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## **ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Re: CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 NOVEMBER 2003**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thank you for attending the first Annual General Meeting of Hill End Gold Limited ('Hill End') as a listed, active and going concern Company with clear goals.

It was a long road of over two years and very considerable effort to obtain the funds necessary to get the Company away and tackle the strategy and the work programmes your Directors considered necessary to launch a viable Company.

During this time, Hill End as an unlisted public Company held Annual Meetings in 2001 and 2002 to comply with regulatory requirements. The delays to floating were used to advantage in planning for a successful operating company.

As you are aware, to complete a successful IPO we amended the original capital requirement of \$5.0 million with a minimum issued capital budget of \$3.5 million to a minimum of \$2.6 million issued capital. \$0.6 million seed capital was also raised.

We were listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) on 17 July 2003 and embarked on the pre-established programmes which Graham Reveleigh will talk about in his presentation. These include:-

- Site access and preparation,
- Underground development and mining, and

- Surface exploration. (This was underway before July 2003).

In addition, the fabric necessary for a listed start up resource Company is being established progressively.

All resource venture companies comprise opportunities, risks and without doubt challenges.

Hill End has all these. However, it also has extensive tenements rich in legacy from well over a century's mining endeavours. As a result, the Company has available to it the physical evidence of this considerable activity including access to previously mined areas at Hill End and references to the physical extensive exploration, together with a comprehensive database of compiled records and literature. These form an irreplaceable treasure trove, which can expedite the exploration process.

The Company's exploration programme is being conducted simultaneously with the underground reclamation and development programmes. Exploration has yielded encouraging results toward a resource estimation at the Red Hill workings toward the North of the Company's exploration licenses. Further work being done in this area, could lead to possible earlier mining development than was previously anticipated. This progress has been announced to the ASX and the market will be kept informed.

Before calling on Graham Reveleigh to summarise the Company's progress to date and future programmes, it is my pleasure to thank him, John Gallo the Company's Exploration Manager, Robert Anderson, Mine Manager and our very tight management team and staff for their commitment to the progress of Hill End Gold Limited.

I thank my fellow Directors for their support and time generously given to the Company both before and after listing.

With the Company's Board and management group working as a team, each non-executive director, in addition to the Board responsibilities, undertakes one or more defined tasks contributing to the development of Hill End.

Your Directors are committed to the highest standards of Corporate Governance. The Board is in the process of evaluating the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Principles of Good Corporate Governance and Best Practice Recommendations.

We believe that it may not be appropriate or practical for Hill End to comply with all the recommendations, particularly those that are more relevant to larger companies. Hill End will report on our compliance in our next annual report for the current financial year. To the extent possible, the Company will move to align its corporate governance practices with those set by the ASX Corporate Governance Council as soon as practicable, particularly those guidelines that we believe will benefit our business and are in the best interests of our shareholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that completes my introduction. The Company has started well, the development is on schedule and exploration is showing considerable

upside as a result of the comprehensive programme completed and documented by John Gallo.

The Board yesterday endorsed the recommendation by management to proceed with two drilling programmes at a cost of \$800,000. The initial exploration budget, pared back for the IPO was \$130,000, a figure that has been expended for the work to date.

Philip Bruce has been appointed in an executive role as Executive Director – Development to drive this new and exiting aspect of the business.

Further details relating to exploration-drilling stages and the raising of the necessary funds, assuming the results are satisfactory, the Company will determine the preferred method of extraction.