



# New mine project for North Going solo in copper

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A NEW copper mining project could be coming to North Queensland.

Minotaur Exploration purchased nine exploration permits, collectively known as the Highlands Project, from Syndicated Metals this week.

The tenements cover 776sq km and are 50km northeast of Mount Isa and 80km northwest of Cloncurry.

Minotaur Exploration managing director Andrew Woskett said the company would like to find a “modest but good grade” copper deposit they could develop themselves.

“We’re not planning on bringing in a partner at this stage,” he said.

“We expect the size of the deposit to be modest but not huge but of a good quality.

“That would lend itself to be a viable deposit.”

Mr Woskett said Minotaur was very happy with the acquisition of the exploration permits.

“We consider it to be a bargain basement price,” he said.

An ASX release from the company said copper sulphide mineralisation was known to occur in the area, most notably at the Barbara deposit, located adjacent to the tenement group.

Mr Woskett said as geologists they saw this potential deposit as having an advantage compared to another area they were exploring closer to Cloncurry.

“That ground (near Cloncurry) is covered by sediment, so you have to go through that to get to the minerals,” he said.

“The rocks are all visible at the surface at this (Highlands) project.”

Mr Woskett said this potentially made exploration easier, quicker and cheaper for Minotaur.

“The topography of the area is a bit more challenging though – it’s quite rugged up there,” he said.

“The previous owners had done quite a lot of work — we can take that work to the next step.”

The area is well known to be mineralised for copper, Mr Woskett said.

“We’re looking for sulphide-hosted deposits,” he said.

These types of deposits are hosted in iron sulphide rock and a higher grade of copper comes from that.