre reinforced shotcrete

SUPPORT DESIGN

Using initiatives Support products

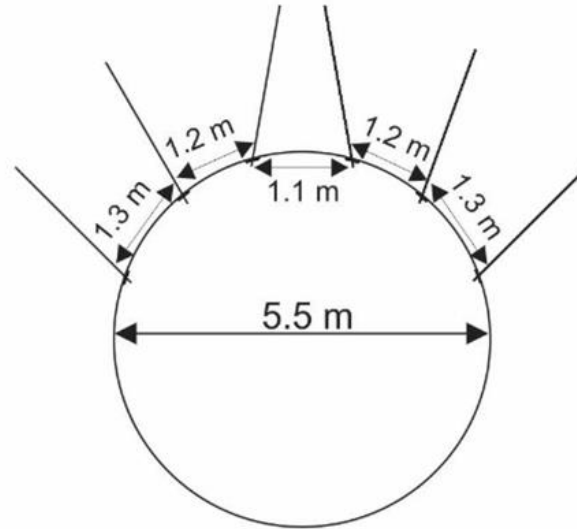
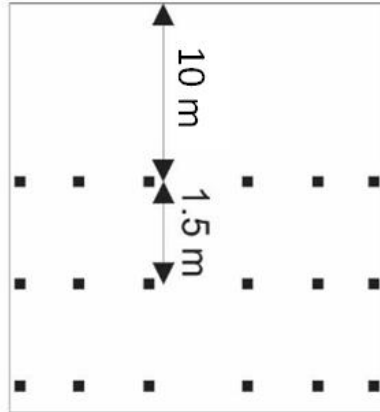
- Countersink bolts – to create smooth tunnel surface in the MTB



