

Gerhardus Jacobus (Gazza) Steyn

Senior Mining Engineer | Mine Planning, Scheduling and Technical Services Leader | FAusIMM

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PROFILE

Mining engineer and statutory mining leader with more than 30 years in underground and open-pit operations across Australia, South Africa and the Solomon Islands, with Tier 1 and Tier 2 operators including BHP, Glencore, South32, De Beers, AngloGold and St Barbara. I came up through the ranks from learner official to production shiftboss and acting mine overseer, then moved into mine planning, scheduling and technical services leadership. I have built two in-house planning departments from scratch, delivered life-of-mine, budget and short-term plans in Deswik, Datamine, Vulcan and XPAC, and automate reporting so leaders get numbers they can trust. Fellow of the AusIMM with a Master of Engineering Management.

CORE CAPABILITIES

- **Operations and statutory leadership:** production shiftboss, statutory shiftboss and acting mine overseer; legal inspections, drilling and blasting, groundhandling and ground control.
- **Mine planning and scheduling:** short-, medium- and long-term and life-of-mine schedules; budgets and forecasts; resource and reserve reporting; reconciliation.
- **Technical services leadership:** led survey and mining engineering teams; relieved as Mine Manager; site leadership team member.
- **Mining methods:** sublevel open stoping, block caving, deep-level gold stoping, board and pillar, open-pit and strip mining (gold, base metals, diamonds, manganese and bauxite).
- **Project management:** planning, scope, cost, risk, stakeholder engagement and delivery; capital projects, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and formal project management training.
- **Business improvement:** Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project; value stream management; Power BI and Excel automation.
- **Safety and risk:** risk management, WHS policy and management systems; emergency preparedness; mines rescue.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- **Glencore, Mount Isa:** project-managed an underground workshop conversion to a fresh-air base (AU\$10M investment; NPV of AU\$138M).
- **BHP GEMCO:** Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project to increase direct-feed ore and cut ROM rehandling; sourced the XACT planning tool as a capital project.
- **Training:** project management subjects in the Master of Engineering Management (Southern Cross University, 2020), including Project Management Principles; BHP project management courses PM101 and PM201 (2010).

CAREER HISTORY

Senior Specialist – Business Improvement / Operational Excellence | Perilya, Broken Hill NSW | 2026

- Designed and launched a value stream management process (primary and enabling value streams) for the operation.
- Managed daily and month-end leadership reporting; delivered automated Power BI dashboards and integrated reporting.
- Built digital idea-submission forms and standard pre-start agendas (Safety, Alignment and Innovation) in Microsoft 365.

Senior Scheduling Engineer | Perilya, Broken Hill NSW | 2017 – 2026

- Owned short-, medium- and long-term underground schedules for the Broken Hill operation, built from mine designs in Deswik CAD, IS, SO and Sched and Vulcan; one direct report.
- Ran the weekly pre-plan and 3-month forecast meetings covering shaft, electrical, fan and equipment availability; tracked schedule compliance.
- Maintained the mining model (as-built depletion, survey void shapes, stope optimisation in Deswik SO) for annual resource reporting across the South, North and Potosi mines.
- Migrated scheduling from Datamine to Deswik; standardised mining models across three mines; built tonne-kilometre tracking from first principles.
- Automated end-of-month, GM, daily and scheduling reports and dashboards in Excel.

Senior Scheduling Engineer / Vacuum Drilling Supervisor | South32 Worsley Alumina (formerly BHP Billiton), WA | 2014 – 2016

- Delivered 2-year budget and 3-month forecast schedules, including bauxite stacking and reclaiming plans, using OPMS, HAULSIM and XACT; built an automated stacker/reclaimer scheduling tool.
- Commissioned and supervised grade-control vacuum drilling (2 rigs, 4 direct reports) as trainer and assessor; more than doubled first-season targets with a strong safety record.
- Statutory workplace inspection appointee under the WA Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations (2015).
- Site: ~19 Mtpa bauxite ore plus ~10 Mtpa waste.

Technical Services Superintendent | St Barbara – Gold Ridge, Solomon Islands | 2013 – 2014

- Led mining engineering and survey for 4 open pits feeding a 2.5 Mtpa mill (about 700 staff); short- and medium-term plans, drill and blast, budgets, survey and life-of-mine input.
- Relieved as Mine Manager 8 times over 5 months (Apr–Sep 2013) and as Acting Production Superintendent; site leadership team member.
- Maintained compliance, waste dump and traffic management plans; coached and developed Solomon Islands national staff.
- Site: fleet of Cat 775, Bell B50 and Cat 740 trucks, Hitachi EX1200 and Cat 385 excavators.

