



Bass Metals optimistic on mill venture

By **SEAN FORD**

BASS Metals believes production from the old Que River Mine is imminent.

The last step is reaching agreement on ore negotiations for Bass Metals to use the nearby Hellyer Mill, according to Bass Metals managing director Mike Rosenstreich.

He said there was no

reason not to be optimistic.

The mill is a joint venture between Intec — Bass Metals' biggest shareholder — and Polymetals, which operates the site.

All parties appear to want the deal to happen.

Intec bought the mill and tailings dam some time ago. The mill demonstrates its innovative technique for recovering material, and therefore value, from tailings left behind by past

operators.

Polymetals Hellyer general manager Andrew Platts said on Friday the grinding and flotation mill was producing bulk concentrate (40 per cent zinc, 10 per cent lead, plus silver) for Chinese smelter customers.

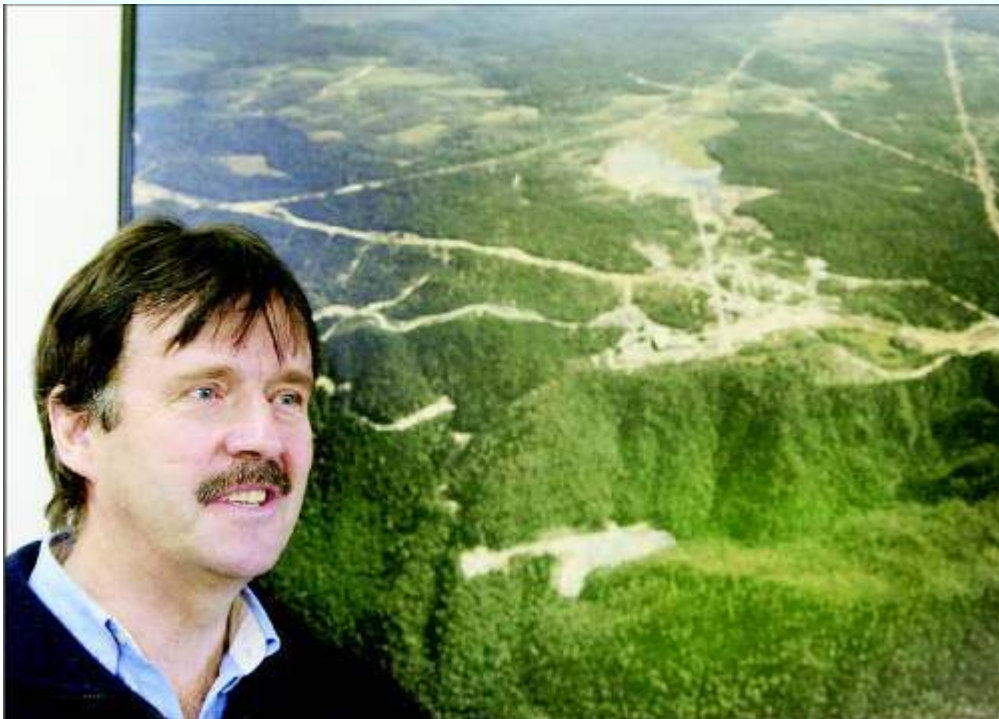
It was producing about 50,000 tonnes a year and had capacity for more.

"We're looking at Que

River and secondary ore sources."

He said installing another mill and a lead circuit, at a cost of about \$1 million, was being considered.

He said it was believed there was four to six years' worth of work from the tailings dam. The Que River Mine and the Hellyer Mill are north-east of Tullah.



DEAL: Polymetals Group Hellyer manager Andrew Platts plans the recovery of minerals from tailings and ore reserves at Hellyer and Que River Mine. Picture: Grant Wells.