



## Hope for nickel still

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Modern day nickel deposits such as Nova and Cosmos were discovered during periods of low nickel prices. Is that a good omen for nickel explorers to get busy now then? The jury is out on that. Nevertheless, one company committed to the nickel sector right now is St George Mining Ltd (ASX:SGQ).

Having secured 75% of the Mt Alexander nickel-copper sulphide project from BHP Billiton today and bringing on Western Areas Ltd (ASX:WSA) as a shareholder - Western Areas also owns 25% of Mt Alexander - St George executive chairman John Prineas is convinced light will reappear in the nickel sector. Just when nickel prices will pick up is the billion dollar question.

"I have no doubt it [nickel prices] will rally and will be double where it is now...I just can't tell you exactly when," Prineas told Paydirt.

"We know that nickel is an absolute essential commodity in this world so I can't believe it is going to stay down for much longer, but I can't exactly see when it is going to turn."

One thing for certain though, is that St George won't be hanging around for the tide to turn. The company has an elaborate exploration programme set for its East Laverton projects in 2016 and will be one to watch in the nickel space.

"The only other thing we will be progressing is gold because that is an organic growth prospect for us and we have fantastic prospects there, so we will be developing that. If a new project was to fall into our lap we'd look at it but we certainly won't be going to try and run after graphite or lithium; we are WA standard nickel and gold explorers.