King Island Scheelite have announced an 18% increase in the amount of scheelite available.

The Bold Head underground scheelite resource, has now been estimated to be 1.76 million tonnes, which adds another 18% to the open cut mine's estimated resource.

The 18% more scheelite demonstrates the potential to significantly extend the mine life beyond the eight years proposed in the current King Island Scheelite company’s feasibility study.

Added to this, the report indicates the surrounding 7km of the Grassy Granite is highly prospective for more scheelite resources.

King Island Scheelite chairman, Johann Jacobs, said “This is an exceptional result for KIS with the increased indicated and inferred resources adding significantly to our total mineral resource and potentially increasing the mine life of our wholly owned Dolphin Tungsten Project.

“This positive result builds on our recently released feasibility study and forms a significant part of our road map to starting production at Dolphin, targeted for 2021,” he said.

The results of this new Bold Head Scheelite Resource Estimation report, carried out by consultants Resource and Exploration Geology have added 18% to the combined total (inferred and indicated) resources for the Dolphin Project. 16,080 tonnes WO3 is underground at Bold Head, which added to the Dolphin open cut, totals 102,480 tonnes WO3.

Tungsten(VI) oxide, also known as tungsten trioxide or tungstic anhydride, WO3, is a chemical compound containing oxygen and the transition metal tungsten. Tungsten was originally known as wolfram, explaining the choice of “W” for its elemental symbol.

Scheelite is deemed a ‘critical material’ of strategic importance, used predominately in car manufacturing, industrial, mining construc-
The Bold Head scheelite deposit is a satellite deposit of the world class Dolphin deposit located at Grassy.

The Bold Head deposit was discovered by Geopeko Ltd in 1968 and operated as a decline accessed room and pillar underground mine between 1974 and 1986, before being closed due to low metal prices.

This resource estimation is based mainly on historic diamond drilling data, geological cross sections and mine infrastructure plans compiled by Geopeko Ltd and digitised and validated for this and the previous estimation.

A total of 424 historic diamond drill holes for 32,388m were drilled by Geopeko during operation on 12.5m or 25m spaced systematic cross sections.

The digital compilation of historic drilling data, geological information and mine infrastructure has provided sufficient information to allow the assessment of the commercial viability of re-accessing the Bold Head Scheelite Mine.

A decline developed mostly on the eastern footwall of the deposit extends from surface to over 200m depth. Most mineralisation consists of remnant mineralisation in existing room and pillar cut and fill stopes with undeveloped mineralisation located at the deeper southern end of the deposit. Rehabilitation of the existing mine infrastructure is proposed with room and pillar mining operation resumed to recover the remaining mineralisation. Mineralisation would be transported to the proposed Dolphin Mine processing facility 3km to the south.

Technical studies on process plant design for the Dolphin and Bold Head deposits have been ongoing since 2015. Further validation drilling is required to test down plunge mineralisation and digital mine model.

The proposed process plant is substantially the same as the historic operation which closed in 1992 with some modernisation of equipment and processes. Gravity flotation circuit achieving 74% recovery.

KIS has previously applied, and received approval from King Island Council in 2006, for the development of a large open pit and processing plant at the Dolphin mine site. An Environmental Protection Notice 7442/2 was issued by the EPA on 2 October 2017.