Senior Mine Planning Engineer; Senior Long Term Planning Engineer (from 2012) | Glencore (Xstrata), Mount Isa QLD | 2011 – 2013

- Issued final stope and development designs for sublevel open stoping on the ENT orebody (2012 targets: 6.2 Mt hoisted at 2.63% Cu); coordinated and checked designs from four engineers; mentored junior engineers.
- Led annual reserve updates and resource-to-reserve conversion; maintained the ore-pass risk register and vertical-openings inspection list.
- Project-managed an underground workshop conversion to a fresh-air base (AU\$10M investment; NPV of AU\$138M).
- Site: sublevel open stoping across 86 levels and sublevels, 3 shafts plus a subshaft, 9 surface fans and 7 refrigeration plants.

Senior Mining Engineer / Technical Lead | BHP GEMCO, Groote Eylandt NT | 2009 – 2011

- Led survey and planning (4 direct reports, plus consultants and contractors) for a ~6 Mtpa manganese strip mine; designs, schedules, drill and blast and monthly reconciliations.
- Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project to increase direct-feed ore and cut rehandling; sourced the XACT pit-to-port planning tool.

Mine Planning Superintendent | BHP Hotazel Manganese Mines, South Africa | 2007 – 2009

- Set up in-house mine planning for Wessels underground (board and pillar, ~1.2 Mtpa) and Mamatwan open pit (3–4 Mtpa): XPAC models, life-of-mine plans and 4 direct reports; saving of about ZAR 8M a year.

Shiftboss, Short-Term Planner, Automation Control Room Supervisor, Acting Mine Overseer | De Beers Finsch Mine, South Africa | 2000 – 2007

- Statutory shiftboss for groundhandling (5 km of conveyors, 8 ore passes, 19 apron feeders and 8 sizers over 3 levels) and for drilling and blasting.
- Short-term planner (budgets, reconciliations and forecasts); automation control room supervisor for a block cave (remote and autonomous loading, trucking and crushing).
- Acting Mine Overseer for construction, production, and shaft and groundhandling; mines rescue member.

Learner Official to Production Shiftboss | AngloGold (Freddies), Free State, South Africa | 1990 – 2000

- Came up through the Learner Official programme; production shiftboss (appointed 1994) in deep-level gold stoping and development, leading crews of up to 130.
- Legal inspections, blasting and explosives control; performance tracked monthly against square-metre and face-advance targets.

QUALIFICATIONS

- **Master of Engineering Management** – Southern Cross University (2020)
- **National Higher Diploma, Metalliferous Mining** (1999) – assessed comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree (WA, 2016)
- **National Diploma, Metalliferous Mining** (1998)

- **WA First Class Mine Manager (Non-coal):** passed WA First Class Mine Manager legislation exam (2025), awaiting MCAC certificate
- **South African statutory certificates:** Mine Overseer's Certificate of Competency (1999); Blasting Certificate (1992); Onsetter/Banksman (Shaftsman) Certificate (1992)
- **TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment** (2011); appointed Workplace Trainer/Assessor, Xstrata (2012)
- **Fellow, AusIMM (FAusIMM)**

TRAINING, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **Risk and WHS:** RIIRIS501E, RIIRIS402E and BSBWHS411 (2025); RIERR601D Establish and Maintain Mine Emergency Preparedness and Response; Minerals Industry Risk Management Intensive (MINE7033, UQ)
- **First aid:** HLTAID011 Provide First Aid and HLTAID010 Basic Emergency Life Support (2024)
- **Mines Rescue Certificate** (2000)
- **Deswik certified training:** 1.01 Getting Started, 1.02 CAD Essentials, 1.03 Sched Essentials and 1.04 Process Map Essentials (2021); 4.02 Design for Underground Metals and 4.03 Deswik.IS for Underground Metals (2022)
- **Mining operations units:** RII20209 Certificate II and RII30109 Certificate III in Surface Extraction Operations units (2011)

SYSTEMS

Deswik CAD, IS, SO, Sched and Process Mapping (expert); Datamine Studio UG and EPS; Maptek Vulcan; RPM XPAC, XACT, OPMS and HAULSIM; Microsoft Excel (advanced automation), Power BI, Access and Project; Microsoft SharePoint, Forms, Lists, Planner, Visio, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint (Expert); SAP.

LICENCES

NSW driver licence and Heavy Rigid (HR) licence

LANGUAGES

English and Afrikaans (fluent); Fanakalo (working knowledge)

REFEREE

Available on request