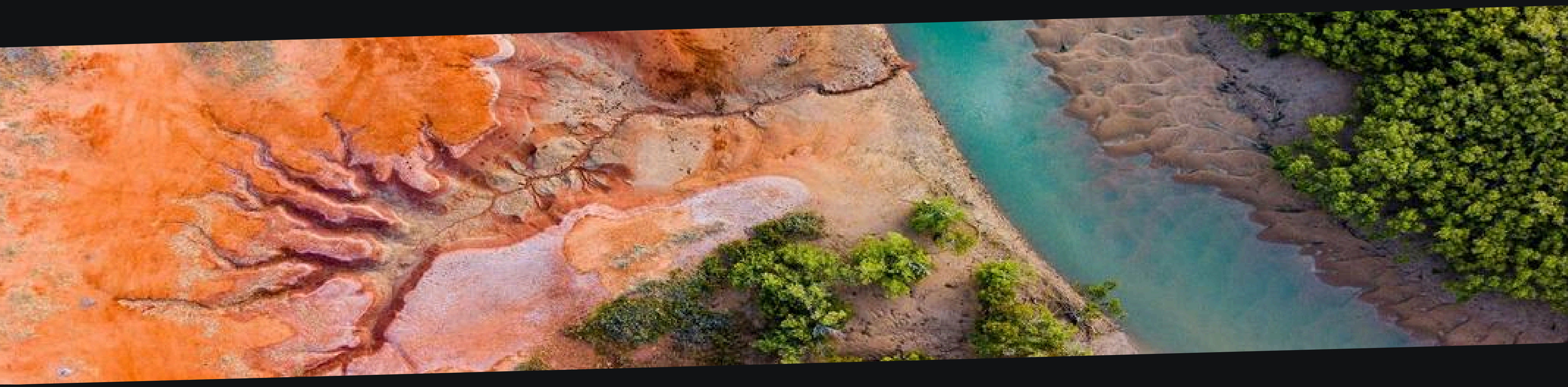
CAPABILITY PROFILE



ESTIMATE ASSURANCE
FOR PROJECT SUCCESS

FY26

nextgenassurance.com.au

The overrun is written into the estimate long before anyone breaks ground.

By the time the monthly report shows project cost growth, the critical decisions that caused it are years in the past.

Independent, targeted estimate review well ahead of FID, in the project development phases, is where those decisions can still be stress-tested. After approval, the same gaps surface as variations, claims and reforecasts.

64%

of major mining and metals projects ran over budget, over schedule, or both.

39%

was the average cost overrun across those same projects.

EY analysis of 192 major global mining and metals projects, each exceeding US$1 billion, June 2021.

WHAT WE DO

We test the integrity of the estimate and expose what will move cost and schedule.

WHAT CLIENTS GET

- Confidence in the capital decision
- Cost and schedule risk found early
- A defensible basis for approval

01 ASSURE THE CAPEX

Independent estimate review
Early phase and pre-FID. Find the gaps, inconsistencies and hidden cost drivers before the decision is locked in.

Estimate confidence and class alignment
Confirm the estimate genuinely meets the accuracy and maturity it claims.

02 SIZE THE RISK

Contingency and risk calibration
Right-size contingency against real project risk, without optimism and without overselling.

Benchmarking and market exposure
Test sensitivity to labour, materials and market movement against current data.

03 TEST THE DELIVERY

Targeted review of key cost drivers
Interrogate scope, productivity, pricing basis and execution planning.

Advisory and capability uplift
Strengthen in-house estimating process, tools and team capability.

WHEN TO ENGAGE US

- Before an investment decision: Scoping, FS, pre-FID
- When estimate confidence is uncertain or challenged
- When contingency needs independent validation
- When the board or lenders want objective assurance
- When a contracting strategy needs commercial pressure-testing

CASE STUDY 01 · VALUE OPTIMISATION

Accommodation camp strategy that reduced capital costs.

TIER-1 IRON ORE DEVELOPMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA · DFS

AU$
65M

reduced from project CAPEX, approximately 4% of total.

SITUATION

A definitive feasibility study included an owner-built accommodation camp inside project CAPEX, required for construction and shutdown.

WHAT WE FOUND

The camp was non-core scope priced as owner capital. It carried owner cost and schedule risk for the full construction period, and the market already had operators capable of delivering it another way.

WHAT WE DID

Reframed the delivery model as a build, own, operate and maintain contract, matched to the client's project construction schedule.

OUTCOME

- Removed non-core scope from the owner's capital programme
- De-risked the owner's cost and schedule exposure
- Used the operator's core capability to improve delivery certainty
- Established a commercial model aligned to the project's specific needs

PROOF · CASE STUDIES 02 AND 03

CASE STUDY 02 · CONTRACTING STRATEGY

Split contractor scope consolidated before it became a claim.

TIER-1 OWNER, TSF EMBANKMENT LIFT · DFS

1–2 months

of schedule risk removed.

