



Coen Louwarts

Principal Risk Consultant

Coen joined IMIU's engineering team as a Principal Risk Engineer in early November 2015. Coen is Dutch and since 2019 is based in Perth, Australia. A large part of his mining career he worked for two of the leading global mining and metals companies, Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton.

Coen successfully studied for a Master of Science (MSc) in Mining Engineering (1990 - 1996) at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. As part of this degree he had an opportunity to complete his final year at the College's Royal School of Mines in London where he received the International Diploma of Imperial College and was awarded British Mining Student of the year.

Coen is an experienced and qualified mining engineer with 25 years' experience in operations, technical and commercial roles, working on mines around the world exploiting a range of metals and minerals.

His mining career started in Australia working for BHP Billiton as a Graduate Mining Engineer. From 1996 to 2001, he worked at various Australian metallurgical coal mines such as Peak Downs, Blackwater, Goonyella Riverside and Moura. His responsibilities included extensive mine design and short and long-term planning for various production departments, capital equipment selection and justification, cost and operational modelling, whole life asset planning and coal quality engineering. Whilst working at Moura Mine, he was Drill and Blast manager and had full management and responsibility for all drill and blast related matters, including leading the drill and blast crews.

In 2000, Coen completed an MBA at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane. Whilst completing his MBA, he worked as a consultant for the BHP Billiton Blackwater Mine, which acquired the neighbouring South Blackwater mine. He developed a project and investment plan for the integration of the two mines which included business and risk modelling and capital requirement forecasting.

In 2001, he moved to London in the UK. From 2001 to 2005 he worked as a consultant and interim manager for a number of clients in the UK such as Tube Lines, Metronet and London Underground. These companies had embarked one of the largest Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts. His assignments included development of risk management plans, contract and claims management, and long-term business and investment planning. During this time he also worked as an Operations Director for a construction company leading their infrastructure construction operations in mainland Europe. The department he led consisted of approximately 250 people, and he often visited the various sites to ensure procedures and safety standards were adhered to.



In 2007, he started with Rio Tinto in London as a Principal Advisor Business Analysis. He worked within the Technology & Innovation department providing advice to various business units on the financial viability of mine expansions new projects, and potential acquisition targets. This work involved close co-operation with various technical specialists and combining all this information to develop financial valuations. Some of the mines/projects that Coen worked upon included strategic production planning for Rossing and ERA Uranium, financial valuations for Chapudi Coal, Grasberg and Escondida Copper, Palabora, as well as a number of PGM and industrial minerals projects (Lithium, Potash and Talc).

In 2008, he became Manager of Business Analysis in Rio Tinto's Copper Group in London. He worked within the Joint Venture Management team which looked after Rio Tinto's share in Escondida, Grasberg and the Palabora Mining Company. His work varied from operational and technical reviews to project valuations. He was a member of the Technical Committees for Escondida and Grasberg, which involved very frequent site visits and working closely with the BHP Billiton and Freeport teams. He participated in a large number of project reviews including new concentrators, desalination plants and underground mine expansions (block caving). Coen worked on a number of Rio Tinto Investment Committee and Board proposals for joint venture projects and other copper opportunities. During 2009-2012, Coen was a member of the Board (Alternate Non-Executive Director) for the Palabora Mining Company. He was also involved in the Palabora BEE transaction and strategy development. Furthermore, he was actively involved in various corporate activities such as BHBP's bid defence, the proposed merger with Chinalco and other mergers and acquisitions and due diligence.

In 2013, Coen setup his own consultancy company - Minconsult Ltd - in London, where he acted as consultant on a range of projects in the mining industry. He advised a private equity fund on suitable acquisition targets in the copper industry, conducted various project reviews and technical/commercial due diligences, and worked on a number of new ventures, including a zinc mine restart and a potash project in South America. He also worked for Aquila Resources in Canada, where he acted as VP Corporate Development and managed the development of a new study for the Back 40 Zinc-Gold-Copper project in Michigan.

In 2015, Coen started with IMIU as a Principal Risk Engineer. In 2022, Coen transitioned to become a consultant to IMIU to enable him to spend more time with his family.

Awards & Qualifications

- BMaster of Business Administration (MBA), Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Awarded QUT top student prize during the MBA studies. Specialism: Financial Management & Strategic Management.
- IDIC (International Diploma of Imperial College), at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London, UK. Awarded British Mining Student of the year.
- Master of Engineering (Msc) Honors Degree in Mining Engineering from Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands.

Professional Membership

- Member of the Society of Mining Engineers (SME)