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Sumping Machine Approved and Operating

- Sumping machine cutting coal
- Three development machines expansion

The first sumping machine is now extracting coal from secondary workings at Cook Colliery. The mine has reached an important milestone and achieved a planned balance between the three development units (opening up new areas and building inventory) and the sumping unit.

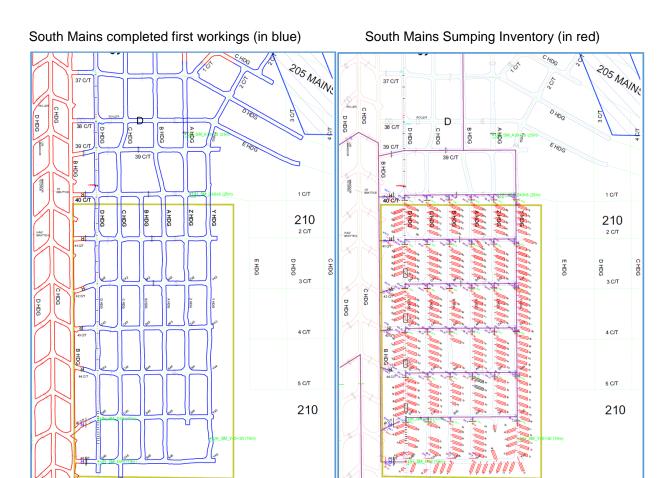
This allows the planned 1Mtpa rate of Run of Mine (RoM) production. There is 40kt of coal immediately ahead of the sumping machine in the South mains which provides an initial 6 weeks of mining before the machine is relocated to the next secondary working area.

This completes the major change in mining systems between the previous owners' longwall, with one large machine in one area, to Bounty's lower risk, multiple unit operation.

Bounty's mining team faced considerable challenges in beginning sumping operations. These included recruiting and training staff, procuring equipment, installing mining systems, and obtaining approvals to commence this higher productivity phase during the September quarter. Other work included ventilation plans, completion of water monitoring holes, completion of geotechnical safety designs, and plans for panel sealing following the completion of mining.

Bounty Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Gary Cochrane said: "I would like to thank the mining team for this great achievement and I now look forward to the third expansion phase as we build towards the 2.2Mtpa rate of RoM."

Diagrams below for the sumping plan in the South Mains with the 40kt of inventory (in red).



Further information:

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