



Mt Lyell Investment underpinned by Mining Resurgence

Opinion piece – By Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Mining is undergoing a resurgence in Tasmania, and the Hodgman Liberal Government is investing in the industry to create more jobs in our regions.

Last week we announced funding of \$9.5 million to create 50 to 60 new jobs at the Mt Lyell mine through investing in four key projects that are necessary for a re-start of the mine.

A full re-start of operations at Mt Lyell would create 300 direct and 750 indirect jobs in Tasmania.

The Government's investment brings forward a potential restart by more than six months.

The four projects we are providing assistance for will commence and create new jobs almost immediately.

The recent announcement by Copper Mines of Tasmania (CMT) that it is reviewing restart plans on the back of improved metal prices means that now is the perfect time for the Government to take decisive action to help bring about that restart.

The positive news at Mt Lyell comes on the back of the creation of 100 jobs as the Henty Gold Mine resumed operations.

Tasmania's mining industry, with the support of the Liberal Government, is enjoying a significant upturn over the last year.

There has been an increase in mineral royalties, with \$29.1 million already collected so far this financial year, up on the \$17.8 million collected for the full previous year.

Directly employing more than 2000 people and accounting for around 50 per cent of the State's exports, mining worth around \$1.95 billion annually to our economy.

CMT chief executive Deshnee Naidoo described the Government's support as "staggering" and said: "Given the commitment we have from Peter Walker (CMT General Manager), the local community and Government across the board I am very confident that CMT has got the best chance ever of being successful in a restart."

While the economic and social benefits of the mine re-starting production are very well known, the environmental benefits also cannot be understated.

There is a long history of mining at Mt Lyell and the result of this is many environmental issues that need to be carefully managed.

The projects that are now being undertaken at the mine will play an important role in managing environmental issues both now and well into the future.

The rehabilitation of the North Lyell Tunnel, for example, will allow water flow and drainage to be safely managed following the eventual closure of the mine.

The most significant of the four projects will see the refurbishment and preparation of the main decline, which is used to bring ore to the surface, at a cost of \$4.5 million.

A 100-year-old pipeline that supplies water to the site, the West Queen water supply pipeline, will also be replaced at a cost of \$2 million, while \$1.5 million will be invested in the upgrade of infrastructure associated with the crushing mill.

As stated, these projects will not only better position the Mt Lyell mine for a re-start, but it will also create up to 60 new jobs to undertake the work.

With new jobs created in Queenstown and many more on the horizon with a potential re-start at Mt Lyell, the Hodgman Liberal Government's investment in the mine is a great deal for the State and a great opportunity for jobs on the West Coast.
