

BATTERY PUSH FOR POWER



Picture: Michael Wilson

STUART MCKINNON

Battery Minerals has acquired a prospective copper-gold project in Victoria after battling to lock in financing for its flagship graphite project in Mozambique.

The David Flanagan-chaired junior said yesterday it had signed binding agreements with the private owners of Gippsland Prospecting to secure 67 per cent in the company, which has the sole rights to the Block 4 exploration licence, which lies adjacent to Stavely Minerals' Thursday's Gossan copper-gold project in Victoria.

The 809sqkm tenement also hosts the historic Moyston gold mine, which produced 75,000oz at 22 grams per tonne.

Battery will pay \$335,000 to Gippsland's two major owners Kent Balas and Darryl Clark and issue them with 294.4 million new shares as consideration. Mr Balas and Mr Clark will also join Battery's board with the former being appointed managing director.

Battery has made a pro-rata offer to

the remaining shareholder, who owns 33 per cent of Gippsland Prospecting, involving 145 million shares and \$165,000.

The acquisition is subject to the approval of Battery shareholders and the granting of the exploration licence.

Mr Flanagan, pictured, said there was extensive evidence to support the view that Block 4 was highly prospective for both gold and base metals.

"The tenement has not been thoroughly explored for more than a decade and even then it was limited to shallow drilling near the Stawell mine," he said.

"Given the recent substantial exploration success close by and the outstanding prospectivity of the geology, we are looking forward to applying modern exploration techniques and drilling to a new project that has effectively been mothballed for over 10 years."

The acquisition follows a two-year battle by Battery to secure funding for its flagship Montepuez graphite project in Mozambique amid a weak market for the commodity. Battery shares closed 14.2 per cent higher at 0.8¢.