



## TALKING POINT: FORUM HIGHLIGHTS GROWING 'DOWN UNDER' ROLE IN LATIN AMERICA

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### **START THE WEEK: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The increasing numbers of **Australian** companies in the growing mining sectors of Central and South America will be underlined at the *Latin America Down Under* conference in Perth this week.

Latin America, which attracted 30% of global exploration spending in 2017, has vast reserves of **copper, lithium, gold** and **silver** that are likely to play a key role in the next resources cycle.

Mineral development in the region has long been dominated by North American companies, and conference convenor Bill Repard of *Paydirt Media* noted Australians were "perhaps a little late" in arriving at the party.

"However, with the current turnaround in action, Aussies have a fresh chance to make an impact in the region," Repard said.

"Australian juniors are famed for their entrepreneurialism. They are prepared to tackle difficult terrains and testing geology in jurisdictions others hesitate to go.

"Whether established or just entering Latin America, these companies are well placed to lead the new generation of discoveries the world so desperately needs."

The 67 ASX-listed companies operating in the region this year include majors **Newcrest**

**Mining, Fortescue Metals** and **OZ Minerals** - all have announced multi-million dollar investments in recent months.

While giving the Australian players a chance to lift their profile, Latin America Down Under also provides a platform for the region's governments to encourage a greater foreign presence in their mining sectors.

Senior ministerial delegations from Argentina, Peru, Panama and Paraguay as well as representatives from Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador will use the conference to promote foreign direct investment.