

# Lithium mine work begins

**Josh Chiat**

Work has begun on the Goldfields' third lithium mine, the \$42 million Bald Hill project 50km south-east of Kambalda.

ASX-listed Tawana Resources and Singapore-listed Alliance Mineral Assets Limited have commissioned Osborne Park-based Primero Group with a \$30 million engineering, procurement and construction contract to get the project off the ground by the first quarter of next year.

The joint venture, built on the site of the old Bald Hill tantalum mine, will host almost 200 workers at the peak of construction.

Primero Group, which constructed the new processing facilities at Galaxy Resources' Mt

Cattlin lithium mine near Ravens-thorpe last year, is constructing a dense media separation lithium plant alongside the project's existing tantalum circuit.

Tawana and AMAL will become the third set of lithium exporters in the region, alongside Mt Marion partners Neometals, Mineral Resources and Ganfeng, and Galaxy.

The project, with an initial life of 3.6 years producing 155,000 tonnes of spodumene concentrate and 260,000 pounds of tantalum pentoxide a year, is backed by a \$US880/t offtake deal with Hong Kong-listed Burwill Holdings.

Tawana managing director Mark Calderwood has said

resource definition drilling at Bald |

Hill, which is considered under-explored, could extend the life of the project out to 10 years.

He said yesterday Tawana remained committed to its target of shipping by the March quarter, putting it ahead of Pilbara Minerals and Altura Minerals from their bigger Pilgangoora projects.

Tawana's shares closed up 0.5¢, or 2.22 per cent, at 23¢ yesterday.



**Construction is under way at Tawana Resources and AMAL's Bald Hill Lithium Mine south-east of Kambalda.** Picture: Tawana Resources