

Sitting on Top of a Mountain

Presentation to PortfolioConstruction Conference 2008



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Scaling New Peaks

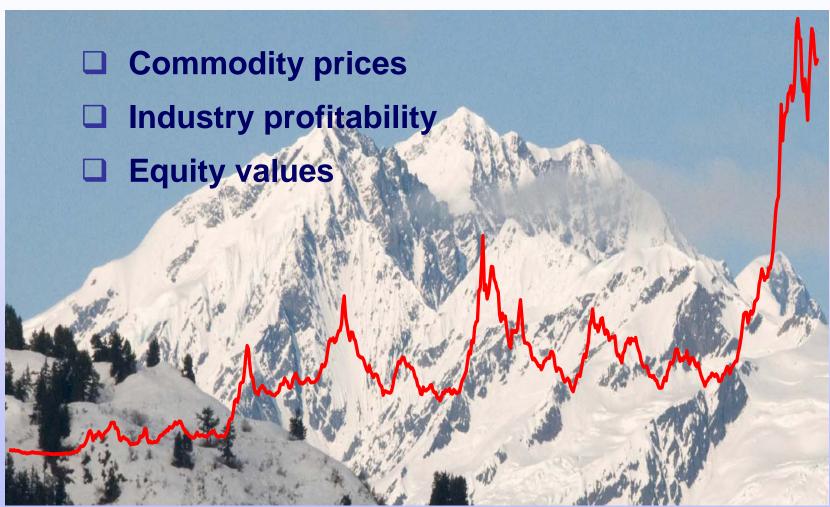


Image courtesy of www.ianrobertsonphotography.com

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Aims & Motivations

Primary aim

To analyse what happens to equity prices when commodity prices fall

Motivation

Do we quit resources if prices fall? How strong is the connection?

what are the risks of not holding resource stocks through the cycle

Methodology

Construct as long a history as possible to maximise the number of cycles we are able to study and from which we can draw inferences about prospective conditions

Methodology

1. Derive commodity price series

- an index of wholesale prices of metal and metal products compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), monthly, January 1890 to December 1951
- an index of nonferrous metal prices prepared by the BLS, monthly, January 1926 to May 2008
- the International Monetary Fund metal price index, monthly, January 1960 to May 2008.

2. Derive equity price series

- the All Mining index produced by the Sydney stock exchange and the ASX, August 1936 to July
- the All Resources share price index produced by the ASX, December 1979 to April 2000
- the S&P/ASX 200 resources index produced by Standard and Poor's from ASX price data, since April 2000

3. Compare timing of returns from two series

Background Research

Gary Gorton and K. Geert Rouwenhorst: "Facts and Fantasies about Commodity Futures"

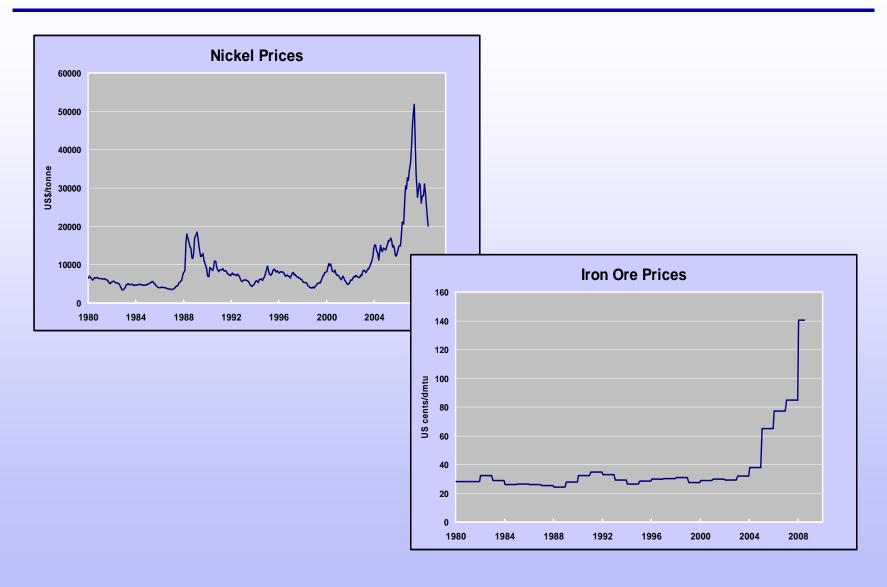
 the share price performance of commodity producers is more likely to adopt the characteristics of the relevant equity market than the qualities of the markets of the underlying commodities which they produce

