

# Focus now on nickel laterites

UNLIKE their nickel sulphide cousins the nickel laterite industry hasn't seen the same rush of interest in recent years and it's not surprising, given the closure of Bulong and the near death experiences of both the Cawse and Murrin Murrin operations.

But there is a mood of change in the air and this could signal an improvement in sentiment towards local laterite nickel devotee Heron Resources.

The shift in sentiment can largely be attributed to the terrific rise in the physical nickel price, which remains a positive factor but other influences are also taking hold.

These include Murrin Murrin being cashflow positive for the first time last quarter, talk that BHP Billiton is about to commit to the Ravensthorpe laterite project and the recent share price run in GME because of its exposure to the NiW-est nickel laterite resource.

Heron is controlled by local identity Ian Buchhorn who holds around 28 per cent and is managing director.

Ian has consciously driven Heron to be a sole focused nickel laterite company, spinning off other market plays to add value for shareholders, while continuing to accumulate and hold a large slab of the Eastern Goldfields specifically looking at nickel laterite resources.



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Interestingly, Heron has recently announced it intends to pursue some sulphide nickel targets in the coming months (which happen to coincide with their laterite ground) despite having recently spun off a specialist nickel sulphide explorer Pioneer Nickel.

This signals a small addition to activities and not a change of focus away from nickel laterite.

It is hoped that this exploration will provide market interest while the company patiently waits for the laterite industry to mature to a point whereby the North Kalgoorlie nickel project can become a commercial reality.

Although exposure to the laterite nickel sector may not become the portfolio "fashion" accessory it once was in Anaconda's late 1990's heyday, we think the worm may have turned and probably more importantly for Heron's share price is the perception that it has.