



press clip

Forecast shortfall good news for tin producer

BY DANIELLE HANRAHAN

The stars have aligned for tin miners in Australia, with changes to rules on tin exports in Indonesia significantly slashing exports from the world's biggest producer.

Queensland-based Consolidated Tin was one company looking to help fill the predicted production shortfall, with the emerging tin explorer progressing its Mt Garnet Tin Project in North Queensland.

"Certainly, the next few years are very positive as far as anyone is willing to predict on our future," Consolidated Managing Director Ralph De Lacey said.

"In our latest project presentation, you'll see we have combined various analysts' forecasts and the general prediction is a shortage of tin and demand outstripping supply.

"It's a good time to be a tin producer, and I think 2014 is probably an even

better time to be a tin producer."

Consolidated's news on its prefeasibility study (PFS) at Mt Garnet comes off the back of Indonesia cutting exports by up to 75 per cent and tin experiencing a renaissance with manufacturers replacing lead with tin for use in electronic products, such as smartphones.

Mine supply constraints for tin also favour Consolidated, with depleting grades and the closure of the world's largest tin mine, the San Rafael mine in Peru, expected in 2017.

The company said the PFS undertaken on the project in September had returned positive results, confirming the potential for a production profile of one million tonnes per annum (mtpa) for nine years. With completion of the PFS, Consolidated's strategy is to develop and establish tin production

by the end of next year and focus on increasing the mine life and production profile by developing other tin production opportunities within the broader Mt Garnet project area.

The Consolidated chief told the market at the release of the PFS that the study highlighted potential opportunities to improve finances on the project, with further design optimisation of mining and processing stages.

"The board has approved the initiation of the DFS for the Mt Garnet Tin Project, commencing with Gillian, with further evaluation work to follow at Pinnacles and later at Windemere," Mr De Lacey said.

"It is anticipated that Gillian will provide the mill feed for the first three years of mining."



Good outlook: Tin is set to skyrocket in the next few years as many see demand outstripping supply due to a number of factors.