



20 JUL, 2019

## ROLLED GOLD

Courier Mail, Brisbane

Page 1 of 1



### ROLLED GOLD

**BRETT Lynch**, the new boss of lithium miner Sayona, has been soaking up the winter rays at Noosa but also talking up prospects of what has been dubbed the gold of the 21st century.

Lynch, who was attending

the Noosa Mining & Exploration Investor Conference, told your diarist that demand for lithium will remain strong, driven by surging demand for batteries to drive electric cars.

"I spend a lot of time in China and the US and the uptake in electric vehicles is breathtaking," says Lynch, a former executive at MIM. "In Europe, VW is talking about investing \$100 billion into the development of electric vehicles."

Lynch says Sayona's lithium mine in Quebec, Canada, could be up and running by 2021 subject to government approvals.

He concedes the lithium price has

come off over the past couple of years, but the long-term prospects of the commodity are good.

"There is not the euphoria in the market there was 18 months ago when fortunes were being made overnight, but we are talking about a future where ships and planes will all be electric powered."

Lake Resources managing director **Steve Promnitz**,

who also was at Noosa, says demand for lithium was gaining momentum despite the price coming off the boil. Promnitz, whose company is developing a mine in the so-called "lithium triangle" in Argentina, points to the long-term

contracts big car makers have signed with some of the biggest lithium producers.