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# Weekly Commentary

The Mining Investment Experts

11 November 2017 On Friday's Close Analyst : Warwick Grigor

## **Uranium stocks spike on news of Cameco cutbacks**

The strength in the Australian market continued as the week progressed, playing catch up with overseas markets. The buyers are loosening their purse strings across a broad range of sectors.

Uranium stocks spiked on Thursday with the news that Cameco was temporarily suspending production from the McArthur River and Key Lake uranium operations in Canada. However, it will continue to supply the market from its large inventory, expecting that the shutdown will last for about 10 months.

The Aussie uranium stocks immediately reacted with speculators buying aggressively, but as usual, the emotional gut reaction lacked any logic. This is a temporary closure. It doesn't take the mines offline permanently. There will be no disruption to supply, as there is a large stockpile to draw upon. The reason why the suspension is taking place is because the uranium market is very ugly. Thus, it is an acknowledgement of how bad it really is. It is not a buy signal.

There were two ASX listed uranium producers (outside of BHP and RIO), Paladin and Peninsula. Both were born out of the uranium bubble that we saw a decade ago. Now there is only one left. Paladin is in administration and Peninsula is finding it more profitable to buy spot uranium than produce it. It is very fortunate to have forward sales above US\$50/lb.

Every other listed uranium hopeful is living in fantasy land if they think they are going to start up a new uranium mine. Only a lemming would contemplate doing so given the dour outlook for the uranium price and nuclear energy. Social pressure for renewables has won out over economics and science such that the window of opportunity for nuclear power has now closed. Fukushima was the final nail in the coffin. Those still holding uranium stocks should see this as an opportunity to bail.

## Volatility is at low levels, but for how long?

Stock prices have been rising strongly in the USA, but in mid-October the volumes on the major stock exchanges were down 22% on last year's average. Average daily trading volume of ETFs was down 8.5% from a year ago. Trading volume on the MSCI Europe index fell to its lowest level in five years. The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) fell to its lowest level in 20 years in early October.

Looking at our market, the enthusiasm for stocks has been relatively low (up until recently). Investors have been cautious in what seemed like a balanced market. Short selling levels have been relatively high, being double what they were in 2010. Many brokers will tell you that the market is boring, even though it is moving higher. FOMO is not common, but in the smaller end some of the more speculative stocks have surged. Look at the Pilbara gold play. Money is being made if you want to be in the fast

lane. Our Sentiment Oscillator has been calling the direction quite accurately.

At some point there will be an event that re-introduces volatility, but will it be a good or a bad event; up or down? Can you afford to miss out if the market runs harder? (It is interest about how no-one is talking about higher interest rate at present).

## Oil stocks attracting attention

Money continues to flow into oil stocks with the oil price holding above US\$60/bbl, the best price seen in two years. Journalists are starting to pick up on the theme, interviewing analysts to nominate the best buys. Santos and Beach come out as preferred stocks but there is a host of others that are starting to improve. The highest risk ones will obviously offer the greatest leverage. The oil stocks we cover in the charts are all trending upwards, so for the time being the trend is your friend.

## Lucapa results - some encouraging, others not

Late on Friday Lucapa brought out the long awaited results of the chemistry analysis for the first seven holes. One of those holes provided encouragement, with the other six showing chemistry to be outside the optimum environment for the creation of diamonds - the diamond stability field. Thus they drop to the back of the field with respect to prospectivity. The seventh sample, from L14, continues to offer some promise so it will be assessed further.

The objective of exploration at this stage is to knock out those kimberlites that are likely to be a waste of time, and focus on the ones that give the right (positive) chemical signature. Even when this first pass chemistry gives us encouragement there will always be further work required. You will never get a drill core that is dripping with diamonds. It is a process of elimination to find the exact source of the high value diamonds.

While the results released yesterday have not giving us the instant gratification we would have liked first up, it should be noted that they came from targets that were accessible during the wet season and these were not necessarily the best targets. Further, they were drilled prior to receipt of the TDEM survey results. Yet, the high value diamonds have come from somewhere nearby.

Lucapa is now preparing the core for the testing of the next 11 holes drilled. Significantly, five of these are from targets that drain into the rich Mining Block 8.

Disclosure: FEC has received capital raising fees from Lucapa Diamond Co in the past and associates of FEC own shares in Lucapa.

## Argent Minerals - dramatically expanding potential

During the week Argent (ARD) brought out two major announcements. The first related to the dimensions of the Kempfield silver/lead/zinc resource, while the second disclosed significant improvements in the metallurgy for the same resource.

