



Focus on Kambalda

By Blake Wilshaw in Perth

MINCOR Resources managing director David Moore has used the Australian Nickel Conference to draw attention to the plight of schools in Kambalda.

“Since Western Mining closed off the district and wrote it off in 2001, it has generated 210,000 tonnes of nickel metal,” he said.

“That’s \$2.5 billion in gross revenue generated by the nickel mining in Kambalda since 2001.”

Mr Moore said about \$101 million in State royalties had resulted from this.

“Just where’s that money going?” he said.

“There are two primary schools and a high school (in Kambalda). It’s incredible when you think the schools can’t keep teachers.”

Coolgardie Shire chief executive Mal Osborne said residents agreed with Mr Moore.

“There is no doubt that everyone who lives in the regions believes that more of that wealth should come back into the regions,” he said.

“And those funds coming back should be used to improve the whole gamut of services.”

Mr Moore predicts those Kambalda-generated State royalties to continue for decades.

Kambalda has produced up to

40,000t of nickel per annum from 40 ore bodies for 40 years.

Continuing with this theme, Mr Moore predicted “another 40 years to go”.

But if the district is to continue its prominence as a top global nickel field, Mr Moore said companies must dig deeper and find new deposits.

“I think in the next few decades, (ore) will come from deeper levels; 600m down to 1600m,” he said.

“There is a huge benefit in the existing mines. Any new ore bodies at that depth can be accessed through existing declines.

“There will be decades of more mining from Kambalda using this existing infrastructure.”

In 2001, nickel production from Kambalda hit a 30-year low at 12,000t.

“In the hands of new owners these mines have ramped right back up (to 40,000t),” Mr Moore said.

“It shows the capacity of the district to produce at these high levels.”

All this came from existing mines or “brownfields” deposits.

“There’s been no entirely new ore systems discovered in the past seven years,” Mr Moore said.

“These ore systems are very extensive but it also shows there is potential to discover new ore systems. It’s exciting.”