Frank Finn and Timo Koivurinne: "The Ex Ante Efficiency of Australian Stock Market Benchmarks" (Aust. Journal of Management, 2000)

 combining their results with those of Ball and Brown (1980), mining/resource sector indices have demonstrated inferior performance in mean-variance space for almost 40 years,1958–1996

R. Ball and P. Brown: "Risk and Return From Equity Investments in the Australian Mining Industry" (Aust. Journal of Management, 1980)

Simplifications - commodity prices

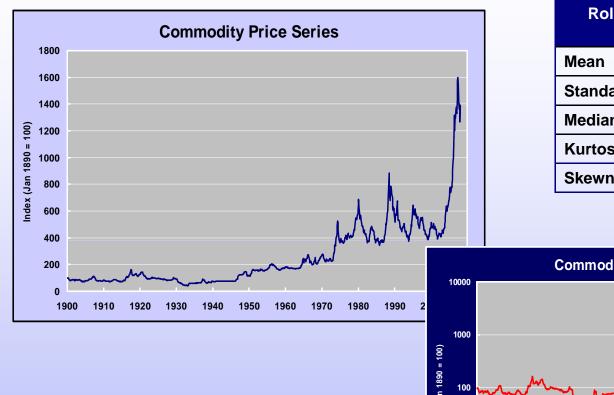


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Simplifications - equity prices



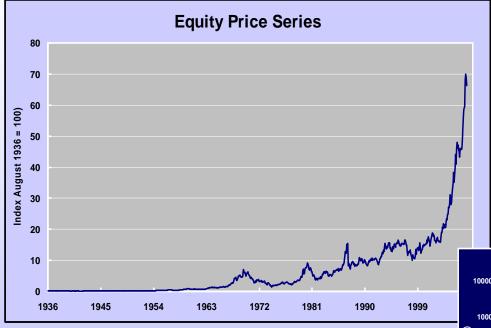
Commodity Price Index



Rolling 12 Months Return Analysis Mean 3.94% Standard deviation 19.13% Median 0.28% Kurtosis 2.29 Skewness 1.22

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Equity Price Index

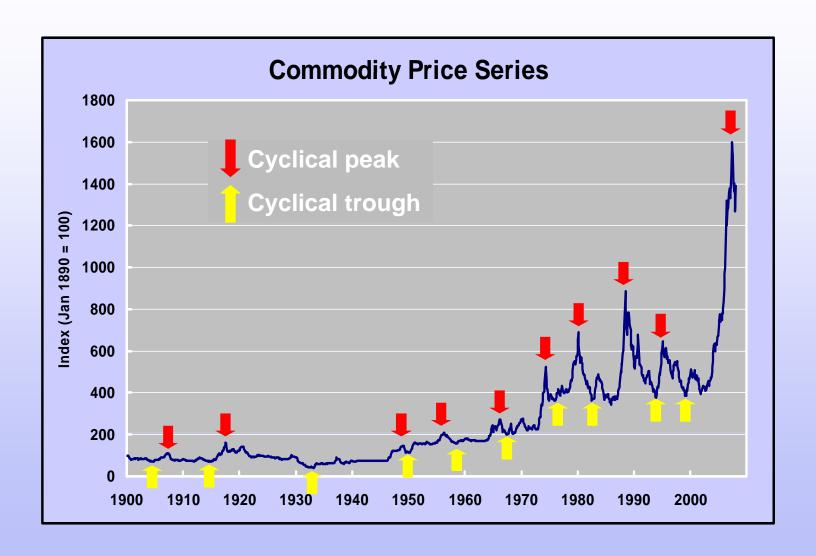


Rolling 12 Months Return Analysis			
Mean	12.51%		
Standard deviation	29.01%		
Median	9.17%		
Kurtosis	1.13		
Skewness	0.74		



