

Barrytown miner looks to expansion

Laura Mills

The company behind mining plans at Barrytown Flat says it wants to increase its mine permit area and is confident there are enough minerals there for a long-term project.

TiGa Minerals and Metals spokesman Robert Brand told the Minerals West Coast annual forum in Westport recently the open mine area at any one time would be 5ha, with the potential for the project to last for many years.

The 13-year mine operation would cover just 15% of the resource area, he said.

TiGa is targeting ilmenite and garnets. Mr Brand said the deposit runs along beach from just south to north of Barrytown. It has also done drilling south of where it plans to start mining.

“We’re comfortable there’s a long-term project for us and for others.”

Mining permits and land access were in place, and the resource consent application had just been submitted. It also wants to increase the mine permit area by over 1000ha.

He expected work would start on the ground in late 2024: “It’s achievable.”

Bureaucracy was not to be feared, but managed, he said.

An Australian, Mr Brand said one task was to turn the Barrytown mine into a New Zealand-centric operation.

Western Australia was a significant mineral sands area with good rehabilitation techniques, which TiGa would bring to this project. The farmer would have their land returned quickly and the productivity increased.

The ilmenite would go into slag production and end up as a titanium metal, a critical mineral, after processing elsewhere. It was used for high tech applications such as aerospace, military and medical.

The garnet would be produced on the

West Coast and exported for water jet cutting, and could end up in the North Sea or Italy.

It would bring international exposure and recognition, Mr Brand said.

Demand was growing at just over 7% a year, and prices and been growing at 6.5%. The Barrytown deposits also have zircon.

The project is expected to create 57 jobs initially, rising to 80, and \$63 million of annual export earnings.

Mr Brand also spoke of the benefits of a School of Mining, which operated in Australia, and attracting staff, including those currently doing fly in, fly out.