

Carrapateena hits milestone

VALERINA CHANGARATHIL, Advertiser 5/3/2020

OZ Minerals' mineral processing plant at its under-construction \$950 million-plus Carrapateena mine in the state's far north is being put through its paces and is performing well.

The mine has now achieved nameplate mill throughput rate, with stable operational periods and run time, the company said. Flotation recovery for several shifts has already exceeded 90 per cent, with concentrate grades in excess of 40 per cent copper.

Carrapateena produced its first saleable concentrate late last year, slightly later than expected due to a wrong part being supplied by a vendor. "The minerals processing plant was subject to further work by the construction contractors to complete final commissioning tasks during January and much of February," OZ Minerals chief executive Andrew Cole, pictured, said.

"It is a credit to all concerned to see the mill reach nameplate throughput so soon after handover and concentrate being accumulated," he said. The underground crusher and conveyor system are also now operating to design expectations. As previously announced, the larger sub-level cave footprint and optimised mine design is expected to improve cave establishment, enable a faster 12-month ramp-up to its targeted 4.25 million tonnes of ore per rate by end-2020.

It then aims to further increase this to 4.7-5Mtpa by 2023.

The processing plant will continue to be tested and optimised through the first half of 2020.