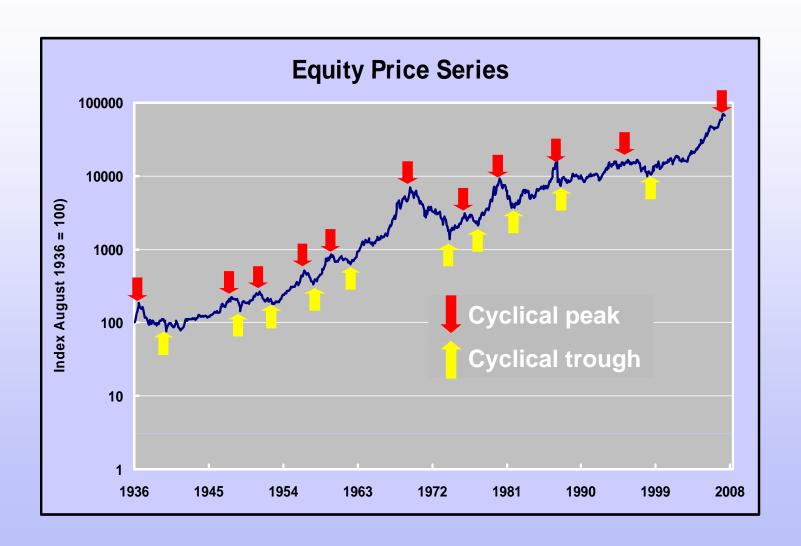
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Commodity Price Cycles - Timing

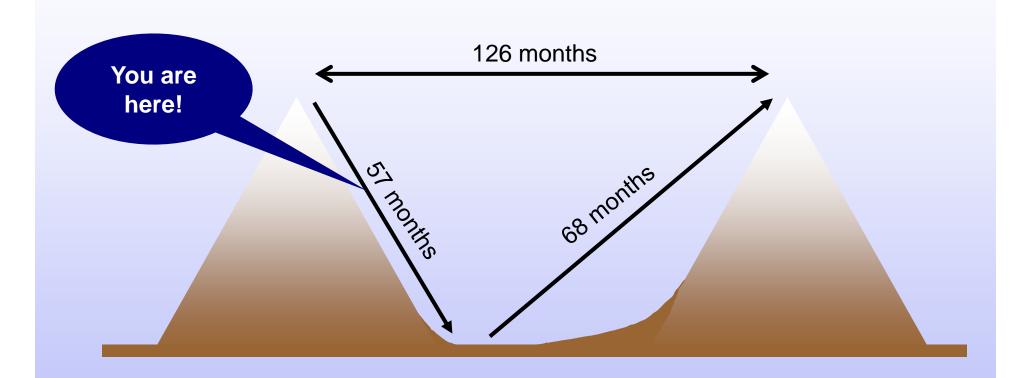


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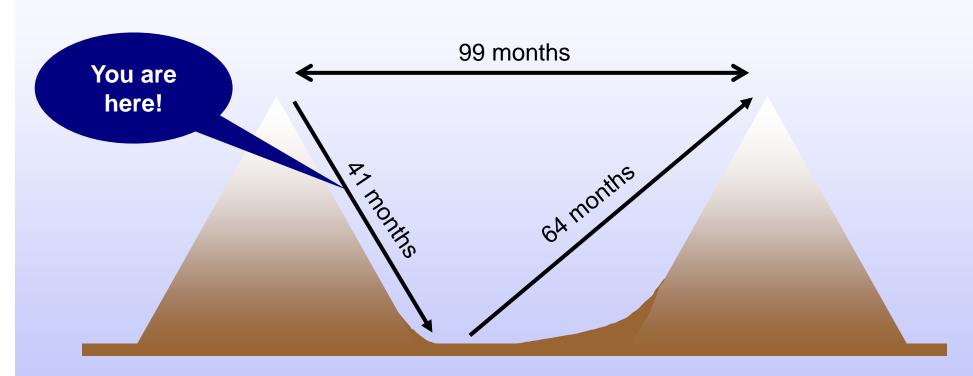
Equity Price Cycles - Timing



