



Venture Minerals is on the cusp of an exciting transition from explorer to producer as it prepares for the first shipment from its Riley Iron Ore project on Tasmania's west coast.

The elevated iron ore price has created the perfect opportunity to restart the project, which was placed on the backburner in 2014 when the iron ore price plunged.

Venture Minerals (ASX: VMS) cleared a major hurdle earlier this year by signing the road access agreement with Hydro Tasmania, securing a transport route from the mine gate to the Port of Burnie.

Another important milestone was reached with the signing of the port access agreement with TasPorts, which owns the wharf and infrastructure at the Port, to allow shipping.

A feasibility study completed in August 2019 returned a post-tax cash of \$31m and a Net Present Value (NPV) of \$27m.

Venture Minerals' managing director Andrew Radonjic said the development of Riley was an important milestone in the company's graduation from an explorer to a producing mining company.

"We are looking at the first shipment towards the back end of Q1 next year and commissioning the wet screening plant late January," he said.

"The project will create 100 jobs and we will be injecting about \$100m into the economy over the life of the mine.

"It will add 10% to the state government's annual mineral royalties' stream at full production and there will be many multiplier effects for the economy.

"It is a small but significant project for the west coast of Tasmania."

Qube Holdings will look after the haulage of the ore from the mine gate to the port where it will also oversee loading of the vessels.

Local civil contracting and earthmoving group Shaw Contracting is undertaking the site establishment work.

With the boxes already ticked on the necessary permits and environmental approvals, Mr. Radonjic said Riley was perfectly positioned to take advantage of iron ore prices which were recently driven to six year highs off the back of China's infrastructure boom and supply disruptions in Brazil.

But the recommencement of mining at Riley is just the start of an exciting journey ahead for Venture Minerals.

**Drill Bit 'Gets Moving' At Mount Lindsay**  
The company will use cash generated from the project, which has a two-year mine life and ore reserves of 1.6mt with a grading of about 57% Fe, to progress its flagship Mount Lindsay tin-tungsten project, about 10km west of Riley.

Mount Lindsay sits between the world-class Renison Bell mine—the largest tin deposit in Australia—and the Savage River magnetite mine, which has operated for more than 50 years.

Since commencing exploration on the project in 2007, Venture has completed about 83,000m of diamond core drilling at Mount Lindsay and defined JORC compliant measured, indicated and inferred resources. "Mount Lindsay is not necessarily along strike to Renison Bell but we do have the same fault structure and host rocks that go through the western part our land and that's where we are hoping to drill next year," Mr. Radonjic said.

"We are trying to identify new targets in the Mount Lindsay area and we haven't drilled

there since 2012 so it's been a long time coming.

"We are testing for a Renison repeat and we are pretty excited about drilling that, so the drill bit is going to get moving again at Mount Lindsay."

**Tin and the Technological Age**  
The project gives the company timely exposure to the booming electric vehicle and critical minerals markets.

According to analysis in 2018 by Rio Tinto of the metals most impacted by new technology, tin ranked number one out of 12 other metals, including lithium, cobalt, silver and nickel.

This is due to its use in autonomous and electric vehicles, advanced robotics, renewable energy and advanced computation and IT.

The Mount Lindsay project is already classified by the Australian Government as a Critical Minerals Project with an advanced tin-tungsten asset, and this will be further enhanced by the delineation of several high priority drill targets.

Mount Lindsay is already one of the largest undeveloped tin projects in the world, containing more than 80,000t of tin metal within the same mineralised body of a globally significant tungsten resource.

Tin is now recognised as a fundamental metal to the battery revolution with the International Tin Association predicting a surge in demand driven by the lithium-ion battery market of up to 60,000tpa by 2030.

Mr. Radonjic pointed out that was a huge projected increase given world tin consumption was just 363,500t in 2018.

"Half the world's tin is produced by companies digging up river beds in Africa

and Asia and destroying landscapes," he said.

"There is also dredging of sea-beds in Indonesia and other environmental destruction that isn't being repaired.

"The London Metal Exchange has said from 2022 it will not take any tin that is not responsibly sourced.

"So there will also be supply constraints in the coming years.

"Tin is not on Australia's critical mineral list but it is in the US, Japan, Korea and Europe." Mr. Radonjic said the stage is "absolutely" set for an increase in the tin price, which has already surged from US\$13,760/t in March to about US\$18,500/t over the last couple of months.

The tin price is about 35% higher than it was in January 2016 but lower than it was between late 2016 and early 2019 when it hovered around the US\$21,000/t mark.

