

Alliance in \$1.65b bet on nickel resurgence

By SIMONE GROGAN

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Listed junior Alliance Nickel has issued a blueprint for a new mine in the Goldfields that would cost \$1.65 billion to build over the next three years in a long bet on the battery commodity's return to life.

Alliance on Thursday

released its definitive feasibility study for the NiWest project, 35km from Glencore's Murrin Murrin in the Goldfields — the only nickel operation still standing in WA amid the latest downturn.

NiWest would be producing 19,500 tonnes of nickel annually for 12 years based off the latest studies. That was booked on the assumption nickel prices will stay above \$US22,325 per tonne (\$34,299).

Prices for the battery metal on the London Metals Exchange reached just shy of \$US18,000 per tonne in early October, and have since fallen to about \$US15,600. Low prices in the past 12 months have brought the demise of nearly all nickel mines in the State.

The Paul Kopejtka-led company needs to stack up financial backers for the expensive development. It will sell up to 50 per cent of the project to a partner to raise capital, and seek commercial and government debt.

NiWest was granted major project status by the Federal Government at the start of this year.

Mr Kopejtka said NiWest would be a "truly significant project for WA" and create 600 jobs during construction and 300 during operations.

WA Mines Minister David Michael said he looked forward to seeing the project progressing.

The company wants to make a final investment decision in the second half of next year.