

# Tawana upgrades Bald Hill

**Zach Relph**

Tawana Resources has revealed high-grade lithium and tantalum interceptions and a nearly 50 per cent increase in contained lithium at the \$42 million Bald Hill joint-venture, near Kambalda.

Tawana operates the mine with Singapore-listed Alliance Mineral Assets Limited, with managing director Mark Calderwood confirming it was poised for production within the next six months.

Mr Calderwood yesterday lauded drilling results at the project, based about 50km south-east of Kambalda, which contributed to a 47 per cent increase in total contained lithium.

The report outlined estimated mineral resource of 18.9 million tonnes at 1.18 per cent lithium oxide for 223,300 tonnes of contained lithium.

Nearly 58 per cent of the estimate is an inferred resource.

Mr Calderwood said the drilling campaign backed long-term opportunities at the mine.

“The 25Mt of combined high-grade lithium and tantalum resources represents a solid uplift from about five months of additional drilling,” he said.

“The additional indicated resources are likely to result in additional reserves based on scoping level pit optimisations completed in June to focus the resource conversion drilling.

“Infill drilling is continuing and we expect to deliver another upgrade to indicated resources later this year.

“Due to the fact the resource remains open in several areas, I look forward to further step-out drilling planned for the new year.”

The first shipment of lithium concentrate from Bald Hill remains on schedule for March.

Work started at the mine in August, with Osborne Park-based Primero Group awarded a \$30 mil-

lion engineering, procurement and construction contract.

Bald Hill has an initial life of 3.6 years producing 155,000 tonnes of spodumene concentrate and 260,000 pounds of tantalum pentoxide annually.

The project, the third lithium mine based in the Goldfields, lies about 75km south-east of the prosperous Mt Marion Lithium Mine.

Mr Calderwood said high-grade lithium and tantalum pegmatite found below the project's starter pit, which was announced in August, has not been included in the findings due to insufficient drilling.

Meanwhile, Ravensthorpe lithium miner Galaxy Resources has paid \$2.9 million for a 12 per cent stake in lithium technologist Lepidico.

It is a move that will bolster Lepidico's share register after its recent battle against a takeover attempt from fellow lithium processor Lithium Australia.

The private placement will be backed by a CPS Capital-led \$4 million entitlement offer to progress feasibility work on its L-Max processing technology.



**The first screen being delivered to the Bald Hill site, near Kambalda.** Picture: Tawana Resources