



Gold and Minerals Gazette October, 2011

Page: 52
Section: General News
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 3000
Type: Magazines Trade
Size: 157.98 sq.cms.



slice
slicemedia.com

press clip

Victoria aims to break public image of golden shackles

The Australian State of Victoria is looking to some base metal developments to broaden its mineral developments as a result of the build-up in exploration and the provision of more sophisticated geological data.

In a keynote presentation at the opening of the RIU Melbourne Resources Round Up, Mike Hollitt, executive Director, Earth Resources Development Division of Victoria's Department of Primary Industries, said base metals would become a major focus.

There were several companies with advanced projects including Jaguar Metals, Dart Mining and BCD Resources.

Hollitt said Victoria has, through its history, been known for its role in gold, having been the leading global supplier

in the late 1880s through to the early years of the 20th century.

While Victoria has slipped in Australian gold production it has maintained a strong role in the State's economy but through political and social issues has not maintained its leading role, in part due to the fact Victoria represents only 3% of Australia, though 25% of the population.

Hollitt said the growth in resources revenue in recent decades was helped by the growth of oil and gas developments, particularly in Bass Strait and coal projects. However, in recent years mineral sands has become a significant player.

He said total mineral sand resources in the State of 3 billion tonnes were generally of significant grade and would be sufficient to supply the world demand for 20 years.



Earth Resources Development's Mike Hollitt.

The Government saw the need to attract explorers rather than expecting them to turn up in Victoria, so it was moving to provide more sophisticated geological and geophysical data.

This data has helped outline deeper targets for potential geothermal developments, and now 70% of the State is under geothermal exploration permits.