



FED:Venture plans Tas tin upgrade

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VENTURE By Nicole Stevens

SYDNEY, Nov 11 AAP - **Venture Minerals** says it expects to hold the world's second largest undeveloped tin deposit, at Mt Lindsay in Tasmania, when the minerals explorer publishes a major tin and tungsten resource upgrade this month.

The Mt Lindsay tin-tungsten project in north west Tasmania is already ranked fifth largest in the world.

The Perth-based company says further exploratory drilling in the region has intersected large zones of tin mineralisation and a resource upgrade "is imminent".

Venture Minerals also holds three per cent of the world's known Tungsten supply, a high-performance metal used in electronics, lighting and military applications.

China, which controls 75 per cent of world tungsten supply, has placed export restrictions on the commodity to secure supplies for growing demand by its domestic steel industry,

China is also the world's largest producer and consumer of tin.

Venture chief executive Hamish Halliday said on Thursday the outlook for tin and tungsten was very strong, with demand growing for use in electronics, mobile phones and solder.

"It is an old world metal that has become a new world metal," Mr Halliday told media in Sydney.

"There is no doubt supply will tighten, going forward, so we will play off that."

BGF Equities research last Thursday said the tightening supply and growing demand would keep upward pressure on tin prices, which had outperformed other metals.

Analysts Warwick Grigor and Reg Spencer said that of a limited field of companies, Venture offered the best "pure leverage" to rising tin prices.

"The deposits lend themselves to flexibility with respect to head grades and capital costs to optimise cash flows and can draw on revenue from both tin and tungsten," the two analysts said in report.

A pre-feasibility study on the Mt Lindsay project is due this quarter, with a bankable feasibility study due in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Mr Halliday said Venture planned to bring Mt Lindsay online in 2012, with finance consisting of 50/50 equity and debt.

Venture is engaging in talks with potential offtake partners around the world, including Japan and Germany.

Shares in **Venture Minerals** closed up 1.5 cents, or 2.63 per cent, at 58.5 cents.