

BASS IN BUSINESS

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A CHANGE in destination for its ore but otherwise it is business as planned for budding Tasmanian base and precious metals miner Bass Metals, which this week started trucking trial parcels of ore to Zinifex's Rosebery processing plant.

Bass had been considering sending ore from its Que River mine project to the Hellyer plant (owned by major shareholder Intec), but decided against the option because the copper and gold would not have been recovered under current operating parameters of the plant.

Bass managing director Mike Rosenstreich told HighGrade that the 12-18 month Stage 1 development at Que River was still expected to yield the company the \$A8-12 million previously estimated. Bass is being paid 40-45% of contained metal values for its ore, with Stage 1 involving about 120,000 tonnes grading 8% zinc, 4% lead, 0.7% copper, 99gpt silver and 2gpt gold. In total, Bass is eyeing a four-stage mining plan at Que River spanning 3-5 years.

Rosebery is 35km from Que River, with the deal hinging on a 1000t ore trial and Zinifex's satisfaction with trucking issues into the operation.

Rosenstreich pointed out that about 2.4 million tonnes of ore from Que River mined from 1978 to 1991 was trucked and processed at Rosebery. "Zinifex know this ore," he said.

Bass' strategy in Tasmania comprises potential production assets such as Que River, and a portfolio of significant exploration targets. (see also HighGrade, May 14 edition).