

## 7. LEAD/ZINC/SILVER

Australia ranks third in the world as a producer of lead, and fourth as a producer of zinc. The three major mines are the Broken Hill Mine in N.S.W., the Mount Isa Mine in Queensland, and the Read-Rosebery Mine in Tasmania.

### PROJECTS

#### Que River (McIntosh) Lead Zinc Copper Mine (Tas)

- Cominco/Aberfoyle. \$20 million. Underground high-grade, low tonnage, 150,000-200,000 TPY. Exploration had been suspended but go-ahead decision announced August 1979. Production is to begin early 1981.

#### McArthur River Zinc Lead Mine (N.T.)

- MIM. \$1.3 billion. Pilot plant operating. Substantive geological and metallurgical investigations completed conventional methods of recovery are not too successful and project currently in mothballs.

#### Sorba Hills Zinc/Lead Mine (W.A.)

- Aquitaine, MIM, Serem. Sinking shaft, defining project.

#### Eleura Silver-Lead-Zinc Mine (N.S.W.)

- EZ Industries. \$195 million. Underground mine to produce 1.1 million TPY. To come onstream in 1982. Design and construct contract awarded to Fluor. July 80. Construction contract awarded. Tenders being prepared for equipment.

#### Salt Creek (Mons Cupri) Lead-Zinc-Copper-Silver Projects (W.A.)

- Texas-Gulf, Whim Creek, Agnew-Clough. Appears to be large, low-grade deposit. Drilling and testing stage.

#### Mt. Isa Mine Expansion

- MIM. \$65 million over next three years to expand production of silver, lead and zinc by 20 per cent to 240,000 TPY zinc, 540,000 TPY silver and 180,000 TPY lead.

#### Hilton Silver-Lead-Zinc Mine

- MIM. \$20 million on preliminary development of deep underground mine 20 km (12 miles) from Mt. Isa. Open pit. For production of 500 TPY in 1984-85.