

It is highly probable that the network of cavities interconnect in a manner that isolates a number of blocks ranging from centimetres to tens of metres in size. This discovery must be viewed with concern in the light of the proposed open stoping of the Lower Wedge orebody that lies below it.

The hangingwall of the B Lens Decline orebody is formed by the Fulmar Fault, which is a weak fault zone about 1 metre wide that has caused considerable mining problems. A fault in this general position was first suspected from the stope section drilling. About 5 metres beyond the Decline Fault in the access to the -200 metre level hangingwall support drive, poor ground was encountered that continued to run after firing. It piped up about 2 metres above the back before stopping around some horizontal cable bolts previously installed. A small water flow is associated with this area. The fault dips at around 40° to 105° I.S.G. and downfaults the Upper Volcanics against B Lens hangingwall. Both rock units are extensively sheared within a few metres of the fault.

It is possible that the reason for the rock falls in W52 on the -240 metre level is the interaction of the Fulmar Fault with the Decline Fault.