

AuKing returns to market with copper-zinc focus

AFTER an extensive period on the bench for retooling, AuKing Mining resumed trading today, having completed an oversubscribed re-compliance listing.



Koongie Park is about to be drilled for the first time in a decade

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The gold explorer has shifted focus over the past year towards the Koongie Park copper-zinc project near Halls Creek, in Western Australia's Kimberley region, where it has earned 25% and is moving 75% interest from Anglo Australian Resources.

AuKing raised A\$7 million at 20c, and traded between 15-17c during the session, closing down at 16c.

"We expected a cleaning out," CEO Paul Williams told *MNN* of the day's performance.

"We knew there would be people wanting to get out since we suspended in 2019, and we had some other investors who had money tied up during the long relisting process.

"Our job now is to focus on making this project attractive to investors, and getting it into production as quickly as we can."

Williams told *MNN* the junior had looked at projects around the world before landing on Koongie Park, but thinks it got the timing perfectly given surging copper and zinc prices.

Koongie Park has an existing resource of 6.36 million tonnes at 1.3% copper, 4.1% zinc, 0.3 grams per tonne gold and 26gpt silver, and the potential for further volcanic massive sulphide deposits.

Anglo Australian has held the project since 1990s and will keep the precious metals rights, but is now focused on its emerging Mandilla gold project in the Eastern Goldfields.

Last year agreed to a \$4 million farm-out, through which AuKing will spend \$3 million over three years with a view to establish mining operations on the Onedin and Sandiego deposits.

AuKing believes the ammonia-based AmmLeach system should be suitable to treat any shallow Onedin-style mineralisation that is defined.

While AmmLeach has yet to be utilised at a commercial scale, AuKing believes the hydrothermal nature of the Koongie Park mineralisation make it a prime candidate, as the process minimises iron extraction and recovering base metals from the same leach stream.

Consultant Accudo had been keen to look at the ore for its licenced AmmLeach tech for some time, but it wasn't until corporate changes at AAR that a deal became possible.

"We're not wedded to AmmLeach. With strong prices, it could be that the focus could be on the deep sulphide play at Sandiego, and anything at Onedin could be the icing on the cake," Williams said.

Koongie Park is a 500sq.km mix of mining and exploration tenements with plenty of upside, that is underexplored at depth and highly prospective for further VMS base mineralisation at depths below 150m.

Both Sandiego and Onedin are open at depth and to the south.

"Our focus is now on building tonnes: 6.3Mt is an advanced start, but we need to add more tonnes, and we think we can, because we are in a great spot, within a tier one jurisdiction," Williams said.

AuKing will fund a 7000m diamond and RC drilling program to infill and extend the known deposits, and to recover core for metallurgical test work on the surface oxide and transitional ores at the Onedin. The junior will also update

previous feasibility studies undertaken on underground mining at Sandiego with a 500,000tpa processing plant with a 4-5 year mine life.

Williams said the drilling would include a 900m-deep hole at Sandiego because "it looks like there is a lot is going on at depth".

Some work will also be undertaken to examine regional targets, after the Geological Survey of Western Australia completed work that suggests the underexplored Halls Creek Orogen has significant base metal potential, with the area of best prospectivity being Koongie Park.

Williams said the entire Halls Creek Orogen could be another province on the scale of Mt Isa in Queensland and Broken Hill in New South Wales.

The company expects to spend \$4.1 million over the first 12 months.



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