

C Lens Wedge Area

Extensive mining and considerable diamond drilling in the Wedge area have only resulted in minor changes to this orebody.

Upper Wedge

Stoping of the 14th lift has progressed via the L18 access off the Main Decline. This lift lies within the 10 metre sill pillar below the -75 metre level stope and so far about 85% of the available ore has been extracted.

Ground conditions are good. Current plans are for half filling of the Upper Orebody part of this lift in order to strip 2 metres of high grade garnet skarn from the backs.

Mid Wedge

The 3rd lift of this stope is currently being mined via both the O13 and P11 drives. Production figures for the undercut are not representative as this was only the ore encountered by the S11 Lower Wedge access. Both the 1st and 2nd lifts were mined via the P11. Although the O13 (north) end of the stope is technically part of the 3rd lift, production is from full face (development size) headings, thus giving a higher tonnage figure than for a lift which has been previously undercut. Mining of the southern side (P11) of the stope has been heavily influenced and slowed by the poor ground conditions. Here the footwall orebody is steeply dipping (up to 50°) and bedding planes are sharply defined by weak chlorite rich layers. Due to the proximity of the Central Fault, there is a marked change of dip from about 110° to 180° and this is thought to have contributed to the movement and hence chlorite development along bedding planes.

The result of these features have been the occasional fall of blocks (1-2 metres diameter) and very irregular backs. Mine grade to date for the southern (P11) end of the stope has been below reserve grade, the reason for which has not yet been fully ascertained.