SUPPORT DESIGN

MTB – Support Standard

Support Standard - 5.5m Diameter MTB Decline

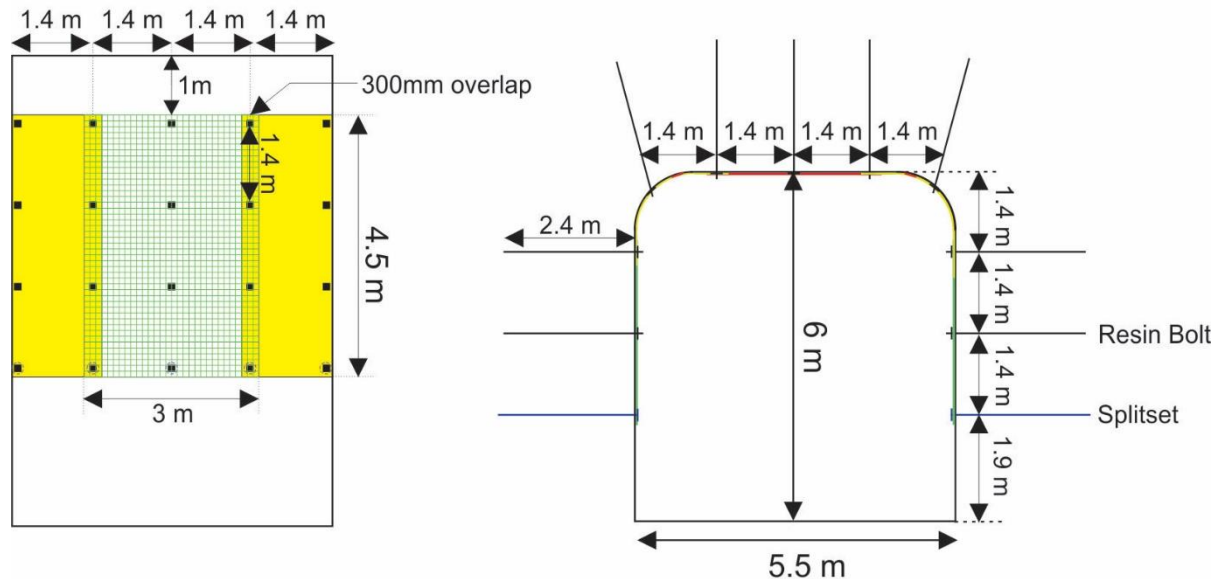


—+ 1.8m x 25mm Resin Bolt

SUPPORT DESIGN

D&B – Support Standard

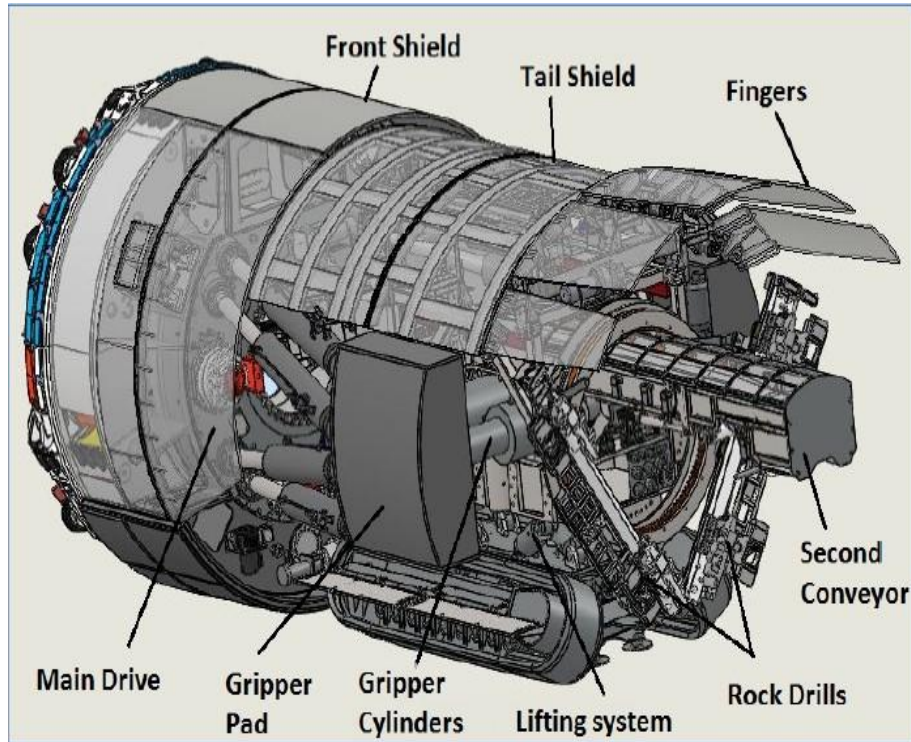
Support Standard - 6m high x 5.5m wide Decline



- 2.4m x 39.5mm Splitset
- 2.4m x 25mm Resin Bolt
- Push-on Plate

MOBILE TUNNEL BORER (MTB)

- Bolter rig – Works in a fixed rotated angle
- Countersink bolts installed flush with rock profile



