



# Mithril's hoping for the Midas touch with gold

AS managing director of Mithril Resources, David Hutton is looking to mine the most value possible from a resources company that has flown under the radar of many investors.

Since taking up the position in June last year, the previously Perth-based Mr Hutton has improved the company's share price from 3.2c to 4.5c and has sought to adjust the company's exploration focus.

He has moved the King William Rd-based company from a base metals explorer with projects in the Northern Territory to one that hopes shortly to become a gold producer through its Spargos Reward gold mine in the eastern goldfields of Western Australia.

Drilling at Spargos Reward, which the company bought from Breakaway Resources for \$200,000 in September, has unearthed drill intercepts of up to 13.67g/t and suggests the presence of a high-grade gold shoot that extends vertically to 400m.

Not only does the Monash University-trained geologist hope this will give the company a short-term path to production, he hopes it will give Mithril Resources a year-round story to tell the market and attract investors.

"One of the principal weaknesses of the company upon my arrival was that all its projects were located within the northern half of Australia," he says.

"The fundamental issue was that they're all subject to the northern wet season.

"Where that has a negative implication is that for a



**JULIAN SWALLOW**

whole quarter you have no activity, you have no news flow," he says.

"And you're one of a thousand companies out there clamouring for money.

"If you're not out there putting stories, activities and news flow to the market, you drop very quickly off the investor radar."

The rationale behind the move for Spargos Reward is several-fold.

The first is that need to "weatherproof" the company through a year-round suite of projects.

Spargos Reward also permits the company to exploit proven assets in an area with good existing infrastructure - lowering Mithril's risk profile.

"The obvious thing to do was to look for an advanced asset in an area that was accessible all year round and in a commodity that was lower risk and a commodity that was well understood," he said.

"So the obvious thing was to get into gold ... and if you're looking for gold you go to the goldfields."

Mr Hutton, who has worked for MIM Exploration, Forrestania Gold, Western Metals and Lion-Ore Australia in a 22-year career, says he has no regrets about crossing the Nullarbor last year to joint Mithril Resources, bringing his family with him to Adelaide.



**DIVERSIFYING:** Mithril Resources managing director David Hutton.

**Picture:** STEPHEN LAFFER

## DAVID HUTTON FACT FILE

■ **Education:** Completed a BSc (Hons) degree majoring in geology at Monash University, Victoria, in 1989.

■ **Work experience:** 23 years of mineral exploration and underground mining experience throughout Australia and South America. Strong exposure to gold, copper, silver, lead and zinc.

■ **Hobbies:** Bushwalking, fishing, gardening, working in the shed and playing with the kids.

■ **Why make the move to SA and what is your favourite place in Adelaide?**

■ My favourite place in Adelaide is the Adelaide Hills. Our move to Adelaide was for both personal and professional reasons. It offered a chance to be closer to our families (my wife and I have family in Adelaide), and Mithril Resources offered the opportunity of leading a well-recognised and successful business into the next stage of its corporate life.

■ **What is the most important piece of advice you have been given by someone during your career?**

■ Two pieces of advice: Always focus on the facts. And hard work, integrity and reputation are the ingredients for success.