

Tasmanian mining and mineral production receives \$500,000 boost

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Explorers: Exploration manager Dr Joe Xie, Resources Minister Sarah Courtney, project consultant Laurie Veska, and mines director Kevin Robinson. Picture: Supplied

A boom in Tasmanian mining could be in the works after a round of grants worth nearly \$500,000.

The funding has been awarded to 11 projects focused on exploring previously uncharted territory for undiscovered mineral deposits.

The projects will collectively receive nearly \$500,000 to explore prospective regions and potentially discover new mines.

Included among the 11 successful grant applicants is a Zeehan-based project by Stellar Resources Ltd.

Project consultant Laurie Veska said the funding meant the project near Zeehan had more potential to find new mineral deposits.

"We're drilling deeper than we would normally, and that's thanks to (the grant), which supplements the drilling costs," he said.

"Having that support... means we can drill deeper holes further away from known deposits, which increases the chance of perhaps making new discoveries."

Minister for resources Sarah Courtney said the mining and minerals processing industry in Tasmania was a 'key pillar' of the economy.

"During the 2018 election we set a target for a 50 per cent increase in new mining ventures over five years, compared to the previous five year period," she said.

"To help achieve this target, the Hodgman Liberal Government committed \$2 million over four years (2018-2022) to the Exploration Drilling Grant Initiative (EDGI).

"The (state) government remains committed to this important industry and the jobs it supports."