

# SUSTAINABILITY:

## RESPONSIBILITY MANAGING WATER USE

We understand water is a valuable resource, especially in southern Arizona. That's why South32's Hermosa project is committed to being one of the safest and most efficient mines when it comes to water. We're designing Hermosa from the ground up with advanced technology and monitoring systems to deliver on that commitment.

### MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY AND USING LESS WATER WHENEVER POSSIBLE:



Completed a \$30 million site cleanup of mine waste left by a previous miner, which helped save taxpayers money, protect the natural environment, and stop and mitigate heavy metals from polluting local waterways, both now and in the future.

Built the country's first new dry-stack tailings facility, which limits surface disturbance and offers the highest standard of safety and water conservation.

Planning to mine underground to avoid extensive water use for dust suppression.

Hermosa will use **75% less water** than other mines in the region.



### PROTECTING WATER QUALITY WITH TWO STATE-OF-THE-ART GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANTS THAT:



Safeguard water used to meet or exceed stringent state and federal health and safety standards.

Capture and remove naturally-occurring groundwater elements that pre-date Hermosa, including selenium, lead and arsenic, to ensure protection of the environment and downstream users.

Robustly monitor water quality since 2016 to provide baseline measurements and inform project design.

Our goal is to make sure any water we release back into the environment is a higher quality than when we found it. Our systems actually **improve** a water resource that is naturally poor in quality to **meet or exceed state and federal quality standards**.

### COMMITTED TO ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY AND HAVE:



Listened to the Santa Cruz County community and identified alternate ways to manage the excess groundwater, keeping water in the Patagonia Mountains.

Partnered with the Town of Patagonia to study water discharge impacts. The publicly-available study found discharges would have minimal impact to potential flooding.

Deployed a community well-monitoring program that is expected to evolve over time to assure that everyone has safe access to water.

South32's Hermosa project will be a different type of mine that **sustainably produces critical minerals**, putting Arizona in the driver's seat of the clean energy race and transforming the local economy.