PROJECT SUMMARY

Fulton Hogan contracted Global Civil and Mining (GCM) to assist with the excavation of rock on significant cuttings on the outer perimeter of Albion Park as part of the Princess Highway Upgrade. The rock cuttings were adjacent to existing businesses and roads which meant excavation had to happen with minimal impact to the surrounding business and busy road network.

The rock type was a very hard blue rock, which meant traditional excavation methods would have been ineffective and due to the close proximity of existing infrastructure, drill and blast would not have been possible.

Key project objectives were:
- To keep the existing road safely open at all times;
- To minimise the damage to the underlying rock in the batters and floors;
- To eliminate over excavation;
- and, to minimise, noise, dust and environmental impact.

GCM mobilised a Wirtgen 2500 Surface Miner (2500SM) to commence the works. Subsequently, a second 2500SM was mobilised on request once the method was proven beneficial and to meet the client’s needs.

The 2500SM’s, which are fitted with GPS level and position controls, cut the walls with great precision and with no damage to the remaining rock in the batters. The result was the creation of batters that were structurally very competent.