WHAT WE FOUND

The contracting approach split removal and reinstatement of tailings distribution piping across two contractors. That created exposure to variation claims, material damage and delay.

WHAT WE DID

Consolidated the scope under a single contractor, aligning accountability with construction sequencing.

- Variation claim exposure eliminated
- Material damage and rework risk removed
- Procurement-driven delay avoided

CASE STUDY 03 · COMMERCIAL STRUCTURING

A mining contract that would have run six months in the red.

GOLDFIELDS MINING CONTRACT, WA · TENDER

AU$500K

of early-phase cashflow exposure avoided.

WHAT WE FOUND

The proposed contract structure produced sustained negative cashflow through the first six months. That created early financial exposure and raised the risk of contract termination.

WHAT WE DID

Built tailored cost tracking and cashflow optimisation tools, then rebalanced the commercial structure.

- Positive cashflow from commencement
- Competitive tender position maintained
- Protection against loss on early termination

HOW WE DO IT

Six drivers decide whether the estimate holds.

Our review goes past class adherence. We test the six inputs that move a capital estimate most, and we quantify the cost and schedule impact of what we find.

01 **Scope and design integrity**
Prevents under-scoped estimates and late-stage cost growth.

02 **Execution strategy and contracting**
Confirms the estimate reflects how the project will actually be delivered.

03 **Productivity, labour and construction method**
Tests whether field assumptions are realistic and achievable.

04 **Pricing basis**
Validates equipment, material and commodity rates against current and forecast market conditions.

05 **Indirects and project overheads**
Aligns indirect cost to the project's specific requirements rather than generic cost ratios.

06 **Risk and opportunity**
Separates real risk from assumed risk so contingency is defensible.

HOW AN ENGAGEMENT RUNS · 10–15 WORKING DAYS · FIXED PRICE

01
Review documents received

02
Clarification session with your estimating team

03
Initial findings session

04
Draft report for your feedback

05
Final assurance report issued

Defined review. A scoped assurance review typically runs 10 to 15 working days from receipt of documents, at a fixed price agreed up front.

Embedded support. Where a project needs longer input, we work alongside the owner's team through the study phase at an agreed rate.

NEXTGEN ASSURANCE

WHO YOU'RE WORKING WITH

Harleah (Harley) Logan

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NextGen Assurance is Harleah Logan. The career estimator who reviews your project is the same one who has been developing estimates for more than twenty years.

20
years multi-discipline capital estimating

100+
capital projects estimated or reviewed

15
countries across four continents

Has led estimate development from scoping study through to execution delivery, working both sides of the table: as lead estimator for EPC and EPCM contractors, and as an owner's team principal estimator.

Senior roles include Lead Estimator at Lycopodium Minerals and GR Engineering Services, Principal Estimator and Project Controls Lead with BHP's Project Controls & Analysis group, and Estimating Manager at WSP.

STANDING BEHIND THE WORK

AusIMM
Associate of The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the peak body for Australian resources.

AACE International
Member of the body that sets the estimate classification standard our class reviews are measured against.

Professional indemnity
AU$2M any one claim, AU$4M in the aggregate. Certificate available on request.

Trade qualified
First-class trade certification. Construction experience behind the constructability calls.

TRACK RECORD

NEXTGEN ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS IN FY26

- **BHP Copper South Australia:** Copper Expansion Project Study. Functional assurance review, estimate Class 2/3.
- **Project NeoSmelt:** joint estimate and schedule functional assurance review, delivered with a schedule review partner.

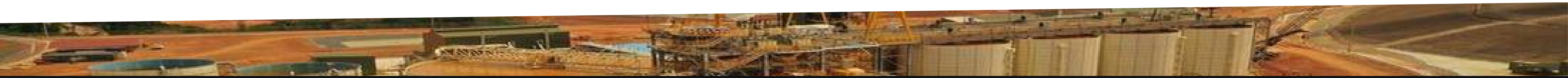
HARLEAH'S ESTIMATING EXPERIENCE

Estimates developed for these clients while employed with BHP, GR Engineering Services and Lycopodium Minerals.

BHP · Rio Tinto · AngloGold Ashanti · First Quantum Minerals · IGO · Endeavour Mining · Gold Road Resources · OZ Minerals (pre-acquisition) · Hancock Prospecting · Northern Star Resources · Resolute Mining

PROCESS AND FACILITY EXPERIENCE

Gold (CIL) · Copper and nickel concentrators · Copper and nickel smelting · Lead and zinc concentrators · Iron ore crushing, screening and materials handling · Underground mining and materials handling · Coal-fired power generation · Tailings storage facilities · Non-process infrastructure · Environmental and rehabilitation



Your project success is our focus.

If your estimate needs independent assessment, start with an enquiry. Tell us the project phase, the estimate class and what you need tested, and we will come back with a proposed scope, a timeline and a fixed price.

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