Scaling the Average Commodity Price Peak



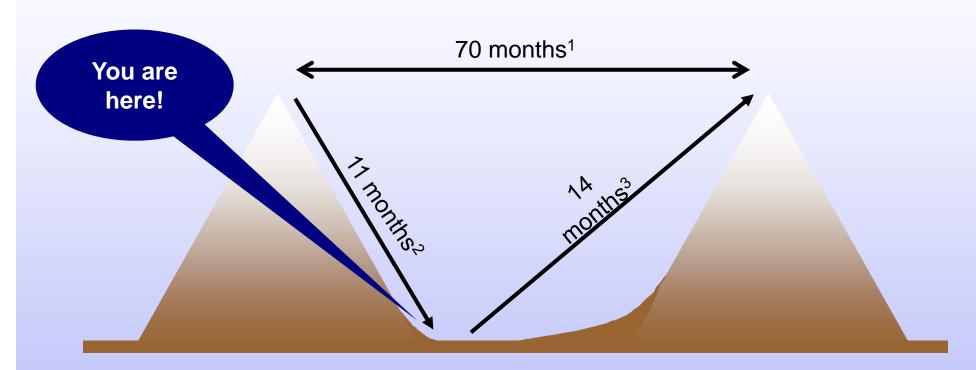
Scaling the More Recent Commodity Price Peaks*



* Over the five cycles since April 1974

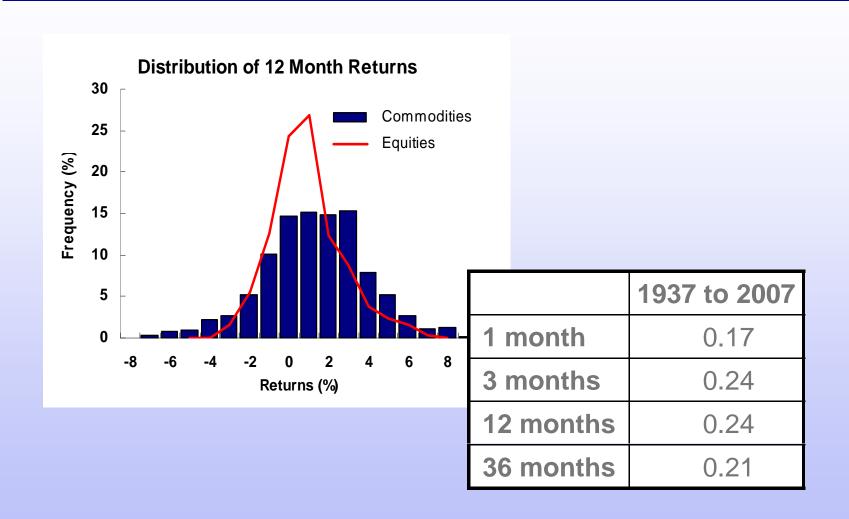
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Scaling the *Easiest* Commodity Price Peaks



- 1. Apr 1974 Feb 1980
- 2. Apr 1966 Mar 1967
- 3. Nov 1993 Jan 1995

Commodity & Equity Return Correlations



Commodity & Equity Return Correlations

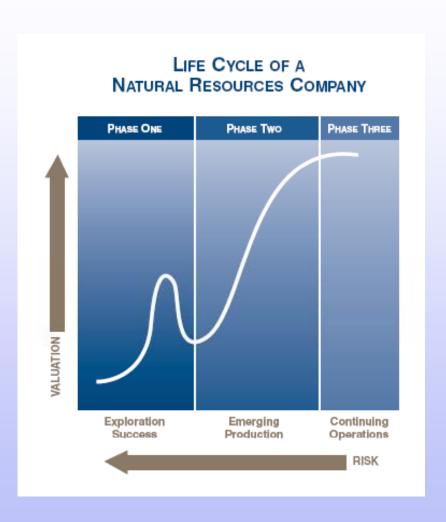
	Same direction	1?	
1 month	61%		
3 months	64%		
12 months	64%		
36 months	60%		Commodities
			fell & equities rose?
		1 month	44%
		3 months	46%
		12 months	49%
		36 months	67%

What influences these results?

