Lithium producers optimistic as Fernandez set to take power

Argentina’s lithium producers are cautiously optimistic that President-elect Alberto Fernandez’s incoming administration will not restrict capital flows or set other policies that could hamper their ability to supply the electric vehicle battery metal.

Fernandez, a member of the Peronist party that has supported more economic intervention by government, defeated business-friendly incumbent Mauricio Macri in the presidential election on October 27.

The last Peronist president, Cristina Kirchner, imposed strict standards for several industries, including lithium, limitations that stirred concern from many in the sector. Fernandez so far seems keen not to mimic that approach. He vowed earlier this year to support lithium investment.

The 60-year-old, who was chief of cabinet during the entirety of Nestor Kirchner’s presidency and also in the early months of Cristina Kirchner’s reign, is set to take office on December 10. His cabinet choices will be closely monitored by all lithium producers and developers in Argentina.

Lithium Americas Corp is developing a lithium project in Argentina’s Jujuy province with Ganfeng Lithium Co that is expected to come online in 2020, with first production in 2022.

Galaxy Resources Ltd will focus on cutting costs and volumes at its flagship Mt Cattlin lithium mine, Western Australia, in 2020 following weak market conditions in the sector.

The 60-year-old, who was chief of cabinet during the entirety of Nestor Kirchner’s presidency and also in the early months of Cristina Kirchner’s reign, is set to take office on December 10. His cabinet choices will be closely monitored by all lithium producers and developers in Argentina.

During the election campaign that he considered the election really does not change our plans," Graves said.

However, other parts of Argentina’s massive commodity sector remain anxious, with sales of corn and soybeans jumping compared to 2018 on worries of possible export tax increases.

- Reuters with Paydirt staff

Galaxy Resources Ltd will focus on cutting costs and volumes at its flagship Mt Cattlin lithium mine, Western Australia, in 2020 following weak market conditions in the sector.

The 60-year-old, who was chief of cabinet during the entirety of Nestor Kirchner’s presidency and also in the early months of Cristina Kirchner’s reign, is set to take office on December 10. His cabinet choices will be closely monitored by all lithium producers and developers in Argentina.

Galaxy Resources Ltd will focus on cutting costs and volumes at its flagship Mt Cattlin lithium mine, Western Australia, in 2020 following weak market conditions in the sector.

The 60-year-old, who was chief of cabinet during the entirety of Nestor Kirchner’s presidency and also in the early months of Cristina Kirchner’s reign, is set to take office on December 10. His cabinet choices will be closely monitored by all lithium producers and developers in Argentina.