

Mincor chasing another Carnilya Hill in Rav 8

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INCREASINGLY acquisitive nickel miner Mincor Resources has announced another deal, this time over Tectonic Resources' Rav 8 mine near Ravensthorpe in Western Australia.

Mincor, which operates a number of nickel mines in the Widgiemooltha Dome of WA, announced this morning it would target the depth potential of Rav 8 as it looked to earn an 80% interest in the project.

In addition to an upfront cash payment of \$700,000 and a placement of \$1.3 million worth of Tectonic shares, Mincor will have to spend \$5 million within three years to earn its share of the project.

Mincor managing director David Moore said the company believed Rav 8 had "outstanding potential" for further nickel mineralisation at shallow depths and existing underground infrastructure.

The company said drilling had gone no further than 60m beyond the mine's old workings, which went to the "comparatively shallow" depth of 270m.

Moore said Mincor believed Rav 8 held the same potential as the Carnilya Hill project, where mineralisation that apparently terminated at a relatively shallow depth was subsequently found to re-form further down-plunge. Since joint venturing into the project, Mincor has advanced Carnilya Hill into pre-feasibility studies.

Under the terms of the agreement, Tectonic will retain ownership of all mine infrastructure currently at the project, as well as the right to any nickel-bearing material contained in the mine's surface dumps.

Rav 8 was mined by Tectonic between 2000 and 2005, producing 15,931 tonnes of nickel from 460,169t of ore grading 3.46% nickel.

In December, Mincor forked out \$30 million to acquire the McMahon/Durkin project near Kambalda, home to resources of 28,830t nickel and which had been only lightly explored in recent times. At the time of the deal, Mincor said it would begin a fast-tracked feasibility study into developing the project's Ken North and MacMahon Deeps deposits.

In the September quarter, Mincor's suite of nickel mines produced 3612t of nickel.

Shares in Mincor were off 4c to \$2.10 in morning trade today, while Tectonic shed half a cent to 11c.



David Moore



Mincor managing director David Moore (left) at the Mariners Portal.



Underground drilling at Mincor's Miitel mine.



The Redross open pit near Kambalda in Western Australia.