

Red River manages to ride out flooding

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BASE metals producer Red River Resources has reported a record performance from its North Queensland operations despite the floods which cut roads and thwarted other miners.

Red River's March quarter record came as another regional operator, Resolute Mining, reported gold production down 22 per cent to 13,554

ounces at its Ravenswood mine.

Red River Resources operates a processing plant and mines at Thalanga about 200km southwest of Townsville which, including contractors, employs about 170 people.

Copper concentrate production was up 134 per cent to 1694 tonnes for the March quarter, while zinc concentrate production was up 16 per cent to 8952 tonnes and lead concentrate was up 25 per cent to 3763 tonnes.

The company's managing director, Mel Palancian, said having a committed workforce with most based at Charters Towers where they could still access the site made all the difference.

The Flinders Highway was cut at Macrossan for more than a week because of the

flooded Burdekin River.

"The guys were committed. They kept Thalanga going," Mr Palancian said.

"I don't know of any other mines that went through it all."

Quarterly production at its West 45 underground mine hit a record 97,000 tonnes, while production at its Far West mine, which started during the quarter, was 9000 tonnes.

The flooded highway prevented trucking of concentrates to the Townsville port but Mr Malancian said they were able to quickly catch up delays of eight to 10 days.

"We were well prepared for the wet season. We stocked up on consumables," Mr Malancian said.

Red River started production at Thalanga in 2017 after acquiring Thalanga from the liquidators of Kagara Ltd for \$6.5 million about four years ago.

The West 45 deposit hosts 567,000 tonnes at 11.6 per cent zinc equivalent and Far West

has a reserve of 1.5 million tonnes at 12 per cent zinc equivalent.

The company is looking to convert mineral resources at its Lione town and Orient deposits south of Charters Towers for additional ore reserves.

Resolute Mining said gold production at Ravenswood operations was down as a result of limited ore supply from its Mount Wright mine and regional weather impacts.

Even so, the company reported total gold production up 33 per cent to 98,105oz on the back of record production from its Syama mine in Africa.