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BRIGHT SPARKS

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CITY BEAT

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BRIGHT SPARKS

RESIDENTS of major cities around the world including Beijing and New Delhi are enjoying the clearer skies and cleaner air due to the pandemic shutdown.

Lithium miner Lake Resources says that will be good for the burgeoning electric car sector as people become more aware of the need for clean transport. "A lot of people are enjoying the break from the pollution and want that to continue," says

Steve Promnitz, Lake Resources

managing director. Analysts Wood Mackenzie forecasts a 12-fold increase in lithium output to satisfy increased demand for lithium-ion batteries.

You might recall Lake, chaired by **Stu Crow**, a former stockbroking buddy of the late **Paul "Porky" Morgan**, plans a lithium mine at Kachi in Argentina's lithium triangle. Promnitz says preliminary studies into the feasibility of the Kachi mine are continuing helped by the firm's technology partners Lilac Solutions, which numbers **Bill Gates**, **Jeff Bezos** and **Jack Ma** among its investors. Lilac has developed a new direct extraction method allowing production of high concentrate lithium over a reduced time. "What used to take months we can now do in hours," says Promnitz.

Promnitz says the push for electric vehicles is being driven by governments, including

the Chinese which have extended subsidies for the vehicles for another two years, and corporate leaders. Bezos has ordered 100,000 electric cars to be used as delivery vehicles by Amazon.