

# Mediaportal Report

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## Exploration restarts

A DIVERSIFIED resources company, Australian Minerals & Mining Group Limited (AMMG) has been granted an exploration licence covering about 184 square kilometres near Meckering containing known kaolin deposits.

This is for an area with indicated kaolin deposits of 16.77 million tonnes and 48.28 million tonnes of inferred resource.

Bisecting the tenement are the Great Eastern Highway and the Trans-Australia standard gauge rail line. The licence area is also close to the Western Power transmission line and the Goldfields water pipeline. In conjunction with the exploration work, AMMG is currently carrying out a technical marketing study as to potential customers and joint venture partners with particular emphasis on China and South-East Asia. The area has already been explored for kaolin deposits by CRA Exploration Pty Ltd, WA Kaolin Pty Ltd and most recently by Swan River Kaolin Pty Ltd (SRK).

SRK went to extent of setting up a pilot treatment plant at Avon Industrial Park and sent samples of its product to potential overseas customers. The plant did establish that the Meckering kaolin was a high-quality product,



**New man:** Ric Dawson is the newly appointed managing director of Australian Minerals & Mining Group Limited, which is exploring kaolin deposits near Meckering.

suitable for a wide range of end uses.

However SRK's owner Minerals Corporation Limited attempted to raise capital for the Northam/Meckering project at the worst possible time – the height of the Global Financial Crisis. The result was that the company went into voluntary administration on June 15 last year and is now in liquidation.

However, according to AMMG's managing director Ric Dawson, the data from SRK's work and available at the Department of Mines and Petroleum have proved valuable.

“Our chairman Luke Atkins has very good Chinese connections,” he said. “The kaolin market is tightly controlled, but the company has the links to establish markets for itself.”