The Kempfield resource had previously been disclosed to be 21.8 Mt at 47 gpt Ag, 0.12 gpt Au, with associated zinc and lead. The silver equivalent numbers were 75 gpt for 52 Moz. It was a useful but not compelling resource, but since this was announced in 2012, ARD has been working away to determine just how big the system could be. An additional 34 holes have been drilled, to depths of 700m, and the 3D geology and exploration model has been substantially reworked. The strike length has been increased by 250%, the width has been increased by 80%, and the depth has doubled to 400m. Thus its size is starting to look substantial indeed, and the new geological detail gives a much better understanding of the deposit.

When you add the existing resource to the revised exploration target, you are now looking at the potential for 60 Mt, with the incremental grade being 65 gpt Ag, 0.3 gpt Au, 1.2% Zn and 0.6% Pb. The contained silver equivalent ounces goes up from 52 Moz to 152 Moz. Of course, that is the optimistic scenario, but it gives a feel for the ultimate potential. We all like to know just how big these things can become. It will take 5,000m of RC, by the end of Q1 2018 to verify this target, and a second stage of drilling to achieve JORC status.

As good as the larger resource is going to be, the real leverage comes from the improvement in the metallurgical test results that reported to a bulk metal concentrate. Silver and gold recoveries have increased from 80% initially, to 89.5% and 88.6% respectively. The zinc and lead improvements have been more dramatic, up from 55% to 97.5% and 83.4% respectively. Testing was undertaken on drill core samples, whereas the earlier tests were taken on residue from CIL tests.

The improvement in the zinc recoveries is quite timely given the performance of zinc prices recently. While it has traditionally been a silver play, zinc now becomes important - maybe even more important than silver, if the AGM presentation given on Friday is accurate. The order of magnitude increases disclosed last week add greatly to the likelihood that Kempfield could constitute a worthy multimetal development in due course. In the meantime it is clearly a stronger, legitimate silver play.

Disclosure: FEC and associates own shares in Argent Minerals

#### Tin seminar

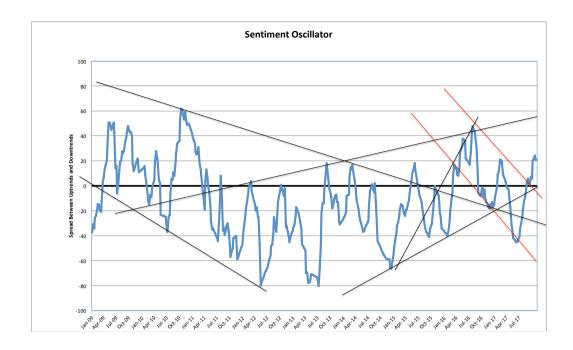
Last Monday there was a Tin Seminar held in Sydney that was attended by 30-40 brokers, analysts and investors. The keynote speaker was Tom Mulqueen from ITRI Ltd, an expert in tin markets who had flown in from the UK. Four companies presented their merits; Aust Tin, Kasbah Resources, MetalsX and Stellar Resources. Two of these were pure tin plays. The best performer in the market last week was MetalsX, probably because of the nickel and copper projects that offer exposure to a wide range of battery input metals.

Tin seems to be a commodity that has had a recent history of disappointing the optimists. Just when there was a shortage predicted, a fabulously high grade near-surface field was discovered in Myanmar, dramatically adding to global supply. Now that the easiest of this tin has been exploited the tin market is expected to resume the previous trends. Still, the expected growth rate in demand seems to be in the order of 1-3% p.a. Tin is promoted as a green metal, and is of importance to the battery market, but it is part of the mix as opposed to an essential metal in short supply. Soldering still constitutes about half of the demand for tin.

Anyone looking at tin investments will need to do their homework and be satisfied that the company under review has good project fundamentals rather than rely on a hot tin market. There is one positive though; known tin stockpiles are at the lowest level that they have been for 15 years, and they are half what they were in 2009.

#### Data collection is massive today

Reading The Credit Strategist last week, I came across this following statement from Christopher Cole of Artemis Capital Management, stating that "90% of the world's data across history has been created in the last two years ...". That is quite astonishing in itself, but what does it mean? Are we suddenly massively empowered like never before assuming that data is meaningful? Maybe, but the article put this figure up to emphasis that all of our financial and economic models are inherently flawed because the historical data they use is incomplete i.e. they are unreliable.



