



Mine project moves ahead

LINCOLN Minerals is confident of the progress with its Kookaburra Gully graphite project north of Port Lincoln as it enters the final stages of getting the mine up and running.

This year has been a big one for the company in progressing its mining project after its wholly owned subsidiary, Australian Graphite Pty Limited, was granted a mineral lease for 21 years starting in June this year.

The company also lodged its Community Engagement Plan with the director of mines in early September and now its attention has turned to lodging its Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR).

This program details management plans for construction, operation, rehabilitation and closure of the mine site and is a big step toward

government approval to begin mining.

Lincoln Minerals managing director John Parker said the PEPR would need to be lodged by the beginning of June next year.

"We've done a lot of work behind the scenes, we've been flat out," he said.

Dr Parker said Lincoln

Minerals was also looking at a number of different studies on the transport route, pipeline route and power supply options as well as continuing its surface and groundwater monitoring.

Confidence in the mine has been bolstered after metallurgical tests showed graphite concentrates at grades of 93 to 98 per cent total graphitic carbon.

Planning has also continued for pilot plant, high purity spherical graphite and expandable graphite test

work in China.

Progress on the mine's development was presented at the company's annual general meeting on Tuesday.

With everything in place, the company is aiming to start mine construction by late next year.

Dr Parker said although graphite prices were not at their strongest there was still plenty of positive feeling toward the progress of the mine.

"By the next quarter we hope to have all studies complete and can enter a more detailed feasibility study on the project," he said.

"We are certainly maintaining a positive outlook."