

Liontown posts maiden lithium resource

■ **Stuart McKinnon**

Liontown Resources boss David Richards says early-stage interest in the company's Kathleen Valley lithium project, 60km north of Leinster, provides confidence, despite recent mixed commentary about the battery mineral.

The Tim Goyder-backed and chaired company announced a sizeable maiden resource for Kathleen Valley yesterday of 21.2 million tonnes at 1.4 per cent lithium and 170 parts per million tantalum, with 75 per cent in the measured and indicated categories.

The news comes amid fears the global lithium market could be oversupplied in



Drilling at Liontown Resources' Kathleen Valley project.

the next few years with a swag of new WA producers and a wave of product expected from South American brine producers.

However, Mr Richards said the company had fielded interest from potential offtake partners and end users in China, South Korea

and Chile and noted the company was expected to enter production after 2020 when the market was expected to be more robust.

He said though lithium carbonate prices had taken a hit recently, the company's product would be more closely linked to spodumene

and lithium hydroxide, which had held up well.

"Nothing stays at a record high forever, you've got to treat lithium like any other commodity," he said.

Mr Richards noted the mineralisation at Kathleen Valley outcropped, the project sat on granted mining leases and was close to existing infrastructure.

The company will employ a dedicated project manager to begin a scoping study this year, followed by a definitive feasibility study next year.

Liontown is also completing step-out drilling at its 600sqkm Buldania lithium project near Norseman, with hopes of a maiden resource before the end of the year.