



Tin mine hope for lost town

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A MINING ghost town on Tasmania's West Coast is set to come alive again with a new tin and copper operation.

The town of Luina, near Savage River, is nothing more than a few streets with gutters and culverts where once there were houses.

When Aberfoyle Ltd operated the Cleveland mine as an underground project between 1968 and 1986 it was a small but busy town.

Now a proposal to rework the Cleveland mine and ship tin and copper concentrate out of Burnie is progressing.

Elementos Ltd says production is scheduled for its tin-copper tailing reprocessing operation in 2017. Production from an open pit is set to begin the year after. Ultimately, the company plans to mine five pits

at a rate of 200,000 tonnes per year over three years.

The project is unlikely to attract opposition from environmentalists as it focuses on historic workings that have already degraded the environment. The proposal includes works to remediate the area.

The incremental capital cost of the operation is estimated at \$6.6 million, with \$5.6 million spent on plant upgrades and \$1 million for site works and pre-production waste stripping.

The company said power, water and infrastructure needs were already on site.

"All-weather roads transect the lease, providing excellent access to ports and a skilled labour market," it told the ASX.

"Compared with other tin provinces around the world, Tasmania offers a stable and well-understood regulatory environment."