

Trigg not too late to potash party

- The West Australian
- 26 May 2018
- Stuart McKinnon



Keren Paterson will be channelling the pioneering spirit of her ancestor Henry Trigg as she lists her eponymous WA potash play on the Australian Securities Exchange and develops its projects.

Ms Paterson named her start-up explorer Trigg Mining in honour of her forefather, who built the Causeway and Canning Bridge after arriving at the Swan River colony from England as a carpenter in 1829.

Trigg is raising \$4-\$6 million via an initial public offering ahead of an ASX listing at the end of next month.

The explorer is set to join the ranks of WA's potash hopefuls pinning their hopes on the hyper-saline aquifers under some of the State's most remote and vast inland salt lakes.

Trigg plans to use trenches and bores at its Laverton Links and Lake Throssell projects east of Laverton to tap the subterranean brine that is then evaporated, harvested and purified to make Sulphate of Potash or SOP.

SOP is a high-value, highmargin fertiliser used in the production of chloride-sensitive crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, tea, coffee and tobacco. The product commands a substantial premium over its cheaper, more commonly used cousin Muriate of Potash or MOP.

Ms Paterson rejects any suggestion Trigg is too late to the potash party despite several other companies such as Agrimin, Salt Lake Potash and Kalium Lakes being more advanced with similar plans at their respective projects.

The former underground mining engineer and investment analyst believes the world's growing population and depleting arable lands means demand for SOP will continue to climb in future, ensuring prevailing prices between \$US450-\$US600/t will continue to at least 2022.

And WA's low-cost producers will always have an advantage over others which produce SOP using a more expensive chemical conversion process. Ms Paterson says being behind its WA peers might be a blessing for Trigg by allowing it to learn the lessons of others at the bleeding edge.

She was drawn to potash by the company's mission statement: to build mines communities were proud of.

"It's the most sustainable mining method I've ever come across," she said. "There's no drill and blast, there's no open pit that gets left behind, it's about pumping water and solar evaporation."

Trigg is targeting a maiden JORC resource at its Laverton Links project early next year ahead of a scoping study.

The company will list under the code TMG at an issue price of 20¢ with directors and project vendors retaining a 31 per cent stake.