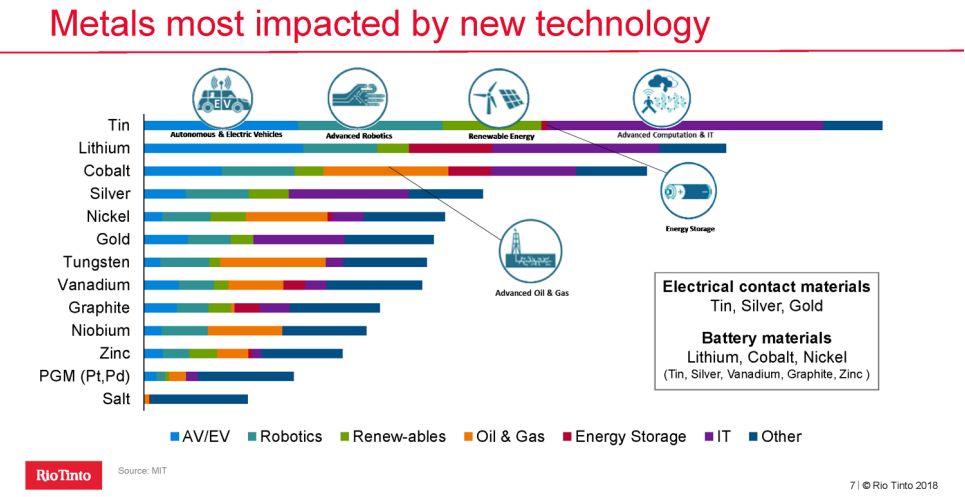
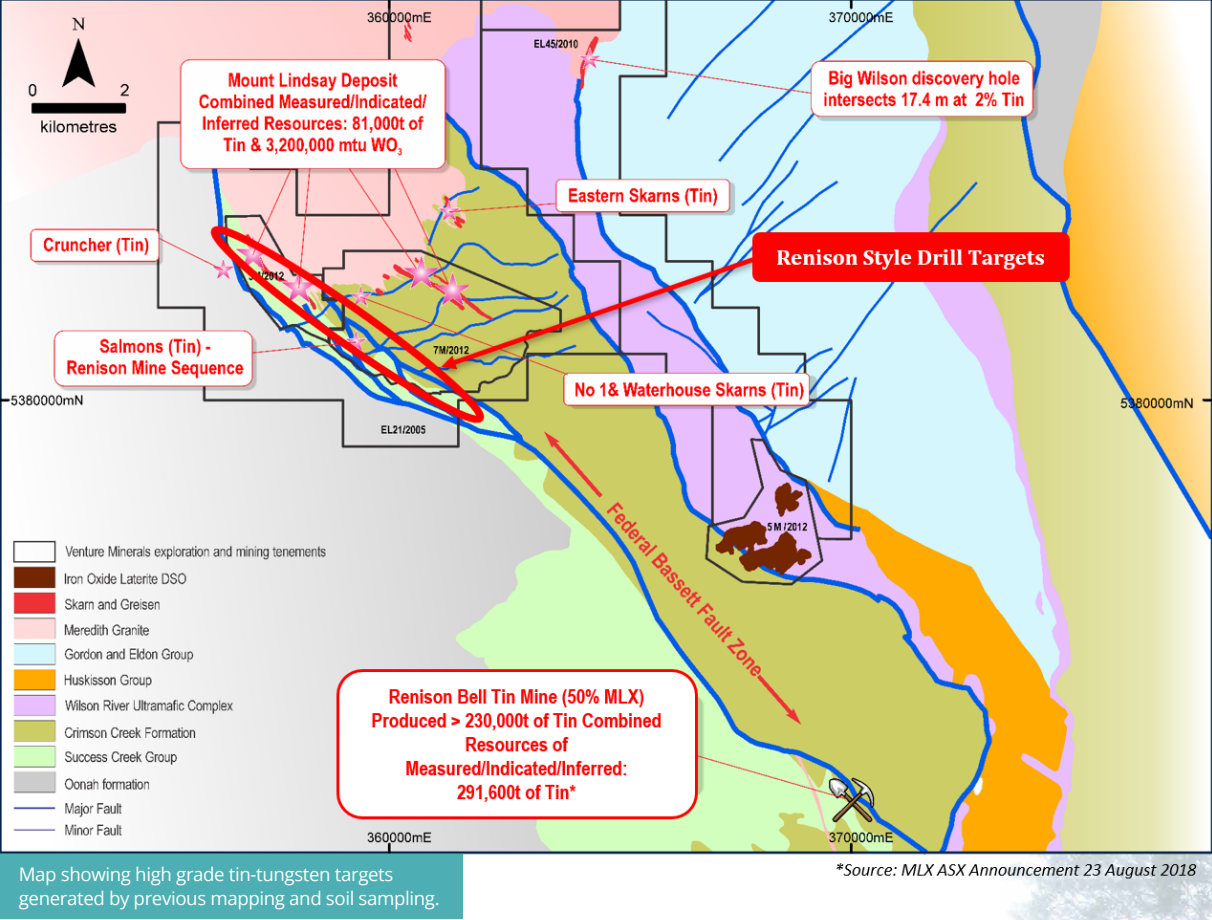
The tungsten price has increased about 25% since February 2016.

