



## Kanmantoo mine up and running

**CAMERON ENGLAND**

SOUTH Australia's 19th mine was officially opened yesterday, bringing the state closer to a true mining boom.

Hillgrove Resources' Kanmantoo copper and gold mine will produce about 20,000 tonnes of copper and 10,000 ounces of gold in concentrate for at least six and a half years, although the mine's owners believe they can extend this through exploration.

Premier Jay Weatherill said the opening of the mine was "a further sign of the real benefits, the real business opportunities that South Australia can expect, as the growth of our resources

sector takes hold".

"The mining industry's contribution to gross state product (increased) \$1.06 billion last financial year, up 40 per cent to \$3.9 billion," he said.

"South Australia's exploration boom is now translating into a mining boom. In less than a decade the number of mines operating has increased from four to 19."

Mining in the area - close to Mount Barker - dates back to the 1840s, and the Kanmantoo deposit was mined in the 1970s before being mothballed.

The new mine has been in production since last December.

It cost \$173 million to develop, including

building costs and exploration, and employs about 160 people.

Hillgrove managing director Drew Simonsen said the company had worked closely with the local community through the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee, to ensure the development of the mine happened in harmony with local stakeholders.

As part of that consultation process, the company responded to 129 recommendations put forward by the community, accepting 123 of them and negotiating on the rest.

Hillgrove shares closed 0.5c higher at 23c yesterday.



**LOOKING AHEAD:** Hillgrove Resources managing director Drew Simonsen at the mine opening yesterday.

Picture: KELLY BARNES