

Reignites investor's grand passion for nickel

Kalgoorlie Miner 14 Mar 2019 Josh Chiat

Fresh food entrepreneur and mining investor Terry Streeter has had a love affair with nickel since 1969, when he put some of his hard-earned cash into Great Boulder Gold Mines, then one of the owners of the Scotia nickel mine north of Kalgoorlie.

Fifty years after his first investment in the industrial metal, the romance is still alive, with Mr Streeter backing new float Moho Resources in its hunt for a new deposit at Silver Swan North, 50km northeast of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

While Moho has already tested the ground's gold potential, its main aim is to make a new nickel discovery at a time when expectations it will play a big role in the emerging electric vehicle industry are bringing an air of optimism to the long-depressed sector.

If location is anything to go by, Moho is in prime real estate, just 2km from the Silver Swan mine, one of the highest grade nickel ore bodies in the world.

Contractors Jarahfire Drilling began a five-hole reverse circulation campaign last week testing electromagnetic conductors identified through modern geophysical techniques.

Mr Streeter, who built his name in mining as a founder and chairman of \$5 million IPO turned mid-tier nickel darling Western Areas and a director of Kerry Harmanis' Jubilee Mines, is confident the fundamentals of the commodity support taking the risk of funding exploration.

"You can always go through the fluctuations of the market and

Moho exploration manager Bob Affleck said a lack of drilling on the ground could be attributed to the fact it was never held by the same owner as Black Swan, the location of the only processing plant in the immediate vicinity.

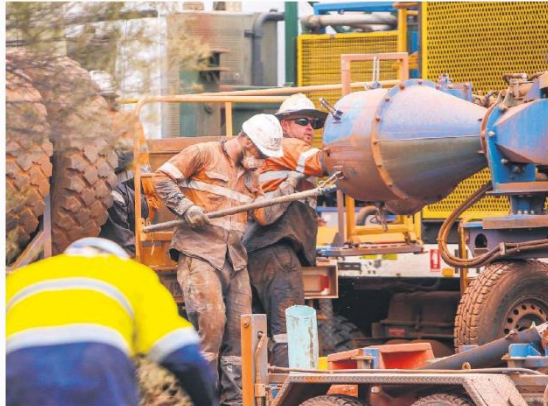
He takes heart from the fact Silver Swan was a "blind target", found just 200m from the low-grade Black Swan open pit almost two decades after its sister mine, which was developed to 1.3km in depth before being placed on ice a decade ago.

Contractors were drilling to hit a target rediscovered in new electromagnetic surveys about 140m underground last week, with other holes to test as deep as 300m beneath the surface 1km to the west.

Producers and explorers at a later stage of the development cycle have signalled interest from end users in nickel offtake is on the rise, with LME stockpiles shrinking.



Moho Resources managing director Shane Sadleir, chairman Terry Streeter and exploration manager Bob Affleck.



Jarahfire Drilling is drilling for Moho Resources.

they'll always be there — you get the troughs and you get the peaks and I think we're heading for the peak at the moment," the Moho chairman

Said. "The nickel price will rise and companies will do very well out of nickel, I believe. I think the battery (market) is a good story and everyone reflects on that a

Mincor Resources, which holds a series of mines on care and maintenance in Kambalda's historic nickel district, could offer its future product on the open market for the first time after the expiry of a legacy deal to sell its ore to BHP's Kambalda concentrator.

Western Areas managing director Dan Lougher told the Battery Minerals Conference in Perth yesterday the outlook for nickel sulphide producers was strong, with few new developments in the pipeline to satisfy emerging demand from electric vehicles.

"This customer trend change will potentially underpin very significant incremental nickel demand in a current global nickel market of around 2.2 million tonnes of concentrate per annum," he said. "But two successive and sizeable nickel market deficits over 2018 and 2019, combined with expectations for continued deficits through the first half of the 2020s, point to unavoidable

lot, but nickel as a commodity besides batteries is still very strong."

Geologists from Poseidon Nickel, the Andrew Forrest-backed owner of the mothballed Black Swan and Silver Swan complex, have also taken a keen interest in the campaign.

higher nickel prices."

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