

# No rest for new Poseidon chief

For a brief moment, Peter Harold was considering an exit from the nickel game he has become so entrenched in over the last three decades.

Harold signed off as managing director of Panoramic Resources Ltd – the company he founded in 2001 as Sally Malay Mining – in October and was planning to take an extended break to contemplate his next career move.

Less than a month into his sabbatical, he was approached by the team at Poseidon Nickel Ltd, which was serendipitously looking for a new managing director with vast experience in the nickel sector.



Poseidon boasts more than 400,000t of nickel resource in its portfolio of assets in the WA Goldfields

It quickly became evident both parties were the perfect fit for one another and Harold officially started in his new role at the beginning of March.

“After 18.5 years at Panoramic, I was actually thinking about doing something else because nickel can be a little bit frustrating, but I guess I’ve now been in nickel for over 30 years, I kind of know everything about it, so I figured I better stay in there,” Harold told **Paydirt**.

“I knew the assets pretty well but didn’t really know the people, so I’ve got to know them pretty quickly. Obviously, we’ve had this COVID-19 situation coming over the top of everything, so it’s been a little bit of a challenge, but we’re managing our way through that and I’m very excited about the future.”

In some respects, Harold’s time in nickel has come full circle, having been part of the MPI Mines team which discovered the Silver Swan deposit at Black

Swan in the mid-1990s.

Black Swan is Poseidon’s most advanced asset in a portfolio of three key projects, all located within a 300km radius of Kalgoorlie. Previous studies have indicated just \$13 million is needed to revive the Silver Swan underground mine and another \$19 million to refurbish the Black Swan processing plant.

Harold revealed he has always been a keen follower of Mt Windarra – the project widely recognised for giving rise to WA’s first nickel boom in 1969.

Lake Johnston is another asset to have also caught his eye, particularly in recent times following the discovery of the Abi Rose orebody only a few years ago.

An internal strategy session with the existing Poseidon crew just a few weeks before he officially started as managing director vindicated to Harold his decision to take on the role.

“It was actually a really good exercise to get to know everybody and just really understand where the studies were at with the three nickel projects,” Harold said. “Clearly the Black Swan restart has been the primary focus of the business and I wanted

to understand where that was at and really get my mind around what work had been done there.

“It’s a really interesting asset base and also a really great bunch of people. I’m very, very lucky because the guys here are very well known in the nickel industry, they’ve been around the world and we’ve got a really good mix of people sort of my age and then a lot of people who are younger.”

While one of Harold’s first official duties as Poseidon’s managing director was the daunting task of having to write up a COVID-19 policy for his new company, positive news quickly followed with confirmation of the new Golden Swan discovery at Black Swan.

Assays for the first hole drilled into Golden Swan returned 7.6m @ 8.8% nickel (true width 4.3m), including 2.1m @ 15.9% nickel (true width 1.2m), from

a total interval of 23.1m @ 4% nickel and 0.4% copper (true width 13.3m).

It is only the second time that significant massive sulphides have been intersected within the Black Swan disseminated channel since the discovery of the Gosling lode in 1996.

“I can’t take any credit for that, it’s a fantastic discovery,” Harold said. “A lot of work has been done by [chief geologist] Steve Warriner and Neil Hutchinson, who was the previous GM exploration at Poseidon and now a consultant to us, and also the guys at Newexco.

“It’s a decent sized EM anomaly and a good intersection to start off with...especially given there’s been some other good discoveries just recently. I think if we can continue to get further intersections on Golden Swan that will be very good for our business.”

Poseidon has also commissioned a scoping study on the estimated 180,000oz of gold tailings stockpiled at Mt Windarra – an opportunity that Harold believes warrants further investigation at



New Poseidon managing director Peter Harold with company consultant David Riekie at the Black Swan open pit

a time when the gold price is nudging \$3,000/oz. Results from the study could be released later this month.

Dewatering activities at Black Swan remain ongoing for now amid the coronavirus pandemic, with Harold insisting the company was taking every precaution necessary and will immediately halt work if required.

– Michael Washbourne