

Latin sources lithium in Argentina

Latin Resources Ltd is no stranger to South America, spending \$20 million and eight years exploring for copper and iron sands on the continent.

But now the company has set its sights on the burgeoning lithium market, securing the largest lithium hard rock holding in Argentina.

Speaking at Latin America Down Under, managing director Chris Gale said two-thirds of the world's lithium came from brines in Bolivia and Argentina.

"Our model was to go out and secure most of the known hard rock lithium projects in Argentina; we've managed to do that," he said.

The company has identified projects in three key districts of Catamarca, San Luis and Salta, giving Latin Resources a concession with over 100,000ha of lithium-bearing pegmatites.

"We've finished carrying out the work at Catamarca. We've got a team up at Salta now to do some due diligence on our project up there," Gale said.

"Then the team [is moving] down into

San Luis to start developing drill targets for those projects."

At Catamarca, Gale said, the team had found about 15 old spodumene mines.

"What we've done is focus on those old lithium spodumene mines and drilled those projects over the last three months. We've come up with some very good grades, some up as high as 2-4% lithium," Gale said.

"We find that we have lots of smaller deposits here, rather than what we find in WA, which is larger and lower grade deposits, so we're very happy with what we've found.

"Our move now is to go down to San Luis and drill those projects. Once again, we've found a host of old lithium mines."

Latin Resources aims to start drilling at San Luis this quarter and is hoping to



Chris Gale

define a JORC-compliant lithium resource in the third quarter of this year.

The company is also assessing a new cobalt project in the La Rioja province.

Gale applauded the Argentinian Government for its swift processes at Catamarca.

"We had our environmental report and our drill permit approved in six weeks," he said.

"That to me was incredibly important that we could get that environmental and that drill permit through as quick as we could.

"Try that in any other country, try that in Australia; it is not going to happen. So I am very pro-Argentina at the moment, in respect to how quick they move."

– Jon Daly