

# Grade won't stop Copper Hill succeeding

The Copper Hill porphyry copper-gold project, 5km north of Molong in New South Wales, is shaping up as a likely development opportunity for Golden Cross Resources Ltd as it looks to exploit the deposit's 440,000t copper and 1.3 moz gold in measured, indicated and inferred resources.



Kim Stanton-Cook

Managing director Kim Stanton-Cook said while the deposit was relatively low grade it had a number of positive attributes, which added up to a potentially successful project.

It was "extremely well placed in the fashionable Ordovician volcanic sequences", which hosted a series of successful operating mines in the region.

"Those deposits associated with the Ordovician intrusives have quite strong alteration and distinctive magnetic responses," he added.

Copper Hill is regarded as the first copper mine in NSW, with short-lived production beginning in 1845, while modern exploration and evaluation of the deposit first began in the 1960s.

"One of the positive attributes of the project is its small footprint, which is one of the reasons I think this mine could be brought into production at relatively low cost."

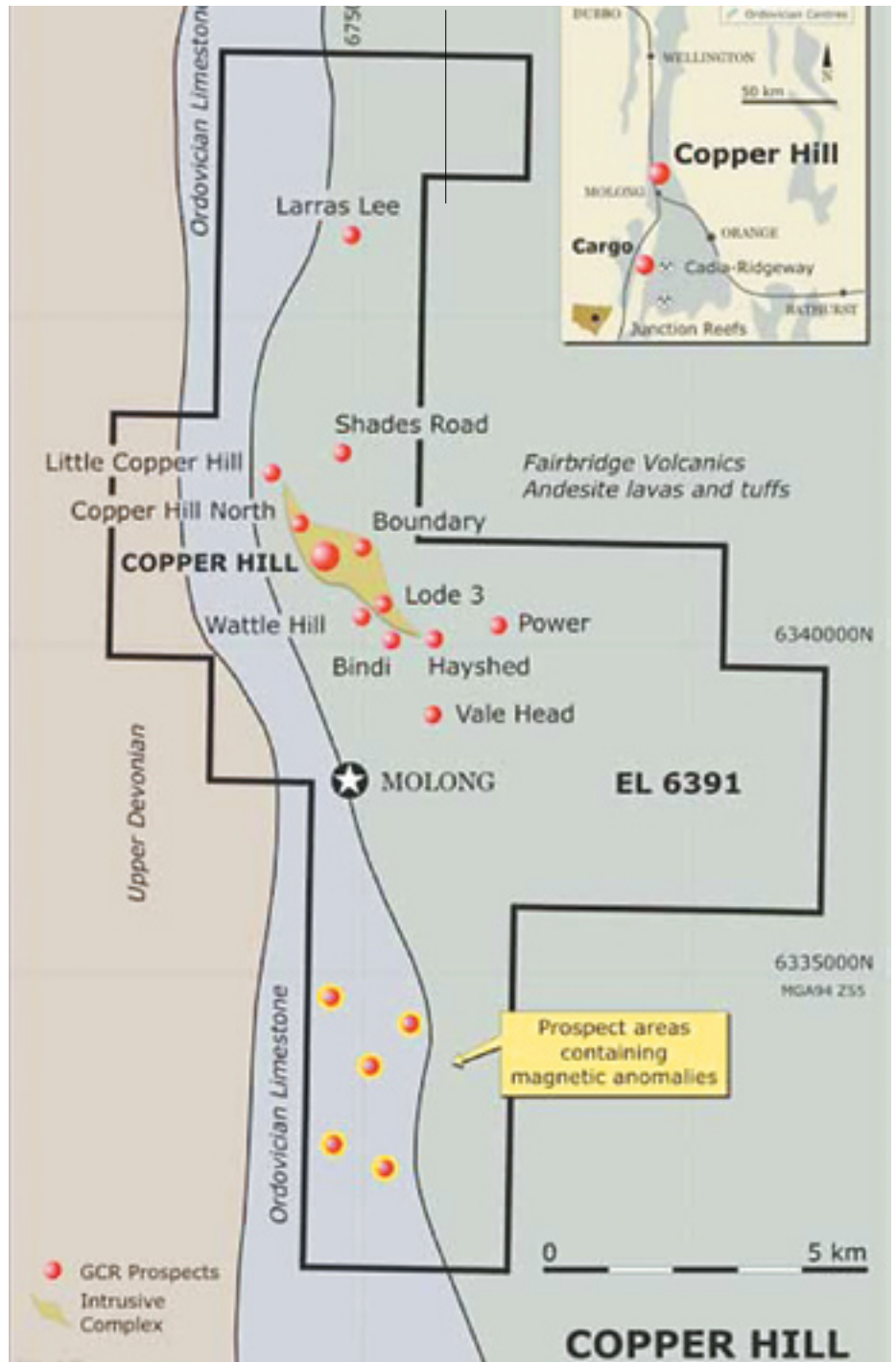
Golden Cross has used the natural topography of the project area in its conceptual mine plan, placing the plant in a valley to help mitigate the impact of noise and light pollution on the Molong community. The waste plant and tailings dam also put the landscape to use in their respective designs.

"The deposit has a low strip ratio of 0.6:1 – there is a cover zone of 20-30m over the top, but most of that material we are going to need to build bunds, tailings dam walls and foundation work.

"We have very high copper recoveries indicated, nudging 85%; gold is only at 55%, but we are working on that to get it up. We'll produce a very clean copper-gold concentrate – there is nothing else in there."

Other key positive attributes of the project are the surrounding infrastructure, including a railway at the front gate where concentrate can be loaded and transported to port.

"Molong is a town of 1,500 people who are enthusiastic about us getting a mine developed. It's a little town, but it's very commercial. They want to know what's in it for them and they think it's great.



"We've got power, which will cost about \$1 million to bring in, and upgrading the railway line will cost about \$500,000. How many mines do you know that have got a railway line at the door?"

Stanton-Cook said the Copper Hill project had further upside with promising exploration potential within the surrounding tenements.

"We've completed high resolution airborne magnetic and radiometric surveys, and we've done a detailed IP survey."

The surveys have offered up new targets that Golden Cross will be investigating, with some earmarked for drill testing.

– Michael Cairnduff