

HADDINGTON GEARS UP FOR TANTALUM RESOURCE BOOST FOLLOWING NEW DRILLING

BALD HILL DRILLING LAYS FOUNDATIONS FOR SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE INCREASE

WA-based tantalite producer Haddington International Resources Limited (**ASX: HDN**) is set to announce a significant boost to the resource/reserve base of its Bald Hill Tantalite Project after delineating a significant new zone of mineralisation in the mine's Southern Pit area.

The Perth-based Company expects to announce a new resource/reserve for the Project within weeks, potentially adding significantly to its current six-year mine life.

Haddington's Managing Director, Mr Colin McCavana, said the drilling program had returned excellent results with high average grades which compared favourably with those of the existing resource base of 1.2 million tonnes at 479ppm Ta₂O₅.

"We are incorporating the new results into a new reserve/resource model, which should be available in early February," Mr McCavana said.

"This will lay the foundations for a significant extension of the mine life and also give us increased flexibility for future production enhancements at Bald Hill," he said.

A total of 1,634 metres of RC drilling was completed in 28 holes on a 25 metre by 25 metre drilling pattern in the Southern Pit area. 234 1-metre samples were assayed, with an uncut average Ta₂O₅ content of 409ppm.

The uncut average grade of the 177 metres which assayed greater than 200ppm was 509ppm. Applying a top-cut of 1,500ppm to these assays reduced the average to 493ppm.

Bald Hill, located near Widgiemooltha south-east of Kalgoorlie, produces approximately 145,000 pounds of tantalite per annum, which is sold under a long-term Licence Agreement to Sons of Gwalia, the world's largest tantalum supplier.

Haddington's long-term growth strategy is based on incremental expansion of its existing projects and the development of new opportunities such as Australian Tantalum acquisition last year, which included an extensive portfolio of tantalum project areas across WA. Work on this portfolio is due to commence in March this year.

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