Ms. Ash said in a recent presentation to her Barrick coworkers, “Most of our people — and this isn’t unique to Barrick — see innovation as a technical thing that other people do. It’s not. Innovation is something that all of us can engage in and all of us can do; it’s everybody’s business.”

As Chief Innovation Officer, Ms. Ash oversees Barrick Gold’s strategy for long-term innovation — ways innovation can drive productivity in the existing business, optimizing its approach to research and development, as well as opportunities to deliver alternative business models.

Ms. Ash has more than 20 years of experience in the mining and manufacturing industries, including as Head of Alliance Planning and Coordination for the BHP Mitsubishi Alliance, and General Manager Strategy for MMG. She joined Acacia Mining Plc in October 2013 as Executive General Manager, Business Improvement and Planning, and later became Chief Operating Officer. At Acacia, Michelle worked with mine general managers to drive a business improvement culture, spearheading significant operational improvements that led to meaningful reductions in operating costs.

Ms. Ash holds a degree in psychology from Deakin University, and both a degree in Civil Engineering, and an Executive MBA, from the Melbourne Business School.