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Hellyer sets record despite power outage

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A POWER outage at Intec's Hellyer zinc concentrate joint venture did nothing to dampen production, with figures to the end of February exceeding expectations and posting a record.

In an announcement to the market on Friday, Intec reported that during the final week of February, targets for zinc, lead and silver percentage head grades in the tailings dam, zinc recovery at the mill and concentrate production tonnage were all exceeded.

Some 1191 tonnes of bulk zinc concentrate with an average grade of 38.4% zinc, 6.9% lead and 238 grams per tonne silver in the seven days to February 28 were produced, a record figure for Hellyer.

"[The] results were achieved despite over 20 hours lost due to an electricity outage when lightning struck a site reticulation power pole and damaged the conductor," Intec said.

"This record production for [Hellyer] was the result of a continuing improvement to the dredging of the Hellyer tailings dam (at an increased head grade in the current mining block) and optimisation of mill operations."

Currently Hellyer's storage bays at the Port of Burnie hold more than 3800 tonnes of bulk zinc concentrate, with the next shipment expected in the middle of this month.

Additionally, Intec said the \$2.36 million payment for the first shipment was received at the end of last month following delays caused by the Chinese New Year and shipping documentation.

Meanwhile, trial mining of the high-grade zinc-lead-silver ore at Que River has started, with the crushed ore expected to be fed to the mill soon.

The Hellyer project is a JV between Intec and Polymetals and was previously operated by Western Metals before the project closed in 2000.

Shares in Intec gained 0.5c to close at 20.5c on Friday on the back of the news and were trading at 19.5c this morning.



A dredge on the tailing dam at Intec's Hellyer project

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