



IMX moves from explorer to producer

BUSINESS EDITOR

CHRIS RUSSELL



CAIRN Hill miner **IMX Resources** is looking forward to a long life for its flagship project as it expands in stages.

Yesterday stage one was officially opened.

"This is a momentous occasion for IMX because it takes IMX out of the explorer status to producer status," chairman Johann Jacobs said. "It's every young explorer's dream to become a producer.

"Cairn Hill is now the cornerstone of our future core business of iron ore and steelmaking materials, and we are also looking to increase our resource base over time, either through exploration or acquisition. We are very proud that IMX Resources is the first of the next wave of iron ore producers in South Australia." Cairn Hill is close to the Stuart Hwy and 55km southeast of Coober Pedy but has special

restrictions because it lies within the Woomera Prohibited Area. Restrictions included requiring Defence Department clearance as well as Foreign Investment Review Board approval for a \$49 million investment by Chinese company Sichuan Taifeng.

"Cairn Hill is a terrific example of how Defence and mining can co-exist in the Woomera Prohibited Area,"

Premier Mike Rann said.

Mr Jacobs said Sichuan Taifeng chairman Song Yuangang stood ready to support IMX. Managing director Duncan McBain said stage one would have a life about five years. Stages two and three could extend that to 20 years.

"There's also potential to go underground if copper grades make it economic," he said.

THE CAIRN HILL MINE

- ❑ 55km southeast of Coober Pedy.
- ❑ Aims to produce 1.7 million tonnes a year of ore – mainly magnetite iron ore but including copper and gold.
- ❑ Fleet of roadtrains began this week to haul ore 58km to Rankin Dam rail siding. Haulage

contract will be operated by Stony Desert Mining Services, a joint venture between Adelaide-based Exact Mining Services and the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation.

- ❑ Six ore trains, using specially built containers, will travel 879km to Port

Adelaide each week.

- ❑ Believed to be first mining operation powered from pit-to-port by biodiesel, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2300 tonnes a year.
- ❑ Ore exported to a processing plant at Bayuquan in Liaoning Province, NE China

Province, NE China.

- ❑ Chinese company Sichuan Taifeng is investing \$49 million to own 49 per cent of Cairn Hill holding company Outback Iron and 19.9 per cent of IMX.
- ❑ Another Chinese company, Jilin Tonghua Iron and Steel, owns 6.3

per cent of IMX and will buy the ore.

- ❑ Prominent Hill copper miner OZ Minerals owns 13 per cent of IMX and has a joint venture to spend \$20 million to explore for non-ferrous minerals.



FLAGSHIP: Song Yuangang, chairman of Sichuan Taifeng, Premier Mike Rann and Duncan McBain, managing director of IMX resources at the opening of the Cairn Hill mine yesterday. **Picture:** CHRIS MANGAN