



Koppio mine proposal submitted

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LINCOLN Minerals is now closer to its goal of mining the graphite deposit at Kookaburra Gully, near Koppio, after lodging an application last week.

Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Australian Graphite Limited, the company formally lodged a Mining Lease Application to develop a graphite mine at its Kookaburra Gully project.

The proposed mining lease is about 300 hectares and, subject to graphite prices, is expected to have a mine life of about 7.5 years.

Lincoln Minerals managing director Dr John Parker said market

trends showed a good demand for graphite, especially flake graphite, which is the type found at Kookaburra Gully.

"We certainly believe that the electric vehicle battery market is growing, at the moment probably 60 per cent of the graphite used in batteries comes from flake graphite," he said.

"Prices have been going up over the last 12 months only marginally, but the outlook looks better than it did 12 months ago, and certainly better than the iron market."

Kookaburra Gully has been identified as one of Australia's premier graphite deposits, with total indicated and inferred mineral resources of 2.2 million tonnes.

The site has also been seen as beneficial for mining operations due to its close proximity to water, electricity and an export port.

The planned infrastructure will include a processing plant to upgrade the graphite ore into graphite concentrate at a rate of between 25,000 and 55,000 tonnes per annum.

Dr Parker said Lincoln Minerals Limited had emphasised that while the mine site would be supplied with 1.6 megalitres of water per day, it should not be a problem.

"We had proposed the use of Tod River water initially, and then supplemented with ground water," he said.

Before anything can go ahead though the government will need to

review the application, which is expected to take a minimum of six months.

Dr Parker said the application would also go out for public comment in the near future with copies to be available from the Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay libraries.

There are also other steps the company must take before any operations begin.

"Once we've got the mining lease the next step is to submit our Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation plan, which is a more detailed version of what was submitted," he said.

Under the current timeline, operations are not expected to start until next year.