

Tasmanian ‘secret’ is out



After listing on the ASX this time last year, Flynn Gold has made steady work drilling for gold in Tasmania, following geological trends across the sea from Victoria

The “word is out” on resources opportunities in Tasmania and more companies are expected to join the exploration rush on the Apple Isle.

Flynn Gold Ltd executive director Sam Garrett even goes as far as rating Tasmania above perennial first-choice mining state Western Australia.

“I find it to be the best state in Australia to operate in and I’m fortunate to make that claim because we operate in both Tasmania and WA,” Garrett told **Paydirt**. “Between the two, I think Tasmania is an easier place to operate and that’s got a lot to do with the fact that it’s a much smaller community there.

“They have very similar regulations but Tasmania has faster access to getting approvals in place and we’ve also got very strong relationships with our stakeholders: the landowners and the Government.”

Flynn started Phase 2 drilling at its Portland gold project in Tasmania at the end of March. The drill bit will stay focused on the 1.5km Grand Flaneur-Blue Bell trend where previous drilling results included 0.5m @ 12.75 g/t, 2m @ 7.52 g/t from 46m and 1.4m @ 9.66 g/t from 45.6m, including 0.6m @ 20.3 g/t from 45.6m.

The company will target an initial 1,000m across 4-6 holes at roughly 400-500m a month, with the programme expected to wrap up around July.

Flynn’s exploration philosophy in Tasmania is based on geological trends from Victoria, such as those which birthed the cream of the crop Fosterville gold mine, now owned by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd.

Because of this, Garrett believes the company arrived at just the right time with competitors beginning to notice the State’s geological prospectivity along the Western Lachlan Orogen.

“Geologically, the reason we’re in Tasmania and have identified this area is because of the fantastic discovery a few years ago

by Kirkland Lake,” he said, referring to Fosterville. “That has set off the modern boom in Victoria, but it’s very difficult to get access to tenements.

“However, across the straight in Tasmania where the geology is an extension of that Victorian Fold Belt type geology, [there are] exactly the same sediments, ages of sediments, types of intrusives and structural formations.

“The contrast in exploration expenditure, historically, is very stark and that’s the opportunity we seek to leverage off.

“We’ve also seen more recently the Canadian-listed company TinOne Resources start drilling adjacent to our projects, so the word has got out. We were lucky we recognised this early and got in there.”



Sam Garrett

Flynn listed in June last year after a \$10 million IPO and despite seeing frequent peaks and valleys on its share price since, the company remains valued at 15c apiece – its original listing price – with a market cap just over \$14 million.

Garrett believes this share price isn’t a

fair reflection because Flynn Gold has met all of its targets thus far at Portland as well as the Golden Ridge project. His disappointment is also dampened by the industry-wide wait times at assay labs.

“We’ve met all the targets that we’ve hoped to achieve, we started drilling on our key project, we’ve almost completed the first 4,000m programme that we said we were going to complete at Golden Ridge,” he said. “We started drilling on our second project, Portland, within the first six months. That was another key milestone.

“We’ve completed geophysics surveys at Golden Ridge and Portland and the only problem we’ve been having in terms of delivering is in assay results. I think we’re just another company in a long list of many that are struggling to get results back from labs.

“We’ve had some assays in the lab now for more than four months and it’s very hard to manage ongoing exploration, particularly drilling, if you don’t have any assays to work with. That’s just the way things are at the moment and you have to be flexible.”

In the spirit of flexibility, Flynn has diversified its portfolio with four gold-lithium assets in WA: Mt Dove, Yarrie, Koolyanobbing and Forrestania.

A drill rig isn’t expected on those tenements any time soon, but the company is busy putting boots on the ground for soil sampling programmes.

“In WA, we’ve definitely got the opportunity to explore for lithium and we’re taking advantage of that,” Garrett said.

Garrett also doesn’t discount the increased interest in Tasmania to elicit some M&A action at some point in the future.

“We know there’s bigger mid-tier groups circling around the state, so there may be opportunities for other types of corporate activity there,” he said.

– Fraser Palamara