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Three Resource Sector Value Drivers

- Exploration Success
- ☐ Growth through new projects
- ☐ Higher commodity prices

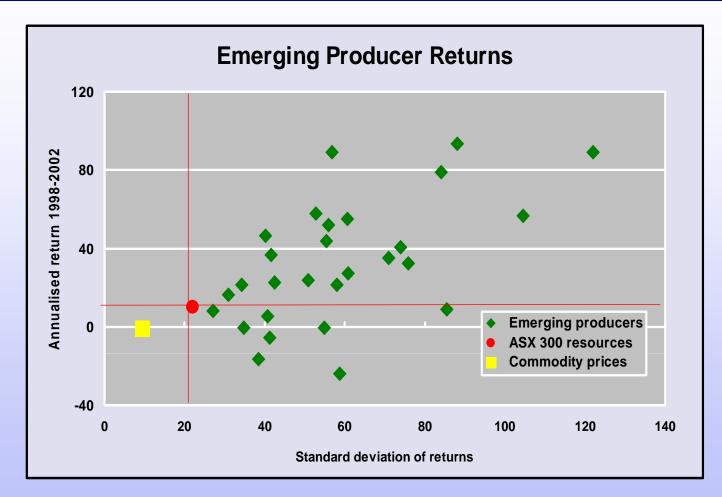


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The Impact of Commodity Prices

BHP Billiton Sources of Profit Growth						
<u>US\$million</u>	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06			
Prior year EBIT	20,067	15,277	9,921			
Price impact	+6,559	+6,122	+6,215			
Volume impact						
- organic	208	+218	-80			
purchased	-	-	+1,140			
 development 	+1,620	+368	-			
Cost impact	-3,252	-1,695	-1,930			
Other	-902	-223	-149			
Latest year EBIT	24,282	20,067	15,277			

Growth in the Trough of a Cycle



Emerging producers based on model portfolio of stocks prepared by E.I.M. Capital Managers

Stock details available on request

Our Current Commodity Exposure

- We are in a cyclical downswing
 - > equity prices mostly (~60%) follow commodity prices
 - equity prices will "probably" fall in the cyclical downswing
 - ➤ there is a significant (~40%) chance they will not
 - there is a loosening relationship between commodity prices and equity values over longer investment horizons
 - there are risks in tying equity investment decisions to a commodity price view
- **☐** Timing differences
 - e.g. nickel and iron ore
 - suggest a need for commodity diversification

Implications for Portfolio Construction

Maintain resource exposure Look for strong organic growth profiles Minimise commodity price earnings sensitivity Find low cost operations > can it survive the trough of a cycle? Find long life operations > can it last more than one cycle? **Ensure execution ability** can the people develop the asset? Assess access to capital is it a bankable project? Worry about commodity exposure

> the last factor!

