Helen Degeling Precompetitive Geoscience The Secret to Australia's **Exploration Success**



ASX: COB

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The Importance of Mineral Exploration

ONE PRODUCING MINE

For every 500–1000 exploration projects, we will get **ONE** producing mine. 10 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

100 TARGETS FOR ADVANCED EXPLORATION

FROM 500 – 1000 GRASS ROOTS EXPLORATIONS

Image credit: The Fraser Institute https://www.fraserinstitute.org/categories/mining

Timeframe from greenfields to resource





Precompetitive data creates opportunities





southeast striking structures, parallel to the major fault. <u>Previous explorers</u> have concentrated on such outcropping smaller features, with <u>no comprehensive geochemical</u> <u>approach undertaken to date</u>. <u>Potential exists for</u> hidden and/or poorly exposed, approach undertaken and stratabound <u>base metal mineralisation</u> associated with the structurally controlled and stratabound <u>base metal mineralisation</u> associated with the Wonomo Fault and numerous smaller north-east cross cutting faults and in the adjacent

Mt Isa Group sediments.







CobaltBlue

Ethical and reliable cobalt for a more sustainable world

Our aim: clean, responsible cobalt supply

Broken Hill Cobalt Project

Targeted project life +20 years

- Mineral Resource of 118Mt* for 81,400t cobalt
- 3,500 tpa of cobalt (as MHP)
- 300,000 tpa of Elemental Sulphur

Kwinana Cobalt-Nickel Refinery

Cobalt Sulphate and Nickel Sulphate

Waste Streams Project

 Identification of opportunities to re-process metalliferous waste and tailings around Australia and the world.

Patented minerals processing tech for treating pyrite feedstocks

90–95% recovery of cobalt from ore to product.

Cobalt Nickel Mixed Hydroxide

> Cobalt Sulphate

Mine Waste: Size of the Problem

Estimate of global annual tailings production by commodity

- 3.4 billion tonnes tailings produced annually from copper tailings in 2018.
- Copper by far the most
- Declining grades, increasing demand, mean the volume of tails per tonne Cu produced is going up.



Source: International Council on Mining and Metals; Roadmap for Tailings Reduction, 2022

Secondary Prospectivity Project

Critical Minerals in Mine Waste

- SMI-GSQ project lead by Assoc Prof Anita Parbhakar-Fox
- Examines mine waste sites across Queensland to identify economic accumulations of critical minerals to determine if mine waste is a viable resource
- 2019 to 2023 and ongoing



and US TRALIA Sustainable Minerals Institute



Image credit: A. Parbhakar-Fox



GSQ-UQ secondary prospectivity project

Stream 1	FIRST PASS INVESTIGATION OF MINE WASTE Initial characterisation of up to 24 mine sites targeting mine waste from a range of commodities including cobalt.
Stream 2	DETAILED SITE INVESTIGATIONS Fertile sites representative of different deposit styles selected for detailed analysis considering the relationship between geology, mineralisation and critical metal fertility.
Stream 3	BESPOKE MINERAL PROCESSING METHODOLOGIES Evaluation of processing methodologies offering the greatest potentially economic recovery of critical minerals from mine waste materials.
	Queensland Government CobaltBlue
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Cobalt in North West Queensland





Osborne testwork



Two flowsheets tested:

$Tails \to float \to POX$	
$Tails \to kiln \to POX$	(COB Process)

	Float	POX	TOTAL recovery
Cobalt	90%	46%	41.4%
Соррег	74%	98%	72.5%

	Kiln	POX	TOTAL recovery
COBALT	99%	90%	89.1%
COPPER	99%	90%	89.1%

Further recovery of cobalt and copper required from leach solutions.

Cobalt Blue: Waste Streams Project

Project Aim

- To generate opportunities for re-mining of key battery metals from mine waste
- To work with existing operations to develop synergies for secondary metal extraction
- Turning 'trash' into 'treasure'
- Novel use of precompetitive data

Flin Flon tailings project



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