





ASX/Media Release - 18 August 2016

# **Cascavel Gold Mine – Operations Update**

Ramp-up of gold production to commence shortly with commissioning phase to successfully complete by the end of August

## **Key Points:**

- Gravity circuit now operating above targeted 85% availability level
- First batch of production ore scheduled to be processed early next week
- Mine development and production currently focused on higher-grade Central and Southern areas
- Mine definition drilling now underway to assist with mine planning and future expansion
- Remediation of shaft access for bulk sampling of the Cuca lode, located ~20m below the Cascavel lode, underway

Orinoco Gold Limited (ASX: OGX) is pleased to provide an update on operations at its flagship 70%-owned **Cascavel Gold Mine** in central Brazil, where plant commissioning is nearing completion and the ramp-up of commercial gold production is about to commence.

### **Plant Commissioning**

Commissioning of the Cascavel processing circuit is progressing on schedule and will be completed by the end of August, at which point the Company will move into the production ramp-up phase.

The comminution circuit and the gravity circuit have been operating well and are now consistently performing above the targeted 85% availability level. The tailings circuit has been the subject of most adjustments during the commissioning process and, following the latest alterations performed over the last few days, is now also expected to consistently meet or exceed targeted availability.



**Figure 1**. *Left:* Gravity circuit during night shift. *Right*: Vibrating screen between the comminution and gravity circuits with oversize material re-circulating back through the comminution circuit.



Development material is continuing to be processed through the plant, with the first batch of production ore scheduled to be processed through the plant early next week. Due to the heterogeneous nature of the ore, an estimated grade of this material will be reported as a range and will be based on sampling the various stages of the comminution circuit and an estimate of gold-in-concentrate produced from the shaking table.

Results from the initial batch of production ore will allow Orinoco to reconcile the production grade against panel samples and visual grade assessment in the mine. In turn, this will assist with scheduling production and mine planning over the coming months accordingly.

### **Mine Development**

Mine development and production is currently focused on the higher grade Central and Southern portions of the mine, with stopes in the South currently being mined to provide production ore to the plant.

The previously announced mine definition drilling program is also underway and will provide information to assist Orinoco with mine planning and development.

The Cuca gold lode, located approximately 20m below the Cascavel gold lode that is currently being mined, is being accessed via a previously used shaft that is currently being dewatered and made safe for permanent access. Once this activity is complete, a further bulk sample will be mined from this lode (previously announced bulk sample of 2.5t grading 27.2g/t Au<sup>1</sup>) and an assessment made of potential future mining from this lode.



Figure 2. The existing Cuca shaft, with a depth of 18m, is being dewatered and made safe prior to further bulk sampling.

Orinoco's Managing Director, Mark Papendieck, said that with commissioning of the Cascavel processing plant nearly complete, the operation was now ready to move into a production ramp-up phase.

"The Cascavel site is currently a hive of activity with our development, mining and operations teams now in the full swing of operations," he said. "Our focus over the last two months has been on getting the Cascavel processing circuit through commissioning and ready to start processing production material – and by the end of this month we will be in exactly that position."

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See ASX announcement dated 14 May 2014



"Our mining and plant teams have done a great job to get to this point so quickly, and the next important milestone will be to process the first batch of production ore, which should occur next week. That will provide invaluable grade reconciliation information which will assist our mine planning team.

"We look forward to providing further updates as this occurs and as we begin the main production ramp-up from early September onwards," Mr Papendieck said. "All going well with the ramp-up, we anticipate being in a position to declare commercial gold production during the December quarter."

#### -ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

Mark Papendieck
Managing Director
Orinoco Gold Limited
08 9463 3241
info@orinocogold.com

Nicholas Read Managing Director Read Corporate 08 9388 1474

#### Forward-Looking Statements:

This Announcement includes "forward-looking statements" as that term within the meaning of securities laws of applicable jurisdictions. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that are in some cases beyond Orinoco Gold Limited's control. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, all statements other than statements of historical facts contained in this presentation, including, without limitation, those regarding Orinoco Gold Limited's future expectations. Readers can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "aim," "anticipate," "assume," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "risk," "should," "will" or "would" and other similar expressions. Risks, uncertainties and other factors may cause Orinoco Gold Limited's actual results, performance, production or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements (and from past results, performance or achievements). These factors include, but are not limited to, the failure to complete and commission the mine facilities, processing plant and related infrastructure in the time frame and within estimated costs currently planned; variations in global demand and price for gold materials; fluctuations in exchange rates between the U.S. Dollar, the Brazilian Real and the Australian dollar; the failure of Orinoco Gold Limited's suppliers, service providers and partners to fulfil their obligations under construction, supply and other agreements; unforeseen geological, physical or meteorological conditions, natural disasters or cyclones; changes in the regulatory environment, industrial disputes, labour shortages, political and other factors; the inability to obtain additional financing, if required, on commercially suitable terms; and global and regional economic conditions. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. The information concerning possible production in this announcement is not intended to be a forecast. They are internally generated goals set by the board of directors of Orinoco Gold Limited. The ability of the company to achieve any targets will be largely determined by the company's ability to secure adequate funding, implement mining plans and resolve logistical issues associated with mining. Although Orinoco Gold Limited believes that its expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements involve risks and uncertainties and no assurance can be given that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements. No JORC Mineral Resources or Reserves have been estimated for the Cascavel Gold Mine.