



Bass Metals begins paydirt hunt

# Miner probes huge new find



By SEAN FORD

MINERAL explorer Bass Metals may be sitting right on a massive mineral deposit. It will start drilling into the mystery deposit at Que River in three weeks as part of its wide-ranging exploration plans through much of the North-West and West.

The deposit at Que River is a "large conductive" body left untouched when the Que River Mine closed in 1991.

"We don't know what it is," Bass Metals senior project geologist Steve Richardson said yesterday.

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# Bass Metals probes huge new find in West

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If it proves a major and economic find, it would be a precious jewel for the company, which is seeking to raise money from mining and selling ore from Que River, north-east of Tullah, to fund its search for big, lucrative ore bodies over much of the region.

"We're on safari," MD Mike Rosenstreich told a group of mostly mainland mining journalists at Hellyer, nearby the Que River Mine.

"We're hunting elephants in elephant country.

"We think we're on the cusp of very great things."

To fund that safari — now involving three and soon four drilling rigs — for an extra couple of years, Bass Metals and Que River alliance partner Mancala Pty Ltd are aiming to restart the old Que River mine and dig new pits.

They will first target zinc, lead and silver, but the area also has copper and gold.

Trial mining has been successfully completed.

Vital to Bass Metals' plans is securing an agreement with a joint venture between Intec Ltd and Polymetals to run its ore through the joint venture's Hellyer Mill nearby.

"There are technical synergies in throwing our ore in with their tailings," Mr Rosenstreich said.

"We're trying to lock down an ore sales contract based on that."



**ABOVE: An example of the Que River ore deposit. FRONT PAGE: Bass Metals Hellyer mine-Que River mining venture supervising geologist Travis Murphy at the test dig which displays a vein of ore. Pictures: Grant Wells.**

He would not speculate on when that may be, but said it would take just four to six weeks after agreement to start Que River production.

Que River stage one alone would generate about 20 jobs and, if the company manages to grow into a significant miner, much larger job numbers would

follow. Bass Metals is also planning to mine remnant resources from the Hellyer Mine, which closed in 2000.

It has its eyes on high-grade copper targets at its Hellyer deposit.

The deposit also contains zinc, lead, silver and gold.