**Sentiment Indicator:** Even though it was a strong market, the Sentiment Oscillator was steady. There were 46% (46%) of the charts in uptrend and 25% (24%) in downtrend on Friday's close.

Detailed Chart Comments				
NB. Only the bold comments have been updated. Comments in grey type are from previous weeks and will be less relevant.				
Indices	Code	Trend Comment		
All Ordinaries	XAO	holding highs		
Metals and Mining	XMM	into a steeper uptrend now		
Energy	XEJ	new high		
Stocks	Code	Trend Comment (updated comments in bold)	Main Interest	
ABM Resources	ABU	breached trend line	gold	
Aeon Metals	AML	back to highs	copper + cobalt	
Alacer Gold	AQG	testing uptrend	gold – production	
Alkane Resources	ALK	testing recent downtrend	gold, zirconia	
Acacia Resources	AJC	Sideways at the bottom	coal	
Aguia Resources	AGR	back in downtrend	phosphate	
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	testing downtrend	gold exploration	
Allegiance Coal	AHQ	down	coal	
Alliance Resources	AGS	sideways	gold exploration	
Alltech Chemicals	ATC	stronger	industrial minerals	
Anova Metals	AWV	falling again	gold	
Antipa Minerals	AZY	sideways	gold	
Apollo Consolidated	AOP	new high	gold exploration	
Archer Exploration	AXE	strongly higher	magnesite, graphite	
Argent Minerals	ARD	testing downtrend	polymetallic	
Artemis Resources	ARV	Uptrend	gold, nickel	
Aspire Mining	AKM	new low	coal	
Aurelia Metals	AMI	upside breakout	gold + base metals	
Auroch Minerals	AOU	continuing higher	exploration	
Aus Tin	ANW	sideways	tin, cobalt	
Australian Bauxite	ABX	breached uptrend	bauxite	

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Emerald Resource EMR sideways gold	
Energia Minerals EMX weak zinc	
Evolution Mining EVN gently stronger gold	
Excelsior Gold EXG new high gold	
Finders Resources FND stronger copper	
First Australian FAR testing uptrend oil/gas	
First Graphite FGR strong breach of downtrend graphite	
Fortescue Metals FMG testing longer term uptrend iron ore	
Galaxy Resources GXY steeply higher lithium	
Galilee Energy GLL surge out of downtrend oil and gas, CBM	
Gascoyne Resources GCY testing steeper downtrend gold	
Global Geoscience GSC new high lithium	
Gold Road GOR uptrend continuing gold exploration	
Graphex Mining GPX new uptrend graphite	
Heron Resources HRR testing downtrend zinc	
Highfield Resources HFR breached downtrend potash	
Highlands Pacific HIG breached downtrend copper, nickel	
Hillgrove Resources HGO sideways copper	
Iluka Resources ILU surged higher mineral sands	
Image Resources IMA spiked higher mineral sands	
Independence IGO stronger gold, nickel	

Intrepid Mines IAU sideways copper  Karoon Gas KAR breached support line gas  Kibaran Resources KNL breached downtrend graphite  Kin Mining KIN rallying gold	
Kibaran Resources KNL breached downtrend graphite	
Kin Mining KIN rallying gold	
Legend Mining LEG sideways exploration	
Lepidico LPD steep rise lithium	
Lithium Australia LIT rising again lithium	
Lucapa Diamond LOM testing downtrend diamonds	
Macphersons Res. MRP downtrend silver	
Marmota MEU sideways gold exploration	
MetalsX MLX spiked higher tin, nickel	
Metro Mining MMI stronger bauxite	
Mincor Resources MCR spiked higher nickel	
Mineral Deposits MDL on support line mineral sands	
Mustang Resources MUS collapse diamonds, rubies	
Myanmar Minerals  MYL rising on re-listing zinc	
MZI Resources MZI testing downtrend mineral sands	
Northern Cobalt  N27 strong rise cobalt	
Northern Minerals  NTU  testing downtrend  REE	
NTM Gold NTM uptrend forming gold  Oceana Gold OGC down after steep fall gold	
Orecorp ORR risen off lows gold development	
Orinoco Gold OGX collapse on 1 for 2 issue gold development	
Orocobre ORE stronger lithium	
Oz Minerals OZL bounced off support line copper	
Pacific American Coal PAK good bounce to meet resistance line coal, graphene	
Pantoro PNR struggling to hold uptrend gold	
Panoramic Res PAN surge through downtrend nickel	
Peel Mining PEX another spike on big zinc hit copper	
Peninsula Energy PEN spike on Cameco suspensions uranium	
Perseus Mining PRU breaching uptrend gold	
Pilbara Minerals PLS steeply higher lithium/tantalum	
PNX Metals PNX sideways gold, silver, zinc	
Red River Resources RVR holding longer term uptrend zinc	
Regis Resources RRL testing uptrend gold	
Resolute Mining RSG at lows again gold	
RIO RIO rising diversified	
Salt Lake Potash SO4 new uptrend started potash	
Saracen Minerals SAR holding long term uptrend gold	
St Barbara SBM sideways at highs gold	
Sandfire Resources SFR breaching downtrend copper	
Santana Minerals SMI short term down silver	
Santos STO steeply higher oil/gas	
Sheffield Resources SFX steep rise mineral sands	
Silver Lake Resources SLR heavy fall gold	
Silver Mines SVL down again silver	
Sino Gas & Energy SEH breached steepest downtrend gas	
Southern Gold SAU gentle LT uptrend gold	
Stanmore Coal SMR breaching long term support coal	
Sundance Energy SEA new uptrend started oil/gas	
Syrah Resources SYR rallying graphite	
Talga Resources TLG downtrend graphene	