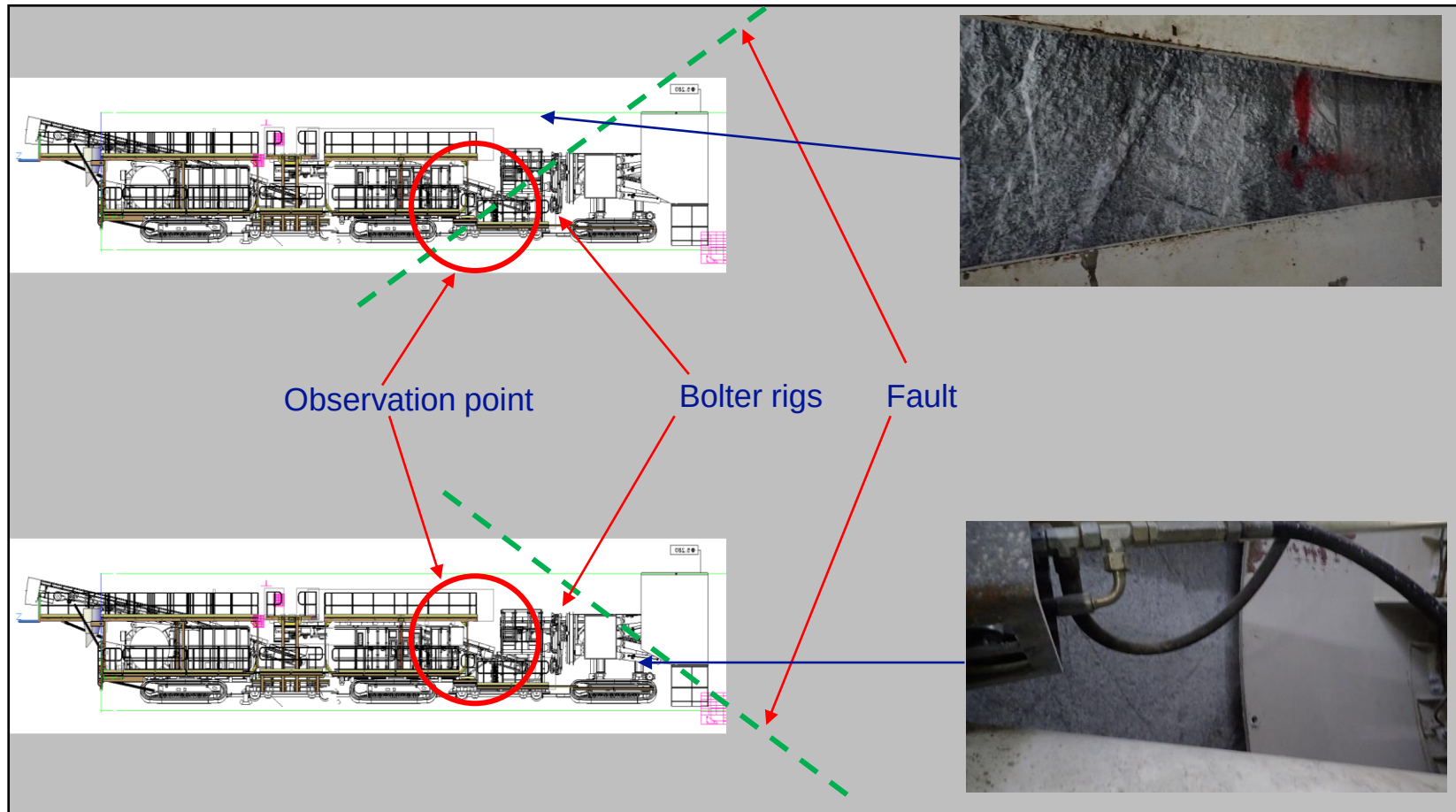
MOBILE TUNNEL BORER (MTB)

Bolter rig – Finger plates where support is installed through
(finger plates only allows support spacing to be 1.1 to 1.3 m apart)



MOBILE TUNNEL BORER (MTB)

