



Location	Off the Kimberley coast, 200km north of Broome, Kimberley region, WA
Client	Portman Mining
Commodity	Iron ore
Contract duration	February 2006 to July 2008
Major contractor since	2000



In 2000, Portman Mining and HWE Mining entered into an agreement to jointly mine 1.5 million tonnes of remnant ore at Cockatoo Island, one of the Buccaneer Archipelago islands and currently the only known sub-sea mining operation in the world.

The mine boasts an exceptional, virtually pure haematite orebody. Dipping down at 60 degrees and at just over 35 metres wide, the orebody has a current mining strike length of just over one kilometre.

A joint venture study undertaken during 2001 revealed that it was feasible to uncover an additional four million tonnes of iron ore from the sections of the orebody extending below the sea water level.

To make mining possible, the joint venture partners constructed a 15 metre high sea wall to prevent tidal water from flowing into the pit and began mining the historical "main" Cockatoo Island orebody in 2002.

HWE Mining provides a complete mining service at Cockatoo Island including drilling

and blasting, loading and hauling, processing, infrastructure management, maintenance and other related services. We use the full range of surface mining plant and equipment at the mine.

Mining is expected to continue until July 2008 and on its completion, HWE Mining will be seeking approval for Stage 3 of the project.

Cockatoo Island operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. HWE Mining employs over 110 people at the mine.

## Production at a glance

- 300,000bcm mined per year
- 1.3 million tonnes of iron ore processed per year



## Scope of work

### Project management

- Provision of registered Mine Manager and other statutory positions
- Management of:
  - Safety and health
  - Environment, community and Indigenous affairs
  - Plant and procurement
  - Human resources and industrial relations
  - Accommodation and air transport
- Preparation of costing and optimisation studies
- Drilling and blasting design
- Short to medium-term mine scheduling

### Mining

- Surveying and set out
- Clearing and grubbing
- Topsoil removal
- Operation and maintenance of:
  - Earthworks infrastructure: dams, roads, drains, stockpile pads and hardstands
  - Structural infrastructure workshops, offices and fuel facilities
  - Services infrastructure
  - Processing plant earthworks infrastructure
  - Structural infrastructure

- Drilling and blasting
- Ore quality sampling and control
- Loading, hauling and dumping waste, ore and ore stockpiles
- Port management
- De-watering
- Ground support installation

### Rehabilitation

- Dump profiling
- Selective capping placement
- Topsoil placement
- Contouring
- Tree planting
- Fauna habitat rehabilitation
- Care and maintenance

EQUIPMENT	
GD5000 drill rig	1
Caterpillar 773B dump trucks	4
Hitachi EX1200 excavators	2
Caterpillar D10R track dozer	1
Caterpillar 988F wheel loaders	2
Ancillary items	