

Kalgoorlie Miner

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HD Bullant exploration begins to ease the sting for Norton
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Norton **Gold** Fields could be starting to see the first benefits of last year's takeover of Kalgoorlie **Mining Company**.

The prize in the **acquisition** was the Bullant underground mine near Ora Banda, where the Dianmin Chen-run Norton has injected **millions** into development and drilling to extend the mine's life.

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Norton's latest exploration report reveals diamond drilling to the northern extension of the East Lode at Bullant has returned hits of 12.7m at 11.2g/t from 54m.

The **Chinese**-controlled miner has also reported positive drilling results from the Wattlebird prospect 700m north of Bullant, including 16m at 4.3g/t from 56m.

Wattlebird has reserves of just 12,000oz, but Norton says it could begin **mining** a small-scale open pit before year's end.

Norton, in which **China**'s biggest **gold** producer Zijin **Mining** Group holds an 82.4 per cent **stake**, has shown its appetite to grow over the past year through acquisitions and exploration.

The **company** has a strategic land package north-west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder with 710sqkm — a position set to expand once combined with its latest **acquisition**, Bullabulling **Gold**.

Norton's **stake** in Bullabulling was 78.29 per cent yesterday after the \$28 **million** takeover was launched in April.

It hands Norton control of the 3.7 **million** ounce Bullabulling project near Coolgardie, which will be a focus of exploration in coming years.

Norton has upped its exploration spending, with \$2.6 **million** sunk into the ground in the June quarter.

The expenditure was up from \$2.42 **million** the March quarter.

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