



# Change and Modernity at ABC Bullion & ABC Refinery

Mr Nicholas Frappell



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ABC Refinery and ABC Bullion are experiencing strong growth in both upstream supply from producers, and significant growth in ABC Bullion’s retail operations, led by our flagship store in Sydney, which has created a significant buzz in Sydney’s CBD right when gold is front and centre of the investor mindset.

For the refinery, a significant quantity of gold flows into Asia, a reflection of the key demand centres for precious metal, whether for investment, adornment or technology.

## Innovation

ProvCheck: Last year we wrote about developments in assuring gold provenance, and this year marks a milestone in the technological development in that field, with ABC Refinery releasing a new app, ProvCheck, that enables the quick and straightforward verification of bar origin, authenticity and ESG credentials in a way that doesn’t rely on adding any additional substances to the bar itself.

We built ProvCheck using the latest machine learning techniques to authenticate and provide comprehensive information of bullion products without the requirement of precise framing or lighting conditions seen in similar tools.

Innovations such as these are important because they easily and rapidly provide assurance to holders of physical gold, which is the underpinning of the wider market, and which is itself a fundamental trust issue for asset managers in both the private and official sectors.

Consumers in both the private and official sectors are seeking assurance with regard to provenance and the sourcing of gold in environmental, governance and ethical terms. That is something the market was perhaps under-valuing half a decade ago and is increasingly aware of now.

The development of ProvCheck has created a system which scans doré at site and at the refinery, storing the information on an immutable ledger. The digital handshake ensures the doré we receive is one and the same as that sent by our suppliers, ensuring nothing nefarious takes place along the way. We then rigorously track the flow of metal through the process, enabling us to identify the origin of our bullion products. These final products are similarly scanned into the system, with the mine to market supply journey all written on the immutable ledger. This supply chain information is supported by our irrefutable origin chemical fingerprint database.

ProvCheck also currently records the carbon footprint of our products, with an embedded capability to report on additional ESG related fields as the information becomes more widely available. We have built upon this reporting and are embracing change by building a tool which enables us to offset those emissions using Australian Carbon Credit Units sourced from projects that positively impact the communities which we source from. This carbon neutrality is then similarly recorded on ProvCheck's immutable ledger



## New Minted Products

ABC launches the 'Untamed Landscapes' series to show off the exclusive Untamed Landscapes coin collection, which takes its inspiration from the rich landscape and fauna of Oceania. Each coin features a unique species from an Oceanic country and communicates the rarity of these untamed environments.

## Primary Sources of Gold

As a refiner with a high concentration of primary sourced metal from known, high value sourcing we are an important supply link to Asia and the worlds physical markets.

## Tariffs and uncertainty

Recent events have taken gold to all-time highs as economic and trade uncertainty have rocked the USD and bond yields. Although trade deals have been talked about, they have led to a short term stay on 'peak uncertainty' rather than an end to uncertainty. Additionally, although shipments of good between China and America will resume after the almost 'embargo-like' tariffs of the previous few weeks, there is every chance of a shock to supplies in June after the decline in container shipping to America seen in April.



ABC Bullion, ABC Refinery and the Pallion Group have long had strong links with the precious metals markets in Asia and Oceania. Gold's qualities as a store of value, means of exchange, and protector of wealth in today's uncertain times remains unparalleled. ABC continue to innovate in the refining, provenance tracking and distribution of gold and silver to the benefit of our clients.