Identification is limited on TARP triggers for geological feature

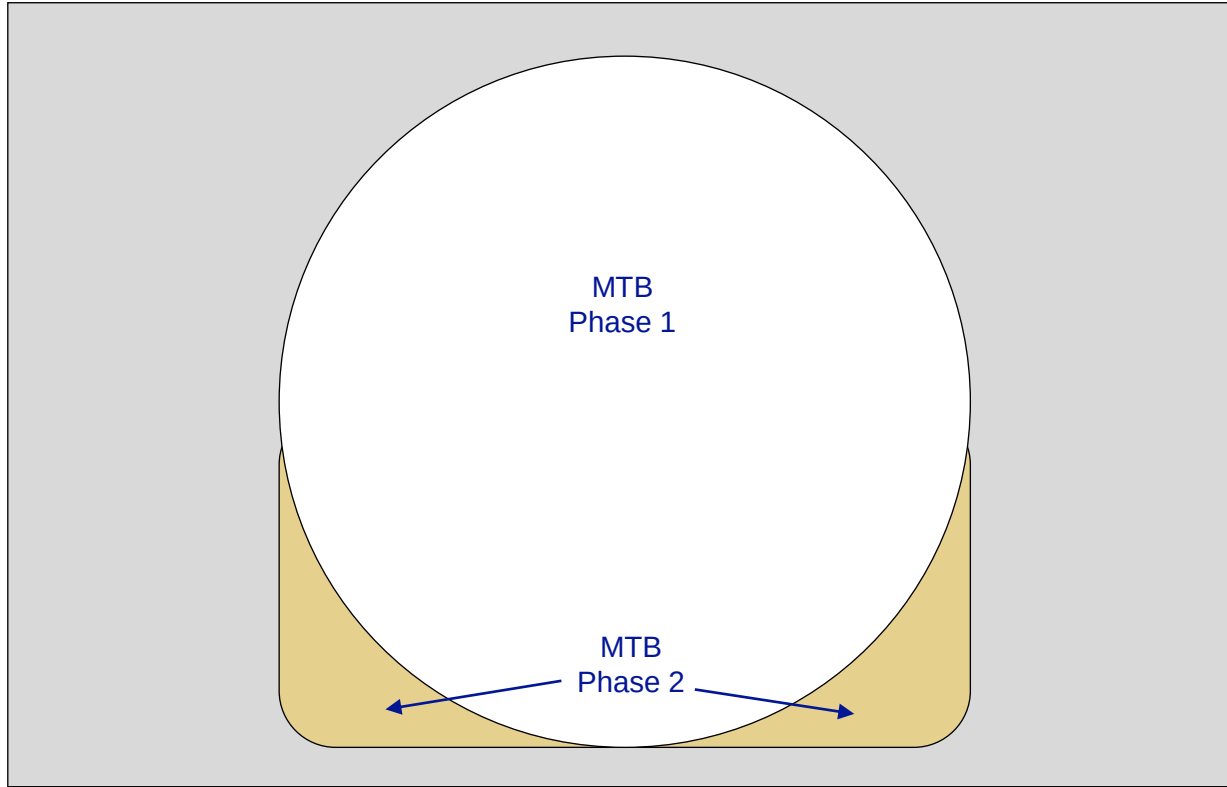


MOBILE TUNNEL BORER (MTB)



MOBILE TUNNEL BORER (MTB)

Phase 2 - bottom part will be cut out to make flat roadway in the MTB



DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)

Dressing the highwall and short rounds were taken to negotiate fractured rock caused by open pit blasting



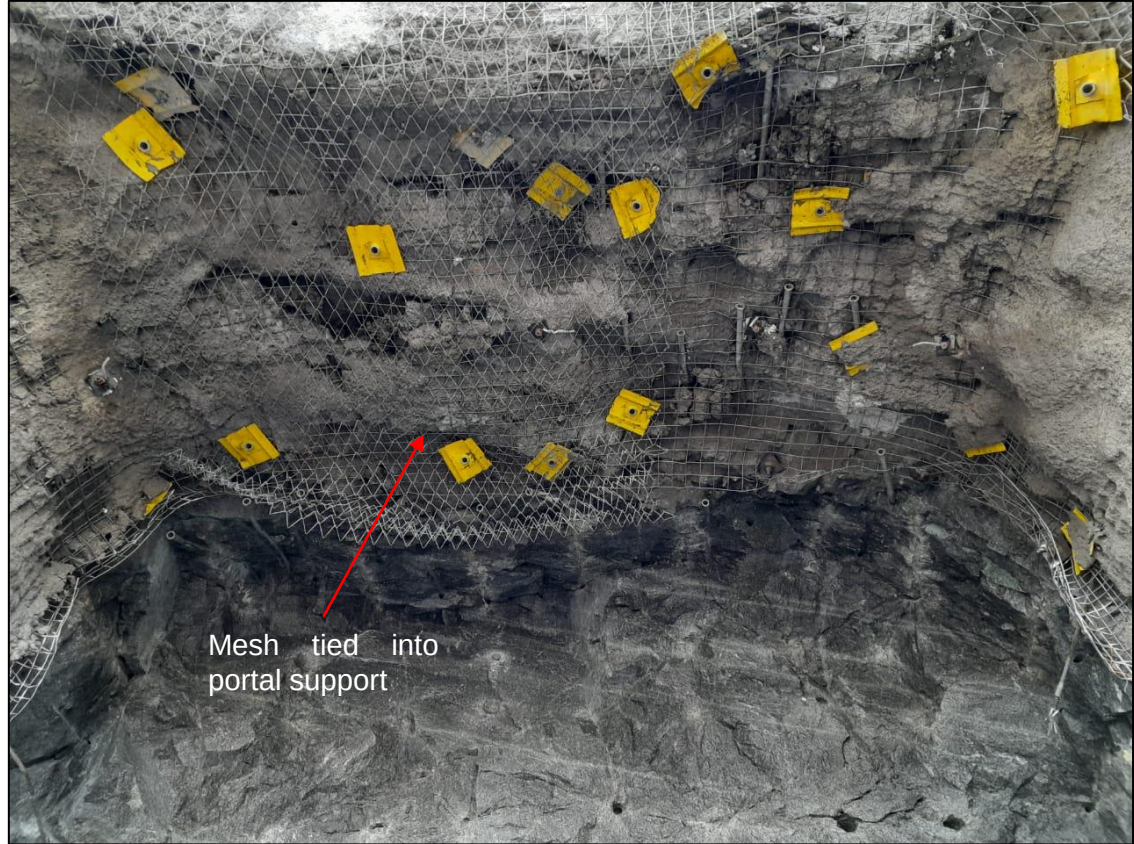
DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)

