

Media Coverage



BY BIANCA BARTUCCIOTTO

A good news story in the mining industry - ABC Refinery (ABC) has been appointed to the prestigious London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) Good Delivery list for gold.

ABC's appointment shatters what was a monopoly in the Australian refinery industry.

Previously only the Perth Mint had LBMA accreditation, but the new appointment changes the game.

The Good Delivery list now consists of 73 LBMA-accredited gold refineries around the globe.

ABC is the only independent LBMA-accredited gold refinery in Australia and reaffirms the position of the ABC Bullion brand as a cornerstone of the physical gold trading system.

ABC Refinery Managing Director Phillip Cochineas said the move was significant for the nation's gold industry.

"The Australian gold industry is actually a really good story," he said. "The price is at \$1500 per ounce, which is close to the peak price."

"The listing of ABC Refinery is a real shift in the dynamic of the Australian gold producing and refining industry because it recognises ABC Refinery as one of the exclusive members of the Good Delivery list."

"[ABC's gold] has become acceptable on a global scale and opens us up to international markets."

"Gold is our third largest export and represents \$14 billion in exports and it is the mining industry's second largest employer."

"Australia is the second largest gold producer in the world. Australian gold miners remain some of the most profitable in the world and I think one of the reasons for that is despite the decline in the US dollar gold price, that has been matched by the decline in the Australian dollar."

"[This accreditation] positions Australia as a cost-competitive solution because LBMA is a recognised standard."

"It means we are in a stronger position to service the regional market and are in fact more competitive with the declining Australian dollar."

Mr Cochineas said this was not only good news for the producers, as they had options for LBMA refinery, but good news for consumers.

He added the appointment was a manufacturing success story in an otherwise flat Australian market, saying it was the "value add" that other industries were missing out on.

"If you look at iron ore or some of the other stuff in the industry, Australia digs this stuff out of the ground and ships it offshore for the value add to occur," Mr Cochineas said.

"With ABC we add value to the commodity here. Whether it's in bullion or in jewellery, we are keeping value in Australia."

To be successfully accredited ABC Refinery had to satisfy the LBMA of its ownership, history, production capability and financial standing.

It was also required to pass LBMA's technical testing procedures whereby the bullion gold bars were examined and assayed by independent referees and its own assaying capabilities were tested. The refinery, a division of Pallion, is located in Sydney. The refined gold output is in the form of cast bars as well as minted product. NMCC