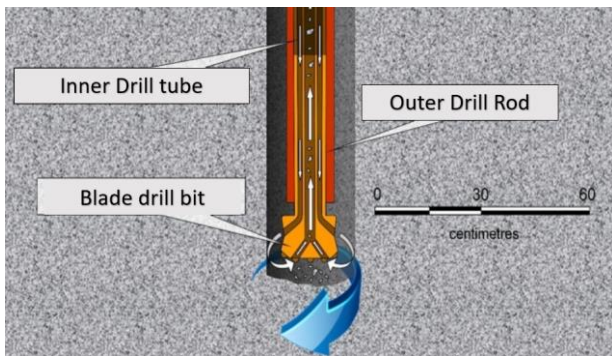


FACT SHEET

Air Core Drilling

What is Air Core drilling?

Air Core (AC) drilling is a rotary type of drilling in which broken rock from the cutting face passes to the surface inside a separate tube within the drill stem using compressed air.



Why use Air Core drilling?

AC Drilling is used to look for geological information at depth. It helps to determine the quantity and extent of potential gold mineralisation in a fast time frame. Holes can be completed in less than one day, reducing the period of disruption and potential impacts for land users or private landowners.

AC drilling uses a 'blade bit' used to drill through softer materials (e.g., clay and sand) but cannot penetrate hard rock. AC drilling utilised a smaller footprint and faster processes than alternative exploration drilling methods (e.g., diamond or reverse circulation).

What's involved in the drilling?

- AC drilling utilises a truck mounted drill rig supported by a truck mounted air compressor, which provides air to recover soil and rock samples from a 3.5 inch drill hole.
- The soil and rock chips are collected in bags and removed from site for sampling and analysis.
- Multiple holes may be drilled in rapid succession up to 150 m deep.
- Occasionally a vacuum truck will attend the drill site to remove drilling cuttings and water.
- Several other support vehicles will also be present including light vehicles and an all-terrain front-end loader.

What is the impact?

The drilling footprint will be approximately 10m x 40 m and will usually consist of 2 large trucks and a light vehicle.

As each hole is short in duration and the rig will only operate during daytime 7:00am to 5:00pm.

Environmental control measures will be implemented throughout the duration of the AC drilling program to manage potential impacts.

Upon completion, drill holes will be grouted to 1m below the surface and then backfilled with soil. The drilling footprint area will be rehabilitated and monitored in accordance with the [Victorian Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration](#).



How do I find out more?

Please contact the Fosterville Gold Mine Community Team via the details below:

Mail: Fosterville Gold Mine
McCormick's Road
Fosterville, VIC, 3557

Phone: 03 5439 9000

Email: FGM.Community@agnicoeagle.com

Website: fgmcommunity.com.au

For information about your rights as a landholder, please use the [Land Access Guide prepared by the Minerals Council of Victoria and Victorian Farmers Federation](#). Or contact a member of the FGM community team to request a copy of the guide.

Scan the QR code to see an AC drill rig operating.

