

# 'Pointless' board stoush distracting SA's Havilah

## CAMERON ENGLAND

HAVILAH Resources will be forced to hold "about the most pointless EGM ever" this coming Monday, with shareholders asked to vote to remove a chairman they only voted in late last year.

Co-founder and former executive chairman Bob Johnson, who also founded Adelaide mining technology company Maptek, has used his shareholding clout to call for a board spill at Havilah.

But a bid to have two hand-picked directors, including his son, appointed to the board, appears to have failed, with Havilah saying they are ineligible to stand for the positions.

An extraordinary general meeting will now consider only the removal of chairman Mark Stewart, and there is no option being considered for who would replace him should the vote go against him staying in place.

Havilah's technical director and other co-founder Chris Giles said he and Dr Johnson wanted the same successful outcome for shareholders, but differed on how to get there.

In communications to shareholders, which Havilah has disputed in announcements to the ASX, Dr Johnson has argued that the company has taken on too much debt and is being mismanaged.

Dr Giles said it was no use complaining if a better solution was not placed on the table. "No matter who is driving, we need fuel in the form of

capital.

"Run out of fuel and you stall, and that's where we have been for too long now," he said.

"But we are not asleep behind the wheel. This year we will address the capital issue and we have a clear strategic direction to transform Havilah into a 'super-junior'.

"We will sell assets (North Portia divestment), we will attract major players to help us develop our large deposits (Kalkaroo and iron ore assets) and we will develop and explore according to our available budget in exciting projects like the Mutooroo copper-cobalt district."

Dr Giles said Dr Johnson and the other shareholders who have called for the meeting to be held should be sup-

porting the board to get on with the job, rather than unsettling shareholders with misleading information.

Dr Giles points to the company having struck a deal with GFG Alliance to assess its iron ore assets as evidence of the potential being explored.

"We consider ourselves privileged to be working with Mr Sanjeev Gupta and his visionary team who are trans-

forming Whyalla into a world-class steel producer. How fantastic if we could be a part of that great development by supplying some of the iron ore.

"They backed us with a little drilling capital and we made a potentially huge new iron ore discovery at Grants Basin that could be of immense benefit to

South Australia."

Dr Johnson did not respond to queries.



**TURMOIL:** Drill samples from Havilah's Kalkaroo project in eastern South Australia being examined.