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Bass keen to revive historic mining sites

By **SEAN FORD**

MINER and explorer Bass Metals Ltd hopes to revive three historic West Coast and North-West mining areas.

It hopes modern methods will allow it to revive the old sites, near Zeehan, Tullah and Waratah.

It wants to run drilling programs as soon as practicable.

“The three historic mining centres are advanced targets,” managing director Mike Rosenstreich said yesterday.

“We like them because they were significant high-grade historic producers and none have had modern day investigation.

“It’s an opportunity to bolster our resource inventory and for

them to become satellite mining operations.”

The three areas are —

■ Oonah, near Zeehan, with several historic, high-grade lead silver and tin mines;

■ Magnet, near Waratah, a historic, high-grade lead-silver zinc mine which ran from 1895-940; and

■ Farrell, near Tullah, with a historic, high-grade lead-silver mine.

All three areas have, or may have, zinc as well.

Bass Metals also plans drilling in spring at a “nickel anomaly” it discovered at Heazlewood, in the Waratah area.

“We don’t know if it’s an elephant (-sized deposit) or an armadillo,” Mr Rosenstreich said.

He said it had the right characteristics from an explorer’s point of view.

Less high risk is the company’s progress with its Que River zinc-lead-silver-gold-copper mine, with mined grades of zinc, lead, silver and gold all well over expectations for the April-June quarter.

Mr Rosenstreich said Que River made the company self-funding for exploration. He said the next step was to start “generating meaningful cash flow” and corporate growth through its Hellyer Mine project (zinc-lead-copper-gold-silver).

It is working on a review to assess the potential of speeding up the start of mining at the “Fossey Zone” and “Upper Hellyer” remnants.

Mill takeover ‘positive step’

INTEC Ltd recently took full control of the Hellyer Mill, tailings dam and other infrastructure following a 50-50 joint venture it had with Polymetals.

Bass Metals managing director Mike Rosenstreich said it was a positive for his company.

“It simplifies the ownership and the number of people we deal with.”

He said Bass was interested in considering using the Hellyer Mill to treat its ore and receive it back as concentrate for Bass to sell.

The other option was to sell the ore to OZ Minerals (formerly Zinifex) at Rosebery, as Bass does with Que River ore.



LOOKING AT THE PAST: Bass Metals managing director Mike Rosenstreich (left) and site engineer Mancala Nicolas. The company is keen to boost its resource inventory.