



# Lincoln pencils in its bid for graphite mine

**VALERINA CHANGARATHIL  
RESOURCES**

LINCOLN Minerals' proposed \$40-50 million graphite mine near Port Lincoln will create 60 full-time jobs during its construction phase and 30 continuing operational positions through its 7.5 year life.

Lincoln announced yesterday it intends to lodge a mining lease proposal for its Kookaburra Gully Graphite Mine later this month.

Lincoln Minerals has formed a subsidiary, Australian Graphite, to run the mine and it hopes all approvals will be in place for construction work to begin in the second half of next year.

A 24/7 processing plant on site will upgrade the mined ore into 25,000 to 55,000 tonnes of high-grade graphite concentrate a year.

This will be transported in three to seven semitrailer loads daily to an undecided port.

The deposit is only 35km from Port Lincoln but the company says it may prefer to export from one of the proposed ports at Port Spencer or Cape Hardy. Lucky Bay and Port Adelaide also are under consideration.

Lincoln Minerals posted a community information update on the project ahead of meetings today and tomorrow at Tumby Bay and Yallunda Flat, respectively.

"This is a final step towards completing the mining lease proposal," said Lincoln managing director Dr A John Parker.

Dr Parker said the capital cost of the mine was around \$40 to \$50 million and attempts were being made to secure an Asian partner as a customer or joint venture partner for the mine.

"We have strong support from our existing foreign investors and our chairman is Chinese, so we have those connections into Asia.

"However, we are certainly looking at opportunities to partner on the project," he said.

The site will be up to 250ha and the proposed open pit will be approximately 700m in length, 270m wide and up to 100m in depth.

The Kookaburra Gully prospect is situated near the historic Koppio graphite mine.

Water from the existing Tod Reservoir, 12 km from the proposed mine site, is likely to be sourced for processing the ore and small quantities of mains water will also be needed but no formal agreements are in place with SA Water yet.

Lincoln Minerals is hoping to get the operations running in time to capitalise on the growing global demand for graphite, which has various uses, but is increasingly being sought after for graphene – a form of carbon found as a layer of graphite.

We have strong support from our existing foreign investors

**JOHN  
PARKER**