**Venture's Five-year Plan**  
Mr. Radonjic said Venture Minerals' five-year outlook was very bright.

"The cash to come out of Riley should allow us to build the Mount Lindsay mine in about three years' time, and hopefully in five years we will be producing significant amounts of tin and tungsten," he said.

"It will be a small mine initially and hopefully we will make some discoveries that will make it a multi-decade mine rather than just being an eight-year project, and that is because there is still a lot of exploration potential.

"This is just stage one: there will still be stages two, three and four because of the



prospectivity at Mount Lindsay.

"So we are looking to be Tasmania's next tin and tungsten producer as well."

**Continuing to Explore**  
Mr. Radonjic is expecting Venture Minerals would have also made a discovery in WA as it remains extremely active on the exploration front.

"In recent years we started pegging some more ground in WA in areas with potential to host world class deposits and over that time these projects are now developing into being worthy of drilling," he said.

This includes Golden Grove North project, located about 370km north-northeast of Perth and less than 10km from the Golden Grove Mine, which is highly prospective for zinc, copper and gold.

The second and third drill holes at the project's priority Orcus VMS Target confirmed the success of the first drill hole with further intersections of sulfides containing copper and zinc, according to an ASX announcement on November 11.

Orcus is along strike to one of Australia's major Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide (VMS) deposits.

"This now means we have already identified 120m of VMS style sulfide mineralisation open at depth on the first line of drilling at Orcus," said Mr. Radonjic, who is a geologist and mineral economist.

"This bodes well for the next line of drilling 300m to the south across the strongest part of the EM anomaly, and the highest-grade copper in soil results recorded at the prospect."

Venture has also contracted a drill rig to test new gold targets at its Kulin project, about 230km south east of Perth.

Kulin is located in an emerging WA gold province within the south west terrain of the Yilgarn Archean Craton, which contains several major gold deposits such as Boddington (Australia's second largest gold producer), Edna May, Katanning and Tampia.

Chalice Gold Mines, which recently made the exciting Julimar discovery near Perth, has committed up to \$3.7m to earn 70% in Venture's South West Project.

Chalice plans to advance previous exploration completed by Venture to test for nickel-copper-PGE sulfides. The South West Project, which includes Venture's Thor and Odin prospects, has previously displayed Ni-Cu-PGE potential.

