

# First Tawana spodumene shipment on way to port

**Jason Mennell**

The first shipment of spodumene concentrate is on its way to Esperance from the Bald Hill lithium-tantalum mine in the eastern Goldfields.

The initial load of 3250 tonnes is due to leave Esperance on May 2, with a bigger shipment expected weeks later.

Tawana's managing director Mark Calderwood said there was about 4000 tonnes of the high-grade concentrate on-site and the shipment marked a significant milestone.

"Completion of the logistics around the initial shipment of lithium concentrate represents another key milestone for the mine," he said.

Fifty kilometres south-east of Kambalda, Bald Hill is a 50:50 venture project between

Tawana Resources and Alliance Mineral Assets Limited and is the first Australian mine to start spodumene production since 2016.

The Bald Hill Project comprises four mining leases, one mining lease application, 12 exploration licences, eight prospecting licences and one general purpose lease totalling 774sq/km. The

first shipment comes after an announcement earlier this month that AMAL and Tawana would merge to realise market capitalisation of \$446 million and elevate the new entity to a mid-tier lithium company.

The merged group is expected to be finalised and listed on the ASX in October, with the board comprising a combina-

tion of AMAL and Tawana directors.

The merger aims to respond to the growing demand for lithium servicing the demand from energy storage applications including long life lithium-ion batteries used for consumer electronics, power tools and electric vehicles.

Tawana and AMAL executed

separate offtake agreements in April last year for the supply of lithium concentrate from Bald Hill over a five-year term, with pricing for 2018 and 2019 of \$US880/t for 6 per cent of Li<sub>2</sub>O.

The prepayments from the offtake agreements are being used towards the capital costs of the project.

Bald Hill has forecast annual production of 150,000 tonnes of spodumene, ramping up to 220,000 tonnes by the end of the year.



**Stockpiles at Bald Hill.** Picture: Tawana Resources



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