



NICKEL PREVIEW

Nickel still having an Impact

Impact Minerals Ltd is planning major drilling programmes for its nickel projects in Western Australia and New South Wales from early next year.

With the success of its Commonwealth gold project in NSW dominating focus in 2016, Impact expects to switch its attention to Mulga Tank and Broken Hill over the coming months.

And the diversified junior explorer could be in for a timely cash injection from Andrew Forrest's Squadron Resources Pty Ltd, the private investment vehicle of the mining magnate's Minderoo Group.

Having already tipped in \$3 million over the past 12 months, Squadron has an option to invest a further \$1 million in either Commonwealth or Broken Hill, or both, to earn a 19.9% interest. A decision is expected soon.

Impact managing director Mike Jones said if Squadron was to commit to Broken Hill, then new holes could be punched into the ground in early 2017.

"We want to rejuvenate our nickel projects," Jones told **Paydirt**. "We've got a drill programme for Broken Hill all planned, it's virtually ready to go, but it's been overtaken by events at Commonwealth...so we're hopeful they [Squadron] will come into the deal.

"We were very active on Broken Hill late last year, where we discovered the highest-grade platinum group metal results ever seen in Australia in a drill hole, in the order of 1.2m @ 10.4 g/t platinum, 10.9 g/t gold, 294 g/t palladium, 4.6 g/t rhodium, 7.2 g/t iridium, 5.6 g/t osmium, 3.1 g/t ruthenium, 19 g/t silver, 1.8% cop-

per and finally 7.4% nickel."

Mulga Tank, about 200km north-east of Kalgoorlie, has been on the backburner for the past 12 months, but Jones said that was not due to falling nickel prices or lack of support for the base metal.

The company has maintained activity on all three of its flagship projects, with Commonwealth the project most likely to deliver it a big discovery," Jones said.

"We have done some nominal applications of HeliSAM and EM [at Mulga Tank] and we've been able to basically map out the

black shale units which have caused us to drill a number of false anomalies in the past. We've also done quite a bit of soil geochemistry surveys over our two key prospects and we're expecting those assays through shortly. We also recently won a \$150,000 from the EIS grant to drill there in the future."

Jones said his company was also keen to poke some holes into a second prospect at Broken Hill – Platinum Springs – where magmatic nickel-copper sulphides have been identified.

"One of the reasons we got into Broken Hill was the grade," he said. "All our



projects are characterised by targeting high-grade deposits, which makes any future mine far less susceptible to price variation.

"The grades that we've produced at Broken Hill and also at Mulga Tank, albeit in narrow intervals, are the sort of grades that would see us through the hard parts of the cycle."

- Michael Washbourne

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Drilling at Mulga Tank is set to resume in 2017