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LITHIUM QUEST

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BRISBANE-BASED junior miner Sayona, run by a posse of former Ipswich coal miners, is set to be the

biggest lithium miner in the resource rich Canadian province of Quebec.

Sayona managing director **Brett Lynch** tells City Beat that the company is eyeing a bid for the Chinese-owned North American Lithium project located north of Montreal and 60km from its own Authier project.

Lynch says acquiring the project, which has failed to make money for its previous owners because the lithium is contained in thin seams, makes sense given more than \$444 million has already been spent on a mill and processing plant.

Lithium, a key ingredient in batteries for electric cars, has been dubbed the gold of the 21st century. Lynch predicts he may have to call on his experience as a former

Ipswich coal mining engineer to make the project profitable.

Lynch and fellow directors **James Brown, Allan Buckler** and **Dan O'Neill** all started their careers at the New Hope coal mine near Ipswich before going their separate ways. "We are all dirty old coal miners from Ipswich but now we are mining lithium," says Melbourne-based Lynch, who attended the company's AGM in Brisbane on Friday. In Western Australia, the company has a joint venture with lithium producer Altura Mining.