

## Tri Origin happy with dry hits at Woodlawn

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**TRI Origin Minerals will not have to undertake mine dewatering processes as the start of drilling, as part of its definitive feasibility study, yielded dry hits in existing underground workings to a depth of around 300m below surface at its Woodlawn zinc-copper project, which could reduce the cost of the operation.**

The company's DFS – started last week – saw a hole drilled to determine the water level in existing underground infrastructure intersected "two separate mine voids and did not encounter any water".

Speaking to *MiningNews.net*, managing director Bruce Robertson said he was happy with the dry hits.

"Most companies don't like a dry hole but we're very pleased because what it means is we can get down to a significant level in the mine and know that we don't have to contend with significant volumes of acid water as part of the initial evaluation process," he said.

"Woodlawn was historically a dry mine but we can't rely on assumptions on these things and what we have now is certainty with regard to the water."

He added that if water was encountered, the overall cost of the project would be significantly greater than in a dry mine.

"If we had to pump water out as part of the evaluation process, we'd have to go through a whole series of licensing for acid water disposal as well as the cost of pumping, and also it would be likely that mine rehabilitation costs would be a lot greater because all the existing support would have been eaten out by the acid water."

Robertson anticipates that water could be encountered lower down in the mine but for the meantime, he is seeing that in a positive light.

"On the operational side, it means there is an opportunity to operate for a significant time without having to worry [about the water] if it's down low," he said.

Additionally, the drill rig will be used for mine and infrastructure geotechnical surveys and two holes will be drilled some 4km west of the Woodlawn mine, each targeting coincident geophysical and geochemical anomalies.

Tri Origin is on the lookout for Woodlawn-style mineralisation or zinc-rich volcanic mineral sulphides. Around 600m of drilling is planned with follow-up electromagnetic surveys.

Some \$2.6 million has been budgeted for the DFS, which Robertson anticipates will be completed by the end of the calendar year and at the latest, by the first quarter of next year.

The pre-feasibility study suggested the project could produce 440,000 tonnes of ore a year for 80,000t of zinc concentrate and would have an initial mine life of eight years.

The current resource at Woodlawn stands at 8.5 million tonnes of combined measured and indicated resources grading 10.3% zinc, 1.8% copper, 4% lead, 0.53 gram per tonne gold and 86gpt silver.

Woodlawn is within the Lachlan Fold Belt in New South Wales.

Shares in the company climbed 1c to \$1.25 in trading at lunchtime today.



Tri Origin Minerals managing director Bruce Robertson at the Woodlawn zinc project.



Mineralisation at Tri Origin's Woodlawn project in NSW