



 Former television executive Mark Gregory is now the boss of miner Cudeco. Picture: AAP Image/Bradley Kanaris

QLD BUSINESS

Cudeco boss Mark Gregory's career has taken him from TV to mining

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AS a television executive Mark Gregory rubbed shoulders with Bert Newton and other celebrities, but these days he more likely to be seen chugging down a beer with miners in western Queensland.

The chief executive of Cudeco is confident the Brisbane-based copper miner is finally on the path to success after a decade-long journey that has seen many setbacks including the exit of colourful founder Wayne McCrae, an executive revolving door and heavy financial losses.

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“Our Chinese shareholders have been very patient and supportive and provided funding at very critical moments.”

Mr Gregory replaced veteran mining executive Dianmin Chen earlier this year, the latest in a long line of executive changes at Cudeco.

Wayne McCrae resigned as chairman, director and chief executive of then Gold Coast-based company in 2015 after losing the confidence of Chinese shareholders.

Mr Gregory said the company, which provides work for about 300 people at its Rocklands mine site, was ramping up production to meet export commitments to its Chinese customers.

“The mine can process up to 10,000 tonnes of copper concentrate each month and we are targeting about 7000-8000 tonnes at the moment,” he said.

After growing up on a dairy farm near Lismore, Mr Gregory trained as an accountant before finding work with regional media group Northern Star, the then owner of regional newspapers including the Gold Coast Bulletin and local radio stations.

He then went onto a long career in commercial television, becoming a financial controller of Network 10 and later general manager of its Queensland operations.

His recent career path had seen him take up roles in the resources sector, including with mining services group Swift.

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“There were lots of long lunches and parties at Ten, but I don’t have those anymore,” Mr Gregory said. “It was a good industry to be in back then, but I was happy to get out.”

He said whether working in media or mining the principles of making a profit and dealing with people were the same.