



# Region set to see mine riches return

Mt Garnet has had its lifeline mapped by the history of mining in the region.

It has boomed and died with the mines large and small which were discovered, worked, prospered and finally fell by the wayside on the back of falling world prices and what appeared to be declining resources.

The days of Mt Garnet being at the heart of the region's riches is returning. Central to Mt Garnet has been Kagara Zinc, the only mining company in Australia to float in 1999.

Just nine years later, Kagara has four operations including those at Charters Towers and Chillagoe, and employs more than 600 workers and contractors, a number expected to grow as high 850 over the next

two years.

The ore from this region is processed at a central plant and shipped out through Townsville.

Kagara may have been the company which put life back into the western Tableland towns, but it is not alone with exploration and development work on a number of fronts.

Exploration and development work is well advanced on Metallica's NORNICO nickel prospect about 30km south of Mr Garnet.

Located in the Greenvale nickel province, NORNICO covers 2000sq km of tenements and contains three nickel-cobalt laterite deposits – Bell Creek, Minnamoolka and Kokomo. It is proposed that the nickel ore will

go to the nickel refinery at Yabulu, near Townsville.

The project hit an unexpected two-year delay through a dispute with the refinery but now that Kagara has taken a stake it is expected to see progress.

The project is expected to employ 250 in its construction phase with an operating workforce of 100 housed in a mine camp.

North Queensland Metals has high hopes for its Baal Gammon mine which is the drawing together of a number of small tin prospects near Herberton – the traditional tin centre of the Tableland.

Other exploration taking place in the Mt Garnet/Herbert River area include companies InterMet (magnetite), Auzex (gold), Diatreme (gold) and Metallica (gold).

## at a glance

- o **Company:** Metallica Minerals Ltd
- o **ASX Code:** MLM
- o **Listed:** November 2004
- o **Market capitalisation:** \$42.8 million
- o **Shares:** 71.4 million
- o **12-month price range:** \$0.33-\$0.78
  
- o **Metallica Minerals is a Brisbane-based resource company that looks to evaluate, develop and mine its mineral projects in Queensland.**