Spilling bolts and Cable anchors proved successful for undercutting highwall



DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)

Portal taking shape



DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)

Conditions changes with each blast resulted in additional support (cable anchors) being installed as per instructions



DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)



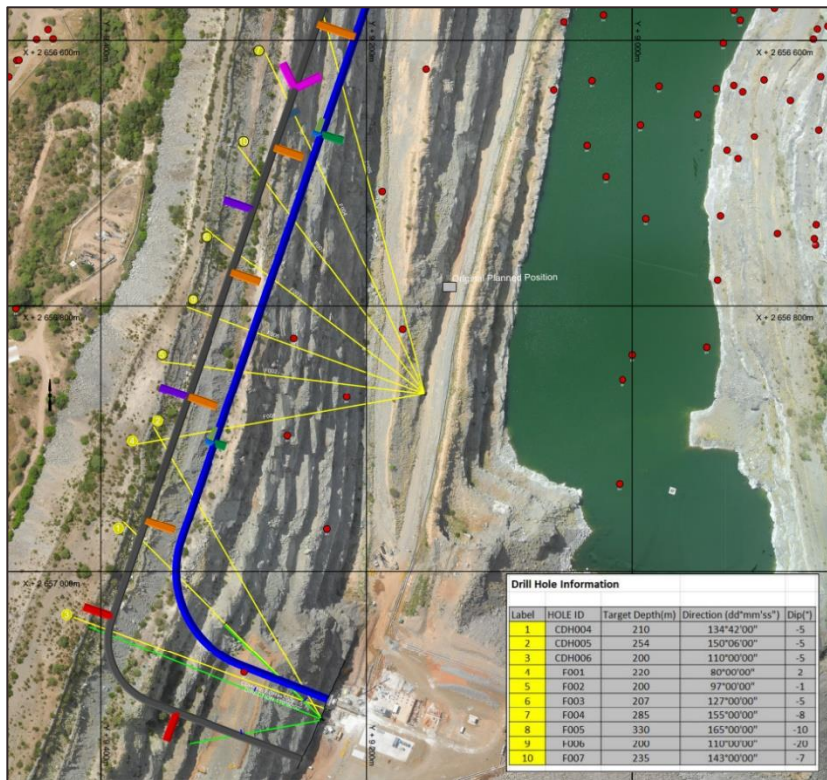
DRILL AND BLAST (D&B)



RISK MITIGATION

Cover drilling program was done to identified adverse geological structures established

- Unexpected water intersection



LEARNINGS

- Underestimated the volume and complexity of the work
- The mind set and alignment of employees from open pit going underground
- Resource the project correctly from the start, two tunnels requires the same input as for a new underground mine

SUCCESSSES

- No injuries
- Short rounds assisting negotiation of poor ground conditions
- No FOG from highwall during blasting
- Project delivered on time
- Very good collaboration between Geotechnical and Mining discipline
- Ground condition in MTB significantly better than D&B



Thank you
Questions ?