



Mining

Diggers and Dealers Day 3: Lithium, uranium deficits excite presenters in Kalgoorlie

August 4, 2021 | [Josh Chiat](#)

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LIONTOWN RESOURCES (ASX:LTR)

Charged up by both the resurgence of the lithium sector and its own progress at the Kathleen Valley Lithium Project in the Goldfields, Liontown Resources is one of the strongest performers among the presenters at Diggers.

The firm is up ~640% over the past year.

CEO Tony Ottaviano joined Pilbara Minerals boss Ken Brinsden in toasting the ebullient mood around the battery metal, which has benefitted from price rises in downstream chemicals to the tune of around 100% this year.

“We’ve taken a perspective internally and we’ve established what I call our P50 outlook, and even that’s under pressure in the last couple months,” Ottaviano said.

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“If you talk to some of our customers some of them are saying the deficit is there today.

“We’re planning for 2024 where we see that major structural deficit presenting itself and supply will be harder than people think to bring on.

Ottaviano noted Kathleen Valley would be the next highest grade hard rock lithium deposit in Australia after the famous Greenbushes mine and Wesfarmers and SQM’s Mt Holland lithium mine.

“With a 40 year mine life it underpins further expansion and possibly downstream processing, the pegmatite in places is up to 70m thick and our stopes will be the size of an Olympic swimming pool,” he said.

While hard rock lithium miners like Liontown have borne the brunt of criticism about their carbon footprint from “zero carbon” plays like geothermal lithium market darlings Vulcan Energy (ASX:VUL), Ottaviano said Kathleen Valley would be “net zero” within 10 years, with at least 50% renewables in its energy mix on opening.

Liontown Resources share price today:



TIETTO MINERALS (ASX:TIE)

With the recent successes of [Firefinch \(ASX:FFX\)](#) and [West African Resources \(ASX:WAF\)](#), West African explorer Tietto Minerals is wading into a space that is becoming recognised for its recent success, even if general investors have concerns about African jurisdictions, with its 3.35Moz Abujar project in Cote D'Ivoire.

Speaking on Wednesday, Tietto's Mark Strizek outlined why the West African nation was a good place to be.

"It's a great destination, there's some majors there in Endeavour and Perseus," he said.

"We're right in the middle there in a great location for infrastructure.

"Cote D'Ivoire is a very sophisticated economy and mining only makes about 2% (of GDP), it's a young workforce and the economy has been growing in double digits for the last 10 years.

"We've got access to very cheap green hydropower and the government has the stated aim to try increase the amount of mining and as you can see there's a lot of discoveries to be made."

According to a pre-feas in April, Tietto will produce 168,000ozpa of gold over an initial 6 year mine life including some 200,000oz in its first 12 months of operations at a cost of \$230 million.