



Mike Rann Premier of South Australia

BHP Billiton remains committed to Olympic Dam expansion

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Premier Mike Rann says the approvals process for the expansion of Olympic Dam remains on track despite cutbacks across BHP Billiton operations worldwide.

The Premier says BHP Billiton today indicated that it remained committed to the project.

“Clearly challenging global circumstances are having an impact on all companies and the world’s largest miner is not immune.

“This company, like other mining companies, is being forced to cut its cloth because of the global financial crisis.

“However, the good news for South Australia is that production targets at Olympic Dam are unchanged and the planning continues for the expansion of what will be the world’s largest open cut mine.

“Formal indenture negotiations between the SA Government and BHP Billiton begin next month, on schedule.

“Both the company and the Government remain committed to ensuring that the process for the environmental approvals will proceed as planned.”

Premier Rann says he expects the Environmental Assessment Statement on the expansion of Olympic Dam to be available for 40 business days of public comment from May.