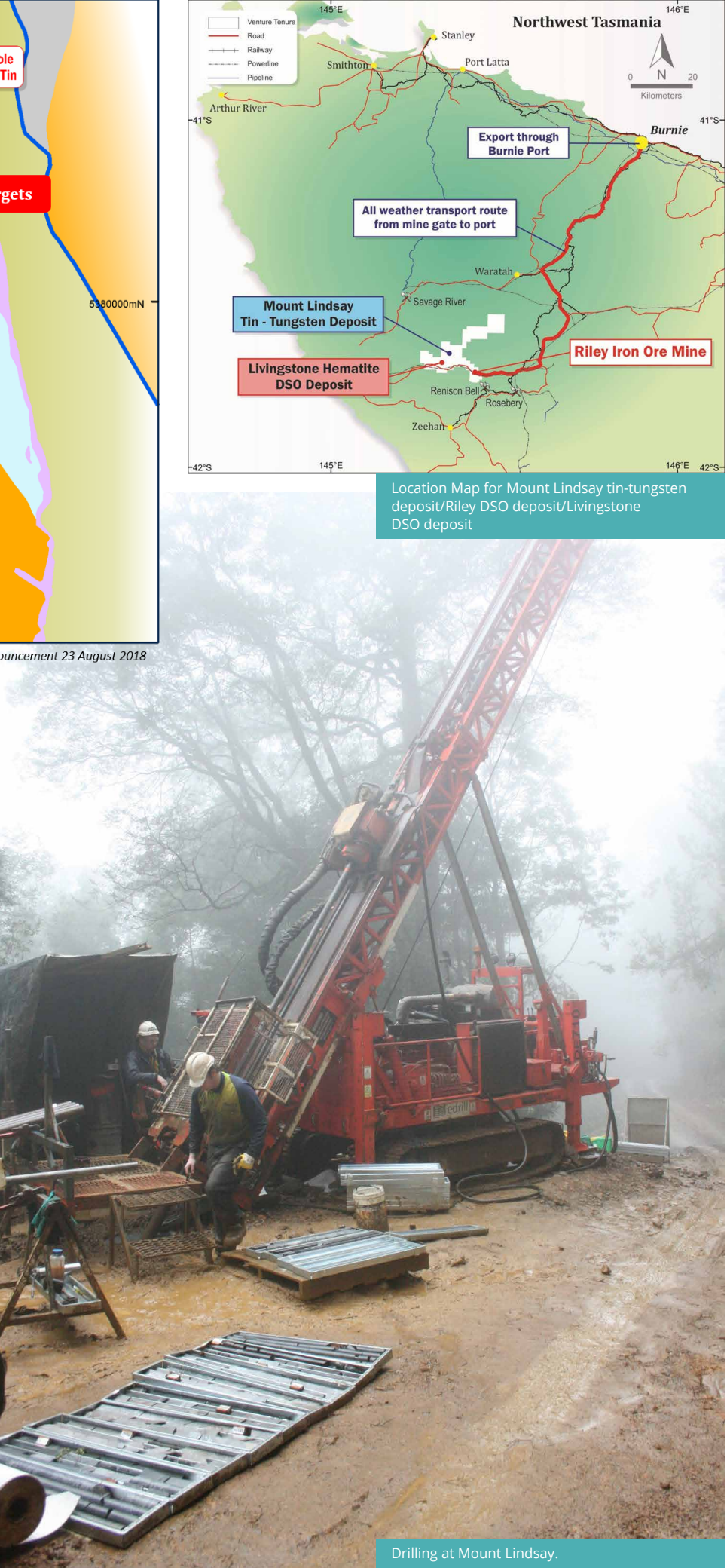
Venture is also exploring for gold and nickel-copper-cobalt at the Caesar Project, 200km northeast of Geraldton.

**Mining in Tasmania**  
Back in Tasmania, Venture also has the Livingstone DSO hematite project, located just 3.5km from Mount Lindsay. A maiden resource statement of 2.2mt at a grading of about 58% was defined in 2011, which was followed by a positive and robust scoping study.

During the second half of 2012, Venture completed a resource upgrade, which resulted in 100% of the inferred resources being converted to the indicated category. Mr. Radonjic said the company had gone from strength to strength since being listed on the ASX in 2006.

"We have made three discoveries, we have completed three feasibility studies, we are starting an iron ore mine and we have spent \$50m in Tasmania," he said.

"So we have done a lot but obviously we can't rest on our laurels, we need to keep working hard for shareholders to generate



new projects."

Mr. Radonjic said the future of mining was promising in Tasmania, which contained world class mineral deposits.

"The geology is an extension on what is found on the east coast of Australia with the Mount Read Volcanics yielding major discoveries and large mines in the area," he said.

London-listed NQ Minerals is planning exploration work at its highly prospective Hellyer Gold Mine, where it is currently producing lead and zinc concentrates by reprocessing tailings.

"Rosbery has been going for 80 years, Mount Lyell is looking at restarting, Renison Bell is world-class and Savage River has been operating for 50 years," Mr. Radonjic said.

"Mining still supplies over 50% of the export GDP of the State but Riley is one of the most significant, new mines to have popped up in a very long time.

"I think part of the problem is permitting, which is an issue everywhere.

"There is a green element in Tasmania and it's something we have had to work through and we've got Riley permitted so it is possible but it isn't easy.

"There's a lot of green tape and a lot of red tape.

"The terrain is also very challenging and that obviously brings additional costs."

Mr. Radonjic called for the permitting process to be streamlined to attract the development of new projects within the State.

"We have got one state permit and one federal permit which are almost exactly the same," he said.

"I think the Tasmanian Government is trying its best and has given as much support as it can because it realises how important mining is to the economy ." **AMR**