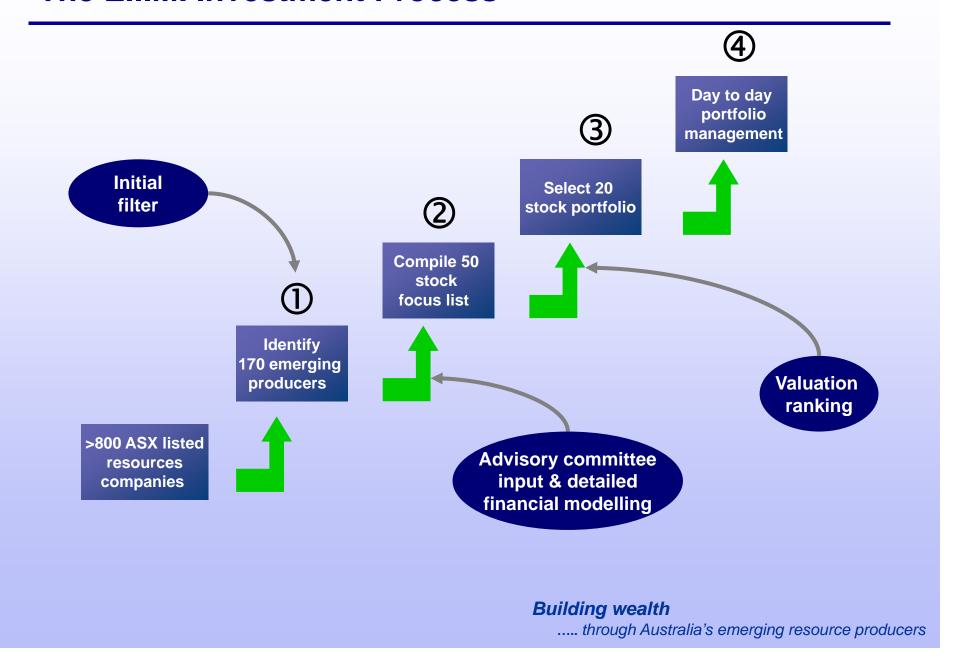


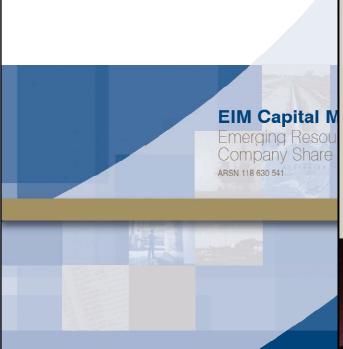
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Questions and Answers



The E.I.M. Investment Process







EMERGING RESOURCE PRODUCERS Equity Portfolio



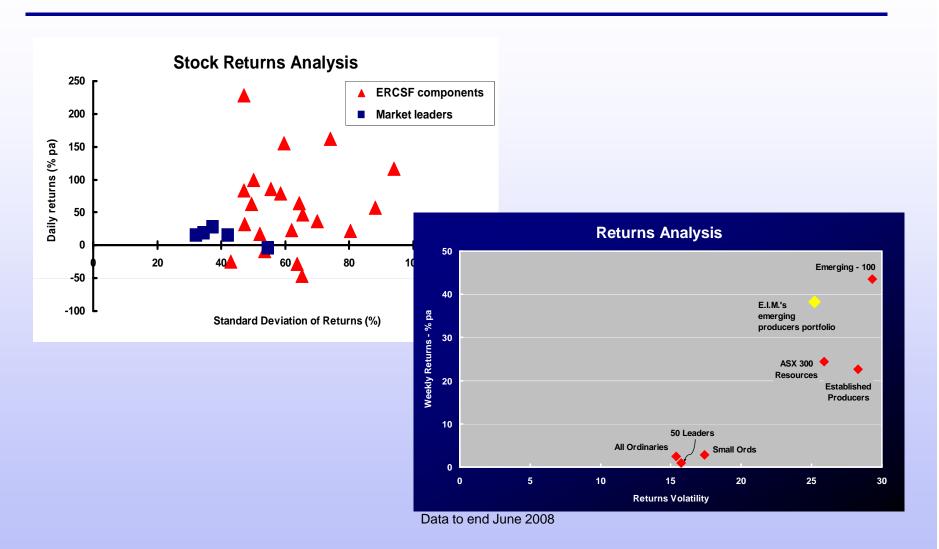
Building wealth through Australia's emerging resource producers

Product Disclosure

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Containing Sector Volatility – A Key Feature



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Presentation to
PortfolioConstruction Conference
August 2008



Let's start thinking about...

This session was:

- 1. awful
- 2. mediocre
- 3. good
- 4. excellent

Gizmos brought to you by





CONFERENCE



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