**INDUSTRY:** Gold Mining  
**CUSTOMER:** Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM)  
**EQUIPMENT:** Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber

### Background
Located on the south-east edge of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, the “Super Pit” is run by Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM), a company owned by Newmont Australia Pty Ltd and Barrick Australia Pacific. Since 1989 KCGM has managed one of the most successful and enduring mining operations in Australia’s history. In the past 25 years KCGM has produced approximately 800,000 ounces of gold per year from a reserve of 8.8 million ounces, yielding an average of 2 grams per tonne. Since its discovery, the Super Pit (currently spanning over 1.5km wide) has produced approximately 58 million ounces.¹

### The Challenge
KCGM were seeking a solution for lost time during their pipeline section change outs. KCGM had been using incumbent pipes that required repairing every six months. Each pipeline on site is made up of six sections, costing KCGM approximately AU$4,790 each to fix, including labour for removal and repair. The whole pipeline required repairing twice a year, costing KCGM a total of AU$49,980 per annum. KCGM needed a solution to increase not only productivity, but reduce their overall operation costs.

### The Solution
Weir Minerals provided KCGM a Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose with a Linatex® Premium liner to trial. Recognising that the initial cost for rubber hose can be higher than other products, Weir Minerals demonstrated to KCGM that Linatex® hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber has a greater wear life which reduces maintenance downtime, resulting in increased productivity.

### The Results
Whilst KCGM was trialling the Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose, they were also testing a rubber hose from another manufacturer.

Linatex® 808 Hard Wall Slurry Hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber saves KCGM more than AU$40k per year
The Results cont.

The Linatex® 808 hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber outperformed both the incumbent rubber lined pipe and the competitor’s rubber hose. Despite the higher initial cost, Weir Minerals saved KCGM over AU$40,000 per year, per pipeline and were almost AU$8,000 per year less than the competitor’s rubber hose product, reducing KCGM’s total ownership costs.

Another major benefit of the Linatex® 808 hose lined with Linatex® Premium rubber was that it only needed to be replaced once every four years.

The Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber provided the solution that KCGM were seeking: Reduction of down time on site, avoiding critical failures, increasing productivity and reducing operational costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Cost/section</th>
<th>Sections per line</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Number of changes per year</th>
<th>Yearly cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incumbent pipe</td>
<td>AU$ 4,040.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>AU$ 750.00</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>AU$ 49,980.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitor hose</td>
<td>AU$ 5,575.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>AU$ 750.00</td>
<td>0.5[^2]</td>
<td>AU$ 17,100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose</td>
<td>AU$ 6,125.00</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>AU$ 750.00</td>
<td>0.25[^3]</td>
<td>AU$ 9,375.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[^2] Competitor hose lasted two years before replacement was required.

[^3] Linatex® 808 hard wall slurry hose manufactured with Linatex® Premium rubber lasted four years before replacement was required.