Tanami Gold	TAM		down	gold
Tempo Australia	TPP		sideways to higher	mining services
Tiger Realm	TIG		spiked higher	coal
Torian Resources	TNR		new low	gold expl'n
Triton Minerals	TON		uptrend	graphite
Troy Resources	TRY		back in downtrend	gold
Tyranna Resources	TYX		spiked higher	gold exploration
Vango Mining	VAN		down	gold
Vimy Resources	VMY		testing downtrend	uranium
West African Resources	WAF		correcting	gold
Westwits	WWI		rallying	gold exploration/development
Western Areas	WSA		new uptrend	nickel
White Rock Minerals	WRM		sideways	silver
Whitehaven Coal	WHC		gently higher	coal
WPG Resources	WPG		collapse	gold
Wolf Minerals	WLF		testing downtrend	tungsten
Totals	46%	66	Uptrend	
	25%	36	Downtrend	
		144	Total	

### **Guides to Chart Interpretations**

- Charts usually go pass from one trend (up or down) into the other via a period of indecision and uncertainty during which the trend can either recover or change. This period is signified by the orange colour. The orange represent both the greatest risk and greatest reward possibilities.
- · Once a chart is in confirmed up or downtrends it is not uncommon for 10-20% of that trend to have already transpired.
- There are trends within trends. The focus of this chart review is the immediate trend that affects the sentiment i.e. it can be a downtrend within a long-term uptrend.
- · Not every chart warrants a new comment every week. The new comments are in bold type. Grey type comments may be dated.
- Individual charts provide a single view. It is valuable to look at charts of other companies in similar commodities, and the overall sentiment is also very
  valuable. Not many stocks can swim against the tide.
- We periodically add or delete charts, some times for obscure reasons. If a chart consistent gives poor signals or is very erratic, we may delete it. Sometimes we add a chart because we want to see what all the fuss is about. We do have a preference for charting stocks that we cover in our research as well.
- Errors and omissions may occur from time to time, especially in fast moving markets.

Amber Lights in Tables: Just a reminder if when the amber light is used in the table – it is when the charts are ambiguous or when there is a change of trend taking place. If a chart is breaching a downtrend it can either be a positive sign or a trap. Only once it has done more work can it be confirmed as a new uptrend. Maybe it is a new uptrend (or conversely a new downtrend); the risk takers can decide to jump on board early (or sell). They will maximise their profits (or minimise their losses if indeed it is the start of the new uptrend (downtrend). More risk-averse investors should wait a little longer, being prepared to give up some of the gains in return for greater certainty.

Weightings of Sectors Represented in the Company Charts				
Sector	No. of Companies	Weighting		
Gold	32	22.2%		
Gold Exploration	16	11.1%		
Copper	11	7.6%		
Coal	9	6.3%		
Oil/Gas	9	6.3%		
Mineral Sands	7	4.9%		
Graphite	8	5.6%		
Zinc	7	4.9%		
Silver	6	4.2%		
Lithium	6	4.2%		

Weightings of Sectors Represented in the Company Charts			
Nickel	4	2.8%	
Potash/Phosphate	5	3.5%	
Cobalt	5	3.5%	
Uranium	3	2.1%	
Bauxite	3	2.1%	
Tin	2	1.4%	
Diamonds	2	1.4%	
Iron Ore	1	0.7%